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## 1 Context

There is a growing population of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) across North Somerset Local Authority. There are limited places available within special schools and alternative provision to support children with additional needs. The creation of further spaces at Ravenswood would help reduce the number of children that access costly resources beyond the local authority - there is a moral and financial imperative for children accessing education near their home.



Ravenswood Special School (Ravenswood) is located in Nailsea and supports pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder ASD; Speech, Language and Communication SLC; Moderate Learning Difficulties MLD, Severe Learning Difficulties SLD, Visual Impairment needs VI and Social, Emotional and Mental Health SEMH.

They use a person-centred approach to support their students in planning their futures.

The school is very proud of the progress pupils make at Ravenswood. Outstanding Progress means that at least 90% of a cohort make at least expected progress with more than 75% meeting or exceeding the challenging targets they set. Pupils can take national examinations such as GCSEs and they achieve Entry Level and Entry Pathways outcomes as well as AQA Unit Awards. Post-16 pupils follow a programme that provides them with a range of Functional Skills and Asdan Results. They are also encouraged to follow programmes such as The Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and have been successful and Bronze and Silver levels.



The school, which has been open for 50 years, now needs to further develop to ensure it can continue to provide high quality education for the most vulnerable pupils in our society

Ravenswood School, situated in Nailsea, is currently educating pupils from across North Somerset and surrounding counties.

The school is well-known within the local authority for its ability to support and educate pupils with additional needs, ensuring that their needs are met, personal goals are achieved, and Dreams are achieved.

The school is very popular and well-known in the community. To meet demand the school has exceptionally admitted some pupils in addition to its assessed capacity of 108 pupils over the past three years, but with increasing pupil needs that require extra space and the restrictions of the current building, Ravenswood would need access to new additional accommodation to be able to increase its Place Values permanently.

## 2 Our vision and values

Dream, Achieve, Believe

Through the very high standards that adults' model around the school, we expect all pupils to:

- Value each individual's voice
- Build self-esteem and confidence
- Understand right and wrong
- Show respect and understanding for others
- Value the community and world in which we live
- Be proud members of the school community



The School aims to:

- provide pupils with a safe environment and the best possible education and support, promoting their pathway to independence in learning and life skills
- provide pupils with positive guidance to manage their behaviour through clear expectations, rewards and sanctions
- achieve high standards of teaching for all pupils throughout the school day; providing an exciting curriculum in a positive and attractive environment
- provide a pathway at the end of KS4 and the end of post-16 for every young person; preparing them for further learning and life as an adult
- keep staff informed about school matters; consulting with them about significant changes in school organisation, curriculum and policies
- keep parents and carers informed of their child's progress and well-being at school
- use robust evidence and work closely with governors and staff, evaluating the school's performance and planning our strategic direction.

### 3 The proposal



This is a proposal to extend Ravenswood School, an existing purpose-built community-maintained special school situated in Nailsea. Ravenswood School serves North Somerset and the surrounding Local authorities and supports the provision of education for children aged from 3 years to 19 years whose Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) includes a requirement for specialist provision. Ravenswood School offers a well-resourced environment and aims to provide the highest possible standards of education and support for all pupils regardless of their level of educational need. It is however over-subscribed and indeed at present the number of pupils on roll exceeds the measured capacity of the school. Whilst this has been appropriately and effectively managed to date, the school site could be enlarged by permanently taking over and potentially enhancing parts of the now vacant Voyage Learning campus (VLC) site adjacent to Ravenswood. With small adjustments to this additional facility an increase in whole school capacity from 108 to a range of between 134 and 140 pupils could be achieved. The Place Value would increase to 134 places, with an agreement that, dependent on the needs of pupils across the whole school, admissions up to 140 pupils may be possible provided the efficiency and effectiveness of education across the whole school population is not compromised.

### 4 Rationale



North Somerset population has expanded, this has led to an increase in need for special school placements.

Nationally the picture has also changed and the needs of pupils who attend special schools has become growingly complex.

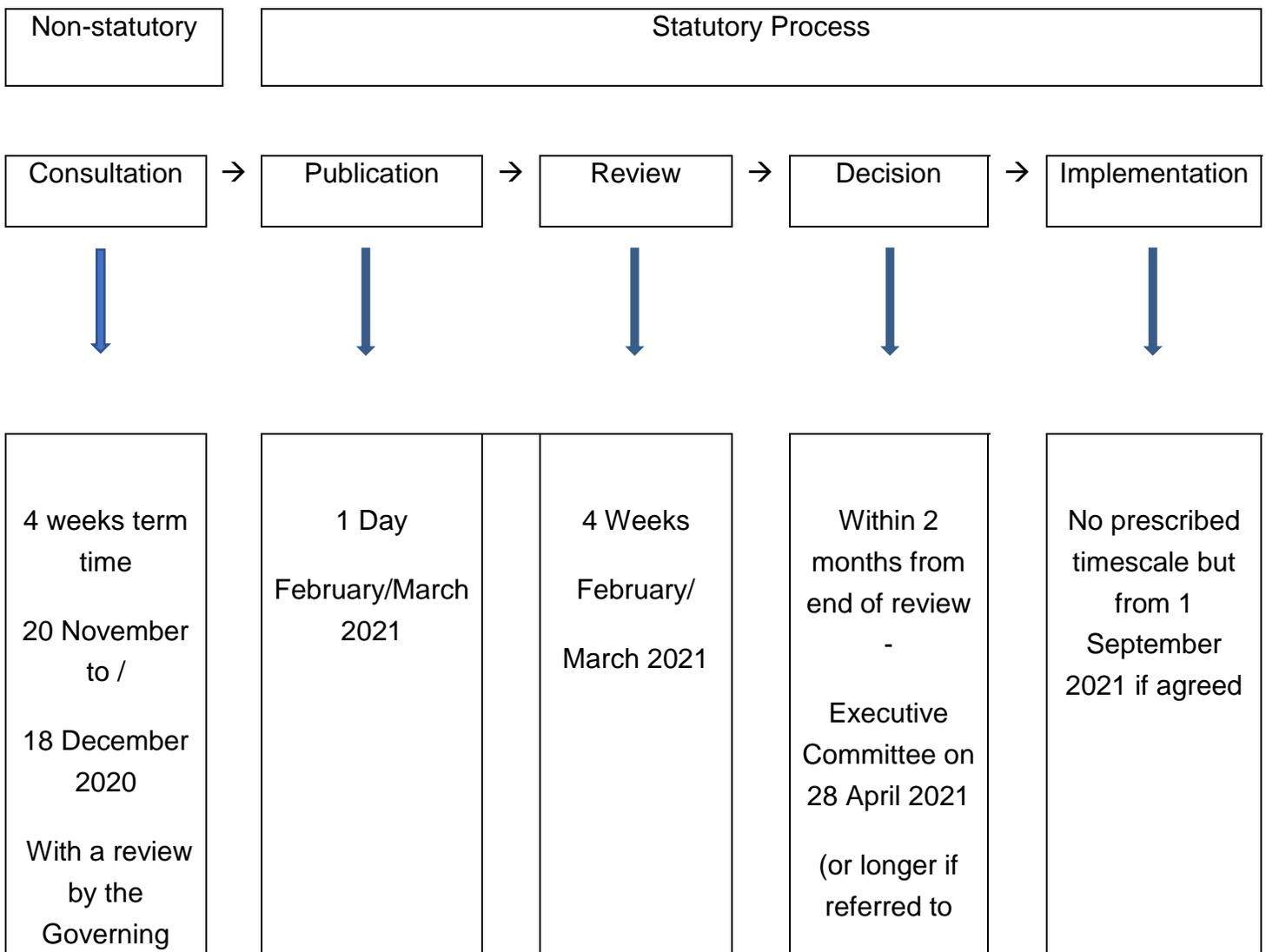
The governing board and school have carefully considered what future provision should be in place to ensure sustainability against the changing patterns of need.

The additional provision will ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet some of the demand of places for pupils with additional needs within the local area. Creating capacity will be to the suitable standards and ensure health and safety and welfare of pupils if safeguarded.

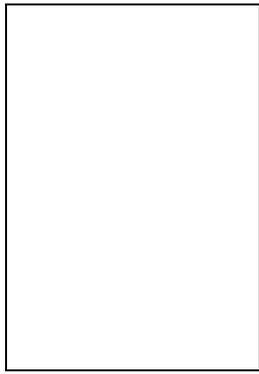
Ravenswood is a Good school; the school are striving for the best possible outcomes for the most vulnerable pupils in our society. This small expansion will ensure that we can provide for more.

## 5 The consultation process

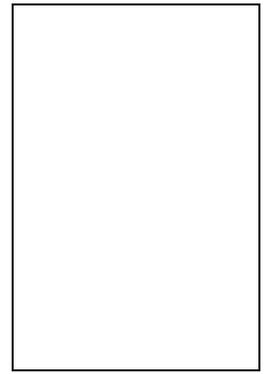
### The process timeline



Body and  
Children &  
Young People  
Policy &  
Scrutiny  
Panel in  
January 2020



the  
adjudicator)



The people we will be consulting with are:

- Our neighbours
- Pupils, our staff and our parents
- Prospective parents
- North Somerset
- Each Local Authority which maintains an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or statement of SEN in respect of a child attending the school
- MPs and Local Councillors - Town and Parish
- Other schools within the local authority
- Trade Unions
- Any interested bodies from the general public

We welcome your comments and questions during the consultation process. Please see 'Contact Us' for more details.



**We are also offering an opportunity for anyone who wants to hear more about this proposal or who may want to ask us any questions to register for a virtual Zoom meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 from 5pm. If you would like to attend the Zoom event, please email your details, together with your personal link name used on Zoom to [School.Organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:School.Organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk). The Meeting ID and password will be forwarded to you (please do not pass this information to anybody else – we will need to know your personal link name to admit you to the event).**

## **Public Sector Equality Duty**

This consultation recognises the Public Sector Equality Duty, which states, 'contributing to making society fairer by tackling discrimination and providing equality of opportunity to all'.

### **Consideration of the School's Equality Duties**

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 the School has the following public sector equality duties:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In the planning of the expansion of Ravenswood School, the Governing Body has considered the impact this could have on a range of equality groups including age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and marriage or civil partnership. These groups are described as 'protected characteristics' in the Equality Act 2012.

For further information regarding Equality Impact please follow the link <https://www.gov.uk/society-and-culture/equality> Our school Equality Policy can be found on the school website <https://www.ravenswoodschool.org.uk/home/equality-statement.html>

In summary, our findings to date are that, if the proposal were to go ahead, the impact on the protected groups overall is positive. The EIA will be re-assessed at the end of this consultation period.

Protected Characteristic Groups	Impact: High (H) Medium (M) Low (L) or None (N)
Disabled people	M
People from different ethnic groups	N
Men and women	L
Lesbian, gay or bisexual People	N
People on a low income	M
People in particular age groups	L
People in particular faith groups	N
Transgender people	N
People who are married or in a civil partnership	N
Women who are pregnant or on maternity leave	N

## 6 Contact us

Website [www.ravenswoodschool.org.uk](http://www.ravenswoodschool.org.uk)

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Email [info@ravenswoodonline.org.uk](mailto:info@ravenswoodonline.org.uk)

Headteacher Mark Senior

Chair of Governors Mike Evans

**To respond to this consultation, please complete the on-line questionnaire, available at:**  
**[https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Ravenswood\\_School\\_Expansion/consultationHome](https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Ravenswood_School_Expansion/consultationHome)**