

Our Ref: JS/EC
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To: Headteachers of all Schools in Suffolk

cc: Chair of Governors - for information

LMS Document
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Dear Headteacher

NEW SCHOOL PROVISION IN SUFFOLK

I am writing to inform you that Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has approved the start of the process of establishing seven new primary schools in a number of locations across Suffolk to meet demand from demographic growth and new housing developments. Cabinet also consented to the establishment of two new schools for pupils with special educational needs – one for pupils on the autistic spectrum; the other for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs.

The new schools are needed in the following areas:

Location	Size	Target opening date
Red Lodge	210 place primary expanding to 420	2018
Lakenheath	210 place primary expanding to 420	2018
Central Ipswich	210 place primary expanding to 420	2018
Wolsey Grange (South Ipswich)	210 place primary	2018
Woods Meadow (Lowestoft)	210 place primary	2018
Carlton Colville	50 place SEMH School -age range 9-16	2018
Ipswich	42 place Autism School -age range 9-16	2018
Chilton Leys (Stowmarket)	210-315 place primary	2019 (TBC)
Chilton Woods (Sudbury)	315 place primary	2019 (TBC)

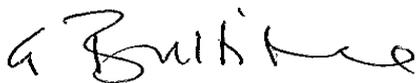
With the exception of the SEN schools, the new schools will mostly be established as 210 place primary schools with a 4-11 age range. Pre-school provision will also be commissioned where needed. The schools will be designed to be expanded to 420+ places should demand continue as we anticipate in some areas.

The process of establishing a new school is regulated by government. Although in most cases Suffolk County Council will provide the land and buildings, the schools' sponsor/s will be approved by the Secretary of State (SoS). There is a presumption that new schools will be free schools (academies). There are opportunities also for potential sponsors of free schools to put forward proposals to meet basic need. The process for agreeing free school bids is slightly different but, if successful, can bring new capital into the county's education system. Only providers approved by the Secretary of State can be considered for new LA funded academies. Good and outstanding maintained schools can propose free schools however and expansion of existing provision is a matter for the LA alone.

New school specification documents and expression of interest forms will become available as we move into the formal process with the competition for the SEMH School at Carlton Colville beginning on Wednesday 3 February 2016. Documents will be published on the Suffolk County Council and Department of Education's websites. In the meantime, if you are interested in talking to us about any of these opportunities please contact Joy Stodart in the first instance in the Schools Infrastructure Team who will be pleased to provide more information (email – joy.stodart@suffolk.gov.uk or telephone 01284 758829 / 07515 190911). In addition to new schools, we are also keen to hear from schools interested in expanding provision where there is a substantiated need for more places.

I would be grateful if you could copy this letter to your Chair of Governors for information.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Bultitude
Assistant Director Resources and Support