

PLANNING SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Worthing High School, South Farm Road, West Sussex, BN14 7AR Proposed Temporary Modular Teaching Accommodation to Support Improvements to Special Support Centre

Applicant: Worthing High School / South Downs Education Trust

Background

The County Council's [West Sussex Plan](#) sets out its corporate priorities and a commitment to helping people and communities fulfil their potential.

Worthing High School is a 7FE (210 places per year) 11-16 secondary school.

This application seeks permission for the installation of temporary modular teaching accommodation to provide a decant solution to support the remodelling of existing accommodation to improve and enhance the existing Special Support Centre for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Need for Development

The existing accommodation currently used for the Special Support Centre is acknowledged to require improvements and enhancements to ensure young people with SEND can be fully supported. The limitations of the current facilities restrict the school's ability to deliver appropriate interventions, therapeutic support, and inclusive learning environments for pupils with additional needs.

The proposed temporary modular accommodation will provide sufficient space to decant current classrooms enabling the significant remodelling to take place ensuring required segregation of construction and educational activities.

Policy Context and SEND Reforms

The development aligns with the principles set out in the Department for Education's proposed [SEND Reforms](#). These reforms place strong emphasis on strengthening inclusive practice within mainstream settings, ensuring that more children can have their needs met locally without requiring specialist placement.

The proposal directly supports:

- Increased mainstream inclusion, enabling pupils with SEND to remain within their community school setting.
- Delivery of early intervention and targeted support, through appropriate, dedicated accommodation.

By providing modern, flexible facilities, the development will help future-proof the school's SEND provision, ensuring it can respond effectively to evolving educational policy and statutory expectations.

School Capacity and Pupil Numbers

Importantly, the proposed development does not result in any increase in overall pupil numbers at the school. The scheme is intended solely to enhance the quality and suitability of existing provision.

Design and Delivery Approach

The use of modular construction is considered appropriate given the temporary requirement to decant existing classes to enable construction activities to commence. The building will be sensitively sited within the school grounds, ensuring minimal visual impact and maintaining safe circulation across the site.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposal represents a necessary investment to enable deficiencies in existing accommodation to be resolved; it supports national priorities for SEND inclusion within mainstream schools and enhances the learning environment for some of the most vulnerable pupils—without increasing overall school capacity.

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