



education provision. Pupils travel to the school from locations outside of Worcester but mainly within 5 – 10 miles of the school. The majority of Fort Royal pupils live within the neighbouring districts, Worcester, Wychavon and Malvern.

Evidence of Demand

The 2022 SEND Sufficiency report detailed a need for more special school places in Worcestershire.

The SEND Team currently have a list of pupils waiting for a special school place, most of whom are currently in Worcestershire mainstream schools or Alternative Provision. The Provision Planning team have also forecast an increased need for special school places based purely on demographic growth (Reception – Year 14) for September 2023. This does not take into account housing growth, any surplus needed or the pupils within other provision waiting for a special school places.

The Governing Body of Fort Royal Special School has indicated that they wish to increase the number of pupils at the school to help meet demand for special school places and the County Council supports this aim.

Some of the children who require a place at Fort Royal Special School in September 2023 are currently in early years settings but have been identified as part of their Education Health and Care plan assessments as requiring a special school place to meet their special educational needs. It is appropriate for these children to move from early years to specialist education provision in a planned way, with transition support.

The table below shows the numbers of pupils on roll each January at Fort Royal over the last 4 years:

School	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fort Royal School	209 (254 with nursery)	215 (241 with nursery)	209 (240 with nursery)	218 (254 with nursery)

School Size

School funding is largely driven by pupil numbers so the proposed increase in commissioned places at Fort Royal Special School from 200 to 256 will improve the long-term sustainability of the school. This proposed increase will not change the physical size of the school.

Proposed Admission Arrangements

No other changes are proposed in respect of the admission criteria for Fort Royal School.

Community Cohesion

Pupils attending Fort Royal School travel mainly from the local area primarily between 5 and 10 miles from the school. The largest majority of pupils reside in the district of Worcester City and Malvern Hills but pupils also travel from other districts of Worcestershire (Wychavon).

Demographic growth and recent housing growth has increased the number of children requiring a place in special schools in Worcestershire. This proposal will ensure that the school can continue to serve local families, keeping the school at the heart of the community.

Travel and Accessibility

As with any school expansion there are concerns about the impact of additional children on traffic



congestion at the start and end of the school day. The school is proactive in encouraging parents and pupils to use sustainable methods of travel to school. It is anticipated that the majority of pupils will continue to receive transport assistance.

Proje

