

Full proposal to discontinue use of the Valley Campus - Hove Park School and Sixth Form (referred to in the consultation as Hove Park School)

In accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Brighton & Hove City Council proposes to make a prescribed alteration to Hove Park School by discontinuing the use of the Valley Campus as an additional site of the school and consolidating all provision onto one site at the Nevill Campus with effect from 1 September 2028.

Contact details

The name and contact address of the local authority publishing the proposals:

Brighton & Hove City Council
Education Service
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove
BN3 3BQ

The name, address and category of the school it is proposed should be reorganised:

Hove Park School
Nevill Campus: Nevill Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 7BN
Valley Campus: Hangleton Way, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 8AA
Category: Community School (11-18 Mixed Comprehensive)

Implementation

It is proposed that the consolidation will be implemented on 1 September 2028. The reorganisation will be implemented in a single phase, with all students and operations moving to the Nevill Campus from that date.

All registered pupils at the school at the date of implementation, and all pupils offered a place prior to that date, will continue to be provided with education at Hove Park School on the Nevill Campus.

Affected pupils: Only students who started Year 7 in September 2027 will be directly affected by this change. These students will move to the Nevill Campus for Year 8 in September 2028, one year earlier than would have occurred under the current two-site system.

Reason for reorganisation

Brighton & Hove is experiencing declining school enrolment across the city, which has created significant challenges. School funding is directly linked to pupil numbers rather than providing a set amount per school, which has resulted in increasing budgetary pressures for Hove Park School. In response to these demographic changes, Hove Park School's maximum intake has previously been reduced from 300 to 180 students per year group.

The current two-site operation creates additional operational costs and complexity that are becoming increasingly difficult to sustain in the context of reduced funding. The consolidation will improve operational efficiency while maintaining the school's distinctive culture and educational quality.

The proposal also forms part of the local authority's duty to ensure sufficient, high-quality school places and the efficient use of resources across the area. Alternative options, including retaining the current two-site model and partial reconfiguration, have been

considered but are not considered sustainable in the medium to long term due to financial and operational constraints

School details and current arrangements

Hove Park School is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive community school serving students across Brighton & Hove. The school currently operates across two sites:

- **Valley Campus (Hangleton Way):** Currently serves Years 7-8 with capacity for approximately 360 students
- **Nevill Campus (Nevill Road):** Currently serves Years 9-13 with capacity for approximately 900 students

The distance between the two main entrances of the two school sites is 1.4 miles.

The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 180 for Year 7 entry, reduced from previous higher levels due to declining demographics.

Current pupil numbers (2025-2026)

- Total school capacity: Approximately 1,260 students
- Current enrolment: 941 students
- Year 7 intake 2026: 138 students
- Students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs): 89 students (9.46% of students)
- Students on SEN Support: 234 students (24.9% of students)

Displaced pupils

No pupils will be displaced as a result of this proposal. All current students will continue their education at Hove Park School on the consolidated Nevill Campus.

Students affected by site change: Only the Year 7 cohort who started in September 2027 will experience a change to their expected progression. These students will move to the Nevill Campus in September 2028 (Year 8) instead of the originally planned September 2029 (Year 9).

Cullum Centre and SEND Provision

Hove Park School currently provides specialist SEND support at the Cullum Centre for students with autism and social communication difficulties. This provision will be fully maintained and enhanced at the consolidated Nevill Campus.

All existing SEND provision will be replicated at Nevill Campus. Specialist staff will transfer to maintain continuity of support, and additional resources will be provided to support transition for vulnerable students. Enhanced quiet spaces and sensory-friendly areas will be incorporated into the new design.

The local authority has considered the impact of the proposal on pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and is satisfied that appropriate arrangements will be in place to meet their needs in accordance with statutory duties.

Impact on staff

The consolidation of Hove Park School onto the Nevill Campus will have significant implications for all staff members, and it is recognised that staff opinion on the proposal is divided.

Currently, most of the teaching and support staff split their time between both campuses, with only two or three members of staff based permanently at Valley Campus. The consolidation will eliminate the need for staff to regularly commute between sites, which many have identified as both time-consuming and disruptive to their working day.

The consolidation will present opportunities for more effective team working as all staff will be based on a single campus which will create opportunities for improved collaboration that may currently be affected by the logistical challenges of operating two sites.

Staff relationships with students are expected to strengthen significantly and this will be particularly beneficial for staff with tutor responsibilities, who will be able to maintain greater continuity with their tutor groups enabling stronger pastoral relationships.

Impact on the community

Brighton & Hove City Council recognises that the consolidation of Hove Park School onto a single site will have significant impacts on the wider community beyond the school itself. The proposal will particularly affect families in the Portslade and West Hove areas who currently benefit from the proximity of Valley Campus, requiring them to make alternative travel arrangements and potentially increasing car journeys across the city.

There are legitimate concerns about increased traffic congestion around Nevill Road and the safety implications for pedestrians and cyclists during peak school hours. The change will also impact school choice for families in the western areas of Brighton & Hove, as it reduces the geographic spread of secondary school provision.

The Council acknowledges the concerns raised about the impact on families with children who have special educational needs, who may have specifically chosen Valley Campus for its smaller, more nurturing environment.

The local authority has had regard to the impact of the proposal on the community, including access to education, local infrastructure, and community use of the site, and is committed to working closely with stakeholders to mitigate adverse effects where reasonably practicable. This will include enhanced transport provision, traffic management measures, and ensuring that the consolidated school maintains the supportive environment valued by families. Professional support services will be made available to assist during the transition period, and the planning process will prioritise community concerns to ensure the final arrangements meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Sixth form provision

DfE records Hove Park School and Sixth Form Centre as an 11–18 establishment. Whilst the school remains formally designated as an 11–18 institution, the governing body suspended new Year 12 admissions from September 2023 in response to falling pupil numbers and financial pressures, and sixth form provision has not operated since, although the school has supported some specialist provision for pupils with Education Health and Care Plans in Year 12.

Travel

The local authority has considered the likely impact of the proposal on travel arrangements and accessibility. While some pupils may experience increased journey times, mitigation measures will include the development of a school travel plan, promotion of sustainable travel options, and engagement with transport providers where appropriate. **No changes to statutory home to school transport eligibility are proposed.**

Effect on other educational institutions within the area

Moving sites would have an effect on pupils from primary schools transitioning to Hove Park School, particularly for those from the western areas of Brighton & Hove.

- Primary school pupils from Portslade, Hangleton, and West Hove areas who could previously walk or cycle to Valley Campus would now face longer journeys to Nevill Campus.
- The loss of Valley Campus means incoming Year 7 students will immediately join a much larger school environment alongside students up to age 18, rather than the more gradual transition provided by the current two-site system.
- Primary school families in the western areas may reconsider Hove Park as their preferred secondary option due to travel difficulties, potentially leading them toward other schools or academy options like PACA. This could particularly affect families who specifically chose to live near Valley Campus for convenient secondary school access.
- Parents may have increased anxiety about their 11-year-olds traveling further distances and integrating immediately into a full secondary school environment with much older students, rather than the protected transition environment Valley Campus currently provides.

Consultation

An initial consultation on the proposal was carried out last year between 22 April and 3 June 2025. That consultation received 169 responses: 60% of respondents were opposed to the proposal, 22% were unsure and 18% were in support. A recurring theme in the feedback was a concern about the absence of preliminary drawings and design plans for the Nevill Road works, which made it difficult for respondents to assess the full implications of consolidation.

In response to this feedback, the Council paused the process and commissioned architectural designs for the Nevill Road Campus ahead of re-consulting.

A comprehensive consultation was conducted from 13 April to 25 May 2026 including:

Consultation events:

- Online meeting on 6 May 2026
- Face-to-face meetings at Valley Campus on 23 April and Nevill Campus on 27 April and 2026
- Online survey available throughout the consultation period

Results from consultation responses:

A total of 109 responses were received via the Your Voice portal (with a completion rate of 96.5%) and 2 email submissions. Respondents from the Your Voice survey were asked directly whether they supported the school's proposal to move from two sites to one at the Nevill Campus. Of the 108 who answered this question, 68 (63%) did not support the proposal, 31 (29%) were in support and 9 (8%) were not sure.

The consultation responses regarding Hove Park School's proposed consolidation reveal the following community concerns:

- Many families currently walking or cycling to the Valley campus would be forced to rely on public transport or car journeys, increasing travel costs and time while potentially reducing after-school activity participation.
- Environmental sustainability emerged as a key concern, with families who specifically moved near Valley campus to avoid car use now facing increased vehicle dependency.
- Traffic and safety concerns dominate responses, with serious worries about increased congestion on Nevill Road and parking problems creating road hazards.
- The educational benefits of the current two-site system are highly valued, particularly for students with Special Educational Needs. The Valley campus provides a smaller, nurturing environment for Years 7-8 transition students, and respondents fear losing this protective setting.
- Concerns include increased anxiety for SEN children and potential bullying risks when mixing younger students with sixth formers.
- Extensive infrastructure requirements include maintaining SEN provision (particularly the Cullum Centre), additional canteen and playground space, and organisational systems like staggered timetables and age-appropriate segregation.

Brighton & Hove City Council and Hove Park School are committed to maintaining educational quality by preserving and potentially enhancing the quality of education provided. They will preserve school culture by maintaining Hove Park School's distinctive ethos throughout the transition.

Adequate facilities will be ensured by providing all necessary facilities at Nevill Campus before implementation. SEND provision will be fully replicated and enhanced, including the Cullum Centre and SEND support services. Comprehensive transition support will be provided for affected students and families.

Traffic management measures will be implemented to address transportation and safety concerns. Community engagement will be maintained through transparent communication throughout the process.

Ownership of sites

- **Nevill Campus:** Owned by Brighton & Hove City Council
- **Valley Campus:** Owned by Brighton & Hove City Council

Future use of Valley Campus will be determined following the consolidation, a number of options are being assessed, ranging from full disposal of the site to partial disposal retaining certain land or facilities. Any disposal of land will be carried out in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements and guidance.

Where and when the Statutory Notice and Full Proposal Information will be available

Brighton and Hove City Council will publish the statutory notice for this proposal on Monday 8 June 2026. The notice will remain in force for a period of 4 weeks ie until Monday 6 July 2026. A copy of the statutory notice is provided alongside this document.

On 8 June 2026 the full proposal information will be sent to the following recipients:

- The Governing Board of the school
- The Diocese of Chichester

- The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
- Leader of the Council
- Local Ward Councillors
- The Member of Parliament for Hove and Portslade
- The Governing Bodies of Blatchington Mill School, PACA and local Primary Schools in the area

It will also be published on Brighton and Hove City Council's website and the school website.

Any person may request a copy of the full proposal information either by writing to Brighton and Hove City Council, Education Service, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, BN3 3BQ or via email at educationandlearning@brighton-hove.gov.uk

How to make representation or comment on the proposal

Any person may object or make a representation or comment on the proposal either by responding by writing to Brighton and Hove City Council, Education Service, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, BN3 3BQ or via email at educationandlearning@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Following the closing date for representations, comments and objections, a report will be prepared for the Cabinet to consider and determine the proposal within 2 months of the end of the representation period, in accordance with statutory requirements. i.e. no later than 6 September 2026.

Support and further information

For further information about this proposal, please contact:

Brighton & Hove City Council
Education Service
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ
Email: educationandlearning@brighton-hove.gov.uk