Brantridge School
Live, laugh and learn together

Brantridge School, Staplefield Place, Staplefield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6EQ
01444 400 228
www.brantridgeschool.org
schooloffice@brantridge-school.co.uk
Principal: Dafydd Roberts

24th February 2026

Dear Families, Staff and other Members of the School Community,

Consultation on a Proposed Expansion of Brantridge School

I am writing to inform you about a proposed change to the future development of Brantridge School. This consultation seeks your views on a proposal to expand primary provision at the School and to confirm a primary-only focus going forward.

Brantridge School is a special school that currently meets the needs of 80 boys aged 5 to 11 (Year 1 to Year 6) with social, emotional and mental health difficulties, including autistic spectrum disorder. The School is part of Orchard Hill College Academy Trust (the Trust), a specialist multi academy trust.

In recent years, the Trust has worked closely with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and the Department for Education to consider how provision at Brantridge School could best respond to changing patterns of local need. This work previously included consideration of developing a co-educational secondary provision on the school site, and consultation was undertaken at that time. However, as has been previously communicated, WSCC confirmed that it would not be progressing the development of secondary provision at Brantridge School.

Current discussions with the local authority are now focused solely on addressing demand within the primary phase. WSCC has identified a continued and increasing need for specialist primary SEMH provision. In response, the Trust is proposing to expand primary capacity at Brantridge School.

The proposal would enable up to 96 primary places for boys to be delivered, subject to the reconfiguration and refurbishment of an existing building on the site.

As Brantridge School is an academy, the proposed changes would require approval from the Department for Education (DfE). A Significant Change Business Case will therefore be submitted to seek approval on the proposal to **amend the School's Funding Agreement to 96 primary planned places for boys only.**

A consultation will be undertaken to gather the views of families, staff and other interested parties, in order to inform the DfE's decision making. The consultation period on this proposal will run from Tuesday 24th February to Wednesday 18th March 2026. During this time, we invite you to share your views in the following ways:

A public meeting where you can meet the Trust and School leaders and ask questions, will be held at Brantridge School on 10th March at the following times: 9:30-11:00am and 3:30-5:00pm

A virtual public meeting will be held between 12:00-1:00pm on 10th March. Please confirm in writing to schooloffice@brantridge-school.co.uk if you wish to attend, so that a link to the meeting can be forwarded to you.

Comments on the Proposal to be submitted in one of the following ways:

- by paper: see attached response form which can be posted or handed into the school office
- by an online survey at: Brantridge School Consultation
- by email to: schooloffice@brantridge-school.co.uk
- by post to: Consultation, Brantridge School, Staplefield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6EQ

Our families and wider school community are at the heart of what we do and we want to be sure that this proposal is right, not only for Brantridge School but for the local community.

I look forward to hearing your views on this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Dafydd Roberts
Principal, Brantridge School

Brantridge School Expansion Consultation

Tuesday 24th February to Wednesday 18th March

Please rate the questions below using this scale:

1 Strongly agree
2 Agree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Disagree
5 Strongly disagree

1. More special school places are needed for children and young people within West Sussex ☐
2. More local provision reduces the need for longer journeys and helps children and young people to play a more active role in their home community ☐
3. I am in agreement with the proposal to **amend the School's Funding Agreement to 96 primary planned places for boys only** ☐

Please tick one of the following: I am a:

☐ Parent of a pupil at Brantridge School
☐ Parent of a child with special education needs attending another school
☐ Staff member at Brantridge School
☐ Pupil at Brantridge School
☐ Professional working in schools
☐ Other _____

Please turn over

Do you have any other comments about this proposal?

If so, please use the space below to note any further comments you might have. Alternatively, you can complete the consultation on-line at Brantridge School Consultation.

Please return your completed form to the school office:
Brantridge School, Staplefield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6EQ