

Statement of Need.

The Springfields Academy, part of Reach South Academy Trust, is a special school for autistic pupils and those with Speech, Language and Communication Needs. All the pupils have an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP). Springfields is a specialist provision within the Wiltshire local offer. The school currently caters for up to 250 pupils, with 240 currently on roll and is on track to grow to 280 pupils in September 2025, due to demand for places identified by Wiltshire Council.

The growth in pupil numbers at Springfields is to support Wiltshire Council to reduce its spend within the High Needs Funding Block as part of the DFE Safety Valve project. Accommodating the additional pupils to roll in Wiltshire provision reduces the need for Wiltshire Council to fund places in independent special schools, that are often outside of Wiltshire at high cost. Supporting growth at Springfields helps to maintain sustainable local provision, most importantly keeping Wiltshire children being educated in Wiltshire.

The Springfields Academy has had an ongoing waiting list for specialist places since 2020 despite growth in pupil places. Wiltshire has a number of pupils without a school place in the SEND system. Additional pupil places at Springfields would accommodate some of these pupils.

The school is looking to increase its pupil numbers to 280 in September 2025, an increase of 40 places to the number of pupils currently on roll aiming to clear the schools waiting list and provide educational provision for pupils who are currently out of education awaiting a specialist placement. In order to facilitate this growth Springfields requires two

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temporary modular units, structured with four classrooms (two in each modular) to accommodate 40 secondary age pupils.

As the trajectory of pupil's requiring additional specialist placement is predicted to increase, the use of the modulars is a temporary solution ahead of the opening of a satellite provision within 15 -20 minutes of the Springfields site in Calne in 2027/2028.



Nicola Whitcombe

Headteacher

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