



Ashby Road, Daventry, Northants. NN11 0QE

Tel: 01327 703135

Email: info@daventryhillschool.org.uk

Web: www.daventryhillschool.co.uk

11th June 2025

Daventry Hill School Expansion

I am writing on behalf of the governing body of Daventry Hill School, and the trustees of Creating Tomorrow Multi Academy Trust, to inform you of the proposal to increase the student capacity at Daventry Hill School.

The leadership team of Daventry Hill School, and the trust, have been working with the local authority to accept a growing number of students, however:

1. Daventry Hill School is only funded for a limited number of students
2. Due to the increasing number of students, new teaching accommodation is required to maintain the quality of provision.

1. Student Capacity:

Our current funding agreement allows us to take 200 students with a special arrangement to take an additional 10% where this supports the need for specialist places locally. This year Daventry Hill School has had to use this flexibility and currently has 220 students. As you may be aware, this academic year Daventry Hill School has made use of classroom accommodation at the Icon Centre, and this enabled the school to accept these additional students.

For September 2025 the local authority has asked the school to take in an additional number of students, taking the number on roll to 230. This will mean that Daventry Hill will have 30 students above their funding agreement which exceeds the 10% flexibility we are allowed.

The trust is applying to the Department for Education to increase its capacity to 230, which the leadership team at Daventry Hill School feel is manageable considering the space in specific year groups and aligned to the second area of this letter.

2. Additional Teaching Accommodation

The additional classroom accommodation that the school currently uses at the Icon Centre is no longer available from September 2025. Therefore, in order to be able to accommodate the existing number of students as well as the planned increase in students, additional teaching space is needed.



Mrs V Bond:	Headteacher
Mrs T McKay:	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs K Kerr:	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs L Worts:	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs H Caswell:	Assistant Headteacher
Mr A Bodily:	Operations Manager



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The school and the trust have been working closely with West Northamptonshire Council to identify potential solutions which would allow all students at Daventry Hill School to have the space they need to ensure the continued quality of provision. The potential solution that has been arrived on is an additional teaching block located on the current school car park area. We are delighted that West Northamptonshire Council has agreed to fund this high quality modular building as well as its fixtures and fittings in full. The proposed scheme also includes reconfiguration of the remaining car parking area into much-needed additional outdoor play area, which is in short supply at Daventry Hill.

To enable this to happen, there has had to be detailed consideration of parking and drop off arrangements for staff, visitors and parents. West Northamptonshire Council has committed to providing a dedicated and monitored school car park on part of the current Chaucer Way public car park. We have also designed in accessible parking spaces and drop-off/ pick-up areas to ensure the smooth operation of our transport arrangements.

When there is a significant change to a school, there is a legal requirement for schools to consult with 'stakeholders'(anyone attached to the school) who may be affected.

The significant change at Daventry Hill School we are consulting with you for is:

- Increasing places in a Special Academy by more than 20 pupils

Whilst we have shared information with you in relation to the new teaching spaces that are planned for the site to support in understanding how we will accommodate the increase in places, this is not subject to this consultation in the same way. West Northamptonshire Council will be submitting a planning application to enable the new building on the school site to take place, and you will be able to view plans and give feedback on their proposals via that process.

Our consultation process begins 11th June 2025 and ends on 2nd July 2025.

Please read through the attached document and complete the response form adding any comments you wish. Please return all replies, either via the online form accessed by the QR code below, by email with the subject header "Daventry Hill School Consultation" to comms@daventryhillschool.org.uk, or in a sealed envelope marked "Daventry Hill School Consultation" to the Daventry Hill school office (Daventry Hill School, Ashby Road, Daventry, NN11 0QE). These must be received by no later than 2nd July 2025.



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I would also like to invite you to a virtual presentation and consultation event about the proposals on 23rd June at 5pm. This will be a virtual meeting, held via Teams, and therefore if you would like to take part please email comms@davenporthillsschool.org.uk. This will be an opportunity to hear the proposals and to ask questions.

The trustees of Creating Tomorrow Multi Academy Trust will inform you of the outcome of the overall consultation by letter.

The strength of Daventry Hill School means we are confident that there is the vision, skills and resources to serve the best interests of our community and improve the outcomes and opportunities for all our students.

I hope that you are able to attend the virtual presentation event, however in any case please do not hesitate to contact either school or myself if you would like to discuss this in further detail.

Yours Faithfully,

Ian McAllister
Chair of Governors
Daventry Hill

Vicki Bond
Headteacher
Daventry Hill

Chris Moody
Chair of Trustees
Creating Tomorrow

Kevin Latham
Chief Executive
Officer
Creating Tomorrow



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Davenport Hill School Expansion

Within West Northamptonshire there is a growing pressure on places for students in special schools and it is well documented that West Northamptonshire is facing an increase in demand alongside a shortage of school places. All special schools are at, or above, capacity. Davenport Hill School has exceeded the agreed number of students, after expanding from 175 students 3 years ago to a capacity of 200, to 220 this year. The local authority is wishing to place at least an additional 10 students at Davenport Hill School, taking the school to a proposed 230 on roll from September 2025. Therefore, increasing the student numbers supports the local authority, within current admissions arrangements, in placing those students who truly require a special school provision at Davenport Hill School.

Students with cognition and learning needs require a bespoke curriculum that caters for their significant learning difficulties. This often requires additional space and access to a varied and active curriculum with a sense of purpose which develops self-worth whilst also providing academic rigour. This provision is over and above that which can be offered in our current environment, which is why West Northamptonshire has agreed to fund building works to create additional teaching accommodation.

The expansion of Davenport Hill School will have a positive impact on the students placed at the school by keeping them closer to their families in a school which can offer a high-quality provision within a specialist setting. The ability to offer a curriculum in a personalised and bespoke manner will ensure some of the most vulnerable at Davenport Hill have the opportunity to develop the skills they need, in the environment they need.

As this is an expansion to the current provision there is no need to add to the governance arrangements, however, within the fully costed expansion there is built in leadership time to oversee the running and development of the increase in student numbers.

If the business case is not approved there will be a number of consequences, not only on the individual students, but on the school and Local Authority. If Davenport Hill is not able to formally expand its provision then, as most likely, the school will likely be expected to accept the students irrespective of the fact that it is beyond full, and then teaching spaces will be stretched beyond capacity and the quality of provision affected. If the Local Authority cannot place the students within the current school provision, then costly independent and out-of-county placements will be required, which reduces the overall resources for students being educated in special schools.



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Response to the Consultation regarding the Expansion of Daventry Hill School

Your views are important!

You can respond via our online form using this QR code or via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/RBpPRuT5H9>

Alternatively you can reply by email with the subject header “Daventry Hill School Consultation” to comms@daventryhillschool.org.uk, or in a sealed envelope marked “Daventry Hill School Consultation” to the Daventry Hill school office (Daventry Hill School, Ashby Road, Daventry, NN11 0QE). **Response deadline: 2 July 2025.**

Name:

Relationship to the school:

Proposal:

1. Changes to the number of pupils in a special school - *Increase the student capacity at Daventry Hill School from 200 to 230.*

- I **support** the increase in the capacity of the school
- I **do not support** the increase in the capacity of the school

Any additional comments (please use additional paper if necessary)



We will be holding a consultation meeting on 23 June at 5pm. This will be a virtual meeting via Teams. Please email comms@daventryhillschool.org.uk if you would like to take part.



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