

Justification Statement - Woodview @ Ingfield Manor School

Proposed education-led expansion of specialist Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) provision

1. Executive Summary

This application seeks an expansion of the school in a phased, education-led development for the Woodview provision at Ingfield Manor School. Woodview serves pupils with social, communication and language needs (SLCN) who cannot be accommodated within mainstream settings. Salutem Care and Education has delivered education for Woodview students at Ingfield Manor for the past three years under a block arrangement with West Sussex County Council. The proposed expansion of specialist provision at Woodview for learners aged 11–16 with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) is required in direct response to a significant and growing demand for specialist SEND support within West Sussex.

Scope of the proposal:

- Phase 1 – Four-classroom block with supporting amenities;
- Phase 2 – Additional classroom, dining and specialist teaching space;
- Phase 3 – Library, additional therapy rooms and changing facilities;
- Phase 4 – Sports Hall providing a shared facility for Ingfield Manor/Woodview and potential community use.

Woodview currently accommodates 43 students across four year groups, with a further cohort of at least 12 students anticipated for September 2026 via the commissioning pathway. The proposal seeks to formalise and sensitively expand the dedicated provision on land within the school estate formerly used for staff accommodation (c. 4 acres).

2. About Salutem Care and Education

Salutem Care and Education is a national provider of specialist care and education for children, young people and adults with complex needs. Established in 2017, the organisation operates a broad network of schools, residential homes and day services across England and Wales. Salutem employs more than 2,500 colleagues and supports over 1,800 individuals, working in partnership with more than 200 commissioners; over 95% of the people supported are placed by Local Authorities. Salutem has been recognised by the Top Employer Institute as a Top Employer United Kingdom for 2024 and 2025 and has been ranked among the Top 50 Inspiring Workplaces, reflecting a values-led culture and a focus on quality and outcomes [1][2][3].

Salutem's values shape day-to-day practice and leadership:

- Supportive
- Ambitious
- Loyal
- Unique
- Transparent
- Engaging
- Meaningful

3. Proven Delivery at Ingfield Manor and Woodview

At Ingfield Manor School, Salutem has delivered education to Woodview students for the past three years. Recent West Sussex County Council quality monitoring visits have recognised the benefits of the Woodview model for students with SLCN, citing strong student voice, therapeutic integration and responsive leadership. The school was graded Good by Ofsted in November 2023 (education) The onsite short breaks residential provision was graded Outstanding by Ofsted in June 2025 (care)

- Attendance and engagement: Year 7 attendance has increased year-on-year, supported by a nurturing model and creative engagement (e.g. Forest School, swimming, enhanced transitions).
- Curriculum: Woodview follows a subject-based curriculum delivered within a primary model, aligned to the National Curriculum and adapted to need. Where appropriate, pupils access online GCSE teaching to provide stretch and challenge.
- Therapy integration: Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy are embedded throughout the school day; multidisciplinary reviews set and monitor MDT targets.
- Outcomes and tracking: Progress is tracked systematically (e.g. Evidence for Learning/Insights) with interventions adjusted in response to data; personalised pathways lead to Entry Level and GCSE outcomes as appropriate.
- Safeguarding, governance and quality assurance: Safeguarding is underpinned by a designated DSL team and CPOMS case management; governance meets DfE expectations with termly boards; Salutem operates a corporate QA calendar covering H&S, quality of education and leadership & management.

Source: West Sussex CCRAQ Quality Monitoring Visit (10 September 2024) and internal school records.

4. The Proposal

The project will deliver a sequence of modest, purpose-designed buildings clustered within the southern portion of the campus (former staff accommodation site), providing dedicated accommodation for Woodview while maintaining safe adjacency to the main Ingfield Manor hub. The massing, materials and landscape approach has been developed to respect the rural setting and tree cover, with clear pedestrian routes and safeguarded pupil circulation.

1. Phase 1 – Four-classroom block with supporting amenities;
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3. Phase 3 – Library, additional therapy rooms and changing facilities;
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5. Specialist Provision

The proposed expansion of specialist provision at Woodview for learners aged 11–16 with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) is required in direct response to a significant and growing demand for specialist SEND support within West Sussex. The most recent reporting from West Sussex County Council highlights a marked increase in the number of children and young people requiring Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), with 1,565 more children holding a finalised EHCP at the end of 2024 compared to 2023, and a 60% increase in assessments completed since 2019, illustrating sustained pressure on specialist services across the county. The Local Authority are in the process of updating their Strategy, however there is no indication to suggest this demand is lessening and instead it is likely to be increasing. The West Sussex SEND and Inclusion Strategy and SEND Partnership Improvement Plan emphasise the need to strengthen specialist provision and ensure children can access the right support locally, within high-quality, needs-led educational environments.

Expanding Woodview’s facilities and classroom capacity directly supports these strategic objectives by increasing local availability of specialist placements, reducing reliance on out-of-area provision, and ensuring that children with SLCN are able to access tailored, evidence-based education within their community. This aligns with the Local Area Partnership’s vision that all children and young people with SEND in West Sussex “gain the skills and confidence they need to live well in their community,” delivered through inclusive, needs-led provision and multi-agency collaboration. The expansion therefore not only responds to present pressures but also supports long-term sustainability in meeting the county’s statutory duties and strategic commitments for SEND.

6. Education, Therapies and Student Outcomes

Pupils will continue to access a broad and balanced curriculum adapted from the National Curriculum, taught mainly within a primary model to support consistency, relationships and

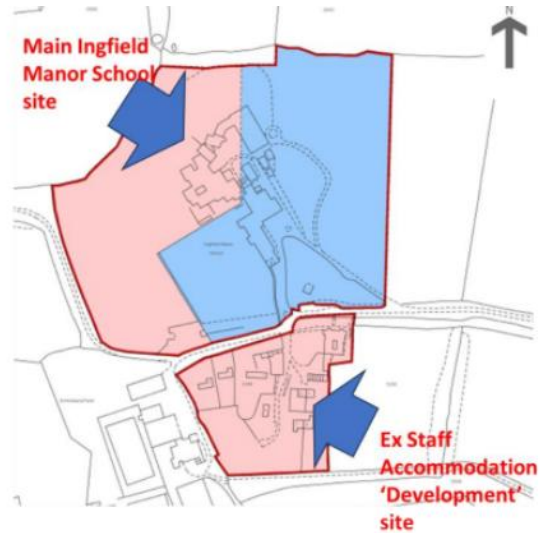
regulation. Targeted specialist spaces introduced through Phases 2–3 (e.g. specialist classrooms, therapy rooms, library) will strengthen literacy, communication and therapeutic programmes. A shared Sports Hall (Phase 4) will enhance physical development and provide opportunities for inclusive sport and regulated movement.

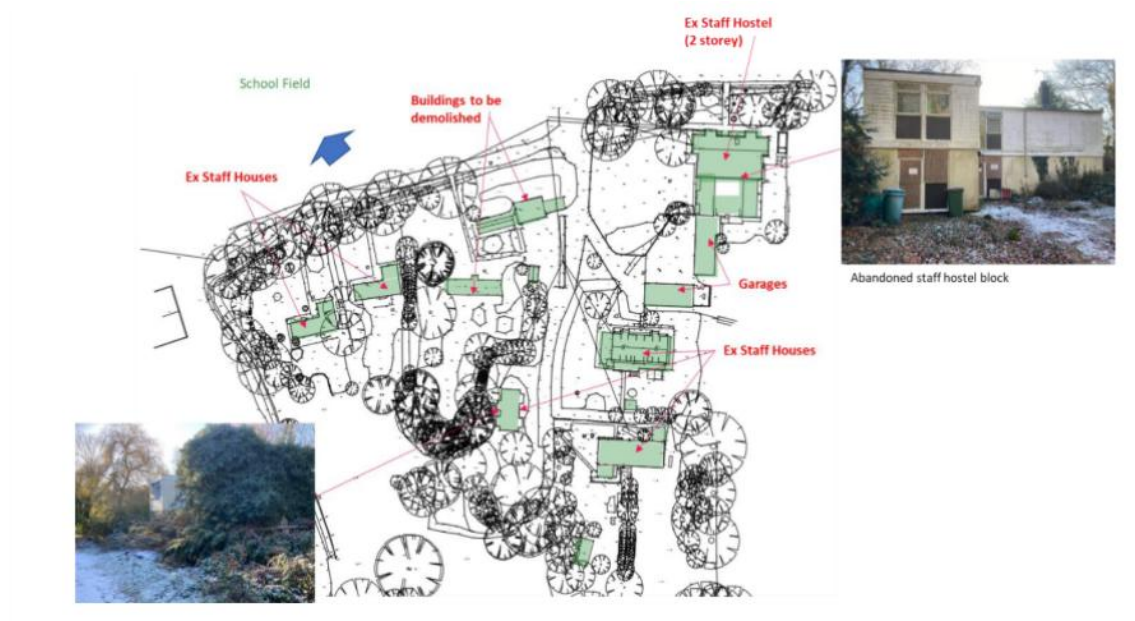
Key features include:

- Integrated therapy programmes and regular MDT reviews;
- Personalised targets (IEPs/Annual Reviews) aligned to EHCP outcomes;
- Robust assessment and progress tracking to inform timely interventions;
- Access to vocational, Entry Level and GCSE pathways where appropriate;
- Enrichment through outdoor education, swimming and community learning.

7. Site and Planning Context

The preferred location is an approximately 4-acre parcel to the south of the main school campus, formerly occupied by staff accommodation developed c.1960. The site offers seclusion, established boundaries and direct vehicular access, and lies adjacent to the school's administration hub. A previous, unrelated planning permission (2019) established the principle of redevelopment for care-related use on this land. The proposal would clear the remnants of prior use and deliver a phased specialist education facility for Woodview.





8. Benefits and Community Impact

The scheme delivers significant educational and social value:

- Improved sufficiency for West Sussex pupils with SLCN, reducing out-of-county placements and journey times;
- Purpose-built, regulation-compliant accommodation improving safety, dignity and educational attainment;
- Shared Sports Hall enabling community access (managed by the school via a community use agreement);
- Local employment and professional development within an established education campus.

9. Phasing and Programme

Subject to pre-application feedback and subsequent planning submission, construction would proceed in discrete phases to maintain educational continuity. Each phase will be capable of independent operation while enabling a coherent whole. An indicative programme and sequencing plan can be provided following initial planning advice.

10. Management, Safeguarding and Assurance

Salutem operates a comprehensive quality assurance framework, including scheduled audits covering health & safety, quality of education, leadership and management, and compliance. The school maintains enhanced DBS vetting, a single central record, half-termly supervisions and annual appraisal cycles. Safeguarding is coordinated by a named DSL team and recorded via

CPOMS, with effective liaison with the West Sussex LADO. Employer's and Public Liability insurance limits are in place at £10m. (See WSCC CCRAQ Quality Monitoring, 10 September 2024).

11. Engagement

Salutem have established relationships with stakeholders and neighbours and have undertaken comprehensive engagement with the local community prior to the application. Details are contained within the Statement of Community Involvement and the school are committed to supporting and working with the local community, including through the proposal for the use of the sports hall via the Community Use Agreement.

12. Conclusion

The Woodview expansion represents a proportionate, needs-led enhancement of specialist SLCN provision within an established education campus. Salutem's national capability and the school's proven local delivery provide a robust platform for successful implementation. The proposal will make an enormous difference to pupils, greatly enhancing the quality and capacity of the school.

References

[1] Salutem Care and Education — About Us:

<https://www.salutemcareandeducation.co.uk/about-us/>

[2] Salutem Care and Education — Home (values, Top Employer, Inspiring Workplaces):

<https://www.salutemcareandeducation.co.uk/>

[3] Salutem Care and Education — Our Services/Vision & Values:

<https://www.salutemcareandeducation.co.uk/about-us/vision-and-values/>