

County Council Report October 2022

Windows now open to apply for primary and secondary school places

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2023.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Monday 31 October 2022.

The deadline for applying for a primary school place, including infant and junior schools, is Sunday 15 January 2023.

All applications received by the relevant closing date are processed at the same time using the schools' oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications when necessary. Late applications are processed after all of those received on time.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received just under 15,400 applications from parents and carers indicating at which school they would prefer their child to be educated from September 2022.

Just over 95% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and almost 99% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

Before making a school application, parents and carers need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. School Travel eligibility is based on a child attending the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available. This might not be the catchment area school. To find out more about SCC's school travel policy please visit www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

Great Big Green Week in Suffolk: Creating the Greenest County

Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature, and Suffolk is playing its part.

Created by national charity [The Climate Coalition](#), thousands of people across the UK are encouraged to take part in environmental action between 24 September and 2 October. Last year more than 200,000 people took part in their community and online, and this year is expected to be even bigger and better.

Councillor Andy Drummond, chairman of the Suffolk Environment Portfolio Holders Group, said:

"To celebrate Great Big Green Week, we wanted to shine a spotlight on some of the fantastic organisations that are helping to make Suffolk the greenest county, to protect the environment and the habitat of local wildlife.

"Every Suffolk resident has a responsibility to tackle climate change, it's not something that one organisation or authority can achieve on its own. Which is why our Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan is so important, as we work towards our ambition of a Net Zero Suffolk by 2030.

“These organisations and individuals are truly inspiring, and I hope by reading their stories you too will be inspired to take positive action to reduce your carbon emissions and protect your local environment.”

Alzheimer’s Awareness Month – now is the time to learn more about dementia and what support is available

World Alzheimer’s Day was held on 21 September, as part of World Alzheimer’s Month.

This year the theme is around the power of knowledge, encouraging people to do what they can to learn more about dementia and understand the changes in memory and behaviour, so people feel equipped and able to identify when and where they may need to go for help and support.

Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia, Alzheimer’s is a progressive disease. This means that gradually, over time, more parts of the brain are damaged. As this happens, more symptoms develop, and they also get worse.

According to the Alzheimer Society, more than 520,000 people in the UK have dementia caused by Alzheimer’s disease and this figure is set to rise.

Sadly, the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, combined with the stigma of dementia and the common misconception around memory loss being just part of getting old, means that dementia diagnosis rates are currently at a five-year low across the UK, which sadly means that tens of thousands of people across the country are currently living with undiagnosed dementia.

This means they don’t have access to the vital care and support that a diagnosis can bring and could risk ending up in crisis before making plans with their family and friends.

Typical early symptoms of Alzheimer’s may include memory problems like regularly forgetting recent events, people’s names, or familiar faces. Becoming increasingly repetitive, asking the same question multiple times.

Regularly misplacing items or putting them in odd or unusual places. Confusion about the date or losing track of the time of day. People with the onset of dementia might also develop problems communicating or finding the right words.

If you recognise some of these symptoms, either in yourself or in a close friend or family member, book a visit with a GP as soon as possible. Whilst getting a diagnosis can be daunting all the evidence suggests it’s better to know.

Earlier this year, as part of Dementia Action Week, Alzheimer’s Society created and launched a new online symptoms checklist that can be printed off and taken with you to a GP appointment, to help talk about changes that might be due to dementia.

Unlocking early support is vital, as it opens a range of both practical and emotional support. This support can include people gaining access to the latest information and research, so they can know more about the disease and how it develops, access counselling and emotional wellbeing support, and potentially benefit from drug and non-drug treatments available to help manage the disease as it develops.

It also allows them the opportunity to explain to family and friends the changes happening in their life. You can find out more information about their symptom checklist, along with a wealth of information and a range of help sheets about everything from what support exists for individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's, support for carers of people with dementia, and the various treatment options which can be considered for people who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's on [the Alzheimer's Society website](#).

Don't dismiss the little symptoms you or your family may have noticed, it's not necessarily part of getting old – it might be part of getting ill.

Within Suffolk, anyone who needs help, advice and support for themselves or others pre or post a diagnosis of dementia, can contact the Alzheimer's Society via their Dementia Connect (Telephone **0333 150 3456** or email suffolk@alzheimers.org.uk).

Ipswich Register Officer moves to Endeavour House

The Ipswich Register Office will be moving to new state of the art facilities at Endeavour House, from October.

To complete the move, the Ipswich Register office at St Peter House will close on Friday 30 September and will re-open fully at Endeavour House, Russell Road, on Tuesday 4 October.

From Tuesday 4 October, registrations of births and deaths, together with Notices of Marriage/Civil partnerships and Early Bird ceremonies will take place at Endeavour House which will also offer a walk-in reception service and more modern facilities. It will also be fully accessible, in its new ground floor location, giving improved access for all customers, as well as there being more parking options available.

Telephone and email services will remain open between 1 and 3 October for any urgent enquiries.

Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership rolls out ANPR devices to target speeding motorists

Speeding motorists are to be targeted with a mobile number plate recognition system to be rolled out across Suffolk.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) will be rotated around sites where there is a problem with speeding or rat-running on roads with a 20 or 30mph speed limit.

The devices, 10 in total, will display the speeds of drivers to them as they approach, encouraging them to slow down.

If they continue to ignore the speed limit the ANPR camera will take a picture of them and record the date, time, speed, vehicle registration and a photo of the vehicle.

In certain cases, persistent offenders will be reported to Suffolk Constabulary and, while no one will be prosecuted as a direct result of the devices, they may be visited by a police officer who will speak to them about their driving.

The information shared with the police may also influence the deployment of speed enforcement vans to problem areas.

This project is part of the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership between Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Constabulary.

Suffolk County Council provided £400,000 from the 2020 Fund to support a two-year trial.

A grant of £30,000 has also been awarded by the Road Safety Trust to evaluate the project and establish whether the camera scheme is effective in reducing speeding.