

**Increase in places for learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
at Exhall Grange School & Science College
Consultation FAQs**

Q. Why is this consultation taking place?

A. Public consultation is in accordance with guidance produced by the Department for Education whereby 'Governing bodies of all categories of special school and LAs for community special schools may seek to increase the number of places by following the statutory process, if the increase is by:

- 10%; or
- 20 pupils (whichever is the lesser)

These are proposals under Part 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to make alterations to a maintained special school. These alterations could increase the total number of pupils at the school by 10%, and therefore the statutory procedure has to be followed which requires, in line with the 2006 Act and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, that the proposals be published both online and in a local newspaper, as well as details being sent to the governing body, the parents of all registered pupils at the school, and anyone else considered appropriate, with at least a four week period being allowed for representations to be made prior to the authority making its final decision.

Q. Who decides whether the proposal goes ahead?

A. Following the period of consultation, the County Council's Cabinet will review the feedback and make a decision on whether or not to go ahead with the changes.

Q. Where does the funding for any additional accommodation come from?

A. The costs associated with the proposed project would be met by WCC capital funding, and school reserves. The Council funding comes specifically from the *Special Provision Fund* that has been provided to all English local authorities by the Department for Education for the development of specialist provision between 2018-21.

Q. What will be the effect on other educational establishments in the area?

A. There is not anticipated to be a significant impact on other local educational establishments in the area due to the need to provide additional places.

Q. What happens if the County Council's Cabinet does not approve the proposed changes?

A. If the proposed changes are not approved the school will not be able to accommodate all the anticipated need for places. Learners unable to be accommodated may either need to be placed in mainstream schools where they may not have their needs fully addressed or to be transported to specialist placements further afield adding to transport and placement costs.

Q. When will the work be carried out?

A. Building work is expected to start in late 2018 and be completed ready for the Summer term 2019.

Q. Will there be any disruption to the existing school while work is being carried out?

A. The contractors and the school will work together to ensure any disruption to pupils is kept to a minimum and will not have an adverse impact on the pupils day to day schooling.