

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PLACES FOR LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) AT EXHALL GRANGE SCHOOL AND SCIENCE COLLEGE

Introduction

This consultation is being undertaken to advise you of proposals concerning Exhall Grange School & Science College (hereafter referred to as Exhall Grange School) and to invite you to tell us what you think of the proposals. This is part of a statutory consultation process that Warwickshire County Council is managing in partnership with the school's Governing Body. The proposal is:

- To create approximately 44 additional places for learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND);
- Exact numbers will be dependent on the individual needs of the pupils placed.

The current number on roll at Exhall Grange School is 215 pupils.

Why Change?

Countywide there is a growing demand for Special School places and existing provision is at or approaching capacity. Warwickshire's population is expanding quickly with new housing being developed across the county and as a result there is a growing need for school places. A recent SEND needs assessment has projected that the county will require an additional 20% of special school places in the next five years, so there is a particular need to create additional capacity for learners with SEND.

Exhall Grange School has in the last year taken possession of parts of its accommodation that have been let out to third party organisations for a number of years. This provides an opportunity for the school to change how the whole site is configured and to provide significant benefits to existing learners as well as to provide space for an increase in numbers. The school faces pressure on school places (particularly in post-16) and now feels it has the capacity to accommodate an increase in the numbers on site.

Specific proposals

These proposals mainly involve refurbishment of existing accommodation and will create clearer zoning between primary, secondary and post-16 areas and make better use of existing space as follows:

- Canterbury Block will be remodelled to create a post-16 hub within the school, providing additional flexibility with 4 additional classrooms and communal spaces including a common room / eating area. This will provide post-16

learners with an identified space of their own and allow the school to expand by around 20 post-16 places.

- 'Building 9' (currently used as the post-16 common room with music rooms attached) will be refurbished and adapted to provide an additional dining area and servery. Services in the Canterbury block that are currently accessed by primary age pupils, including the toy library and the sensory room, will be relocated into Building 9 to improve access and reduce the time spent by younger pupils walking across the site.
- The primary block will have toilets added to the far end of the building, enabling two teaching spaces currently in use as a library and office space to be brought back into use as classrooms, providing up to 24 additional places.
- **Relocation of Learning Pod**
 - Exhall Grange (in partnership with Warwickshire County Council) currently operates an off-site satellite provision called the Learning Pod on Packington Lane in Coleshill, for learners in Year 9 and above who present with complex social communication and interaction difficulties and/or have a diagnosis of Autism, and who have acute and chronic emotional or mental health needs as identified by a mental health practitioner.
 - This provision has proved extremely successful in reintegrating learners into education but is hampered by its distance from the main school site in accessing the full curriculum and progression routes into further education. It is proposed that the provision is relocated onto a discrete location on the main school site to enable it to address these challenges.
 - It is proposed to refurbish and reconfigure a bungalow that was formerly staff accommodation to create a distinct base for these learners. The former site will be transferred to Woodlands Special School, which is nearby.

Impact

Exhall Grange School provides an excellent environment for learners with special educational needs and disabilities. There may be some concerns about whether increasing the numbers attending the site would impact on pupils already on roll, but these proposals have been carefully considered by the school after an extensive development process exploring all available options and finalising the proposal. The school and council are convinced that these changes will be to the benefit of all learners attending the school in that there will be clearer demarcation between phases of the school and a clearer zoning between age groups, thereby increasing younger learners sense of security and the post-16 learners sense of autonomy and independence. The moderate increase in numbers will not have a detrimental impact on staffing ratios nor on available space as all requirements will be catered for within the changes.

Funding

The estimated total cost of these works is £490,000.

Warwickshire County Council in partnership with the school has identified capital funding to meet the costs associated with the proposed works. These will be funded through a combination of school reserves and capital 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. Warwickshire's other SEND related capital proposals are set out at the bottom of the web-page here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sendocs>

What is the proposed timetable?

- **15th February 2018:** The County Council's Cabinet gave approval for the proposal to go out for consultation. This report is available to the general public by following the link below to the County Council website:
<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cmis5/Calendarofmeetings.aspx>
- **4th May– 8th June 2018:** Consultation with parents and other parties to take into account the views expressed regarding the proposals to increase pupil numbers.
- **24th July 2018:** If Cabinet agree to the proposals, the decision will begin to be implemented as soon as possible. The new places will be available from September 2019.

Have Your Say...

As an integral part of this process, we are inviting you to take part in this consultation. We welcome your views on the proposed changes raised in this consultation and all viewpoints will be taken into account before deciding to publish formal proposals.

Feedback can be given in the following ways;

In writing to:
Access & Organisation
Building 3, Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick
CV34 4UL



Via E-mail:
consultations@warwickshire.gov.uk

or, by completing the [online survey](#)

Further information can be found in Frequently Asked Questions

Deadline for comments is **8th June 2018**

Following the end of the consultation we shall publish the results and this may include quotes of comments which will be anonymous. If you reply to an anonymous survey then no personal details will be captured. If you would like further information, visit our website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy or contact our Customer Service Centre on 01926 410410