

Public Consultation

23/01/2023 to 17/02/2023



Informal consultation on changes to accommodation and permanency of current admission number at Wolverley C.E Secondary School

Introduction

This document helps to explain the background to the proposal and the steps of this process, including:

- the background to proposals;
- who can propose and decide on changes;
- what is being proposed;
- why it is being proposed;
- the impact of the proposals;
- who is being consulted;
- how to submit a consultation response; and
- what happens at the end of the consultation period.

If you require any additional information not included in this document to enable you to make a response, please contact the school:

Address	Wolverley CE Secondary School, Blakeshall Lane, Wolverley, Kidderminster DY11 5XQ
Email	office@wolverley.worcs.sch.uk
Phone number	01562 859800

Have your say...

It is very important that all those involved or have an interest have a say, we welcome your views.

An online survey can be accessed on the school website (<https://www.wolverley.worcs.sch.uk/1657/consultation>) or on the Worcestershire County Council website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations. If you are unable to access the online response form, please email the school office for a paper copy.

Paper responses must be submitted to the school office.

The four week consultation period commences on Monday 23rd January and closes at noon on Friday 17th February 2023. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to these proposals do so within this timeframe.

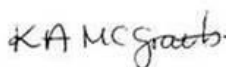
We are holding a consultation event to allow our stakeholders to learn more about our proposals and give the opportunity to provide feedback. Please contact the school office to request an invitation to the event:

Date	Event	Location	Delivery
Thursday 26 th January 17:00 – 18:00	Online Question & Answer Consulting	Microsoft Teams	Virtual

Yours sincerely,



Mr Bryn Thomas
Headteacher



Mrs Karen McGrath
Chair of Governors

Responses required by noon on Friday 17th February 2023

School Details

Name and Address:	Wolverley C.E Secondary School, Blakeshall Lane, Wolverley, Kidderminster DY11 5XQ		
Status:	Voluntary Controlled		
Ofsted Rating / Date:	'Good' 09/11/21		
Age range:	11 - 18	National Curriculum Year Groups	Year 7 – Year 13
Total pupil capacity as at 1 st September 2022:	1018	Proposed total pupil capacity:	1018
Published admission number (PAN) as at 1 st September 2022:	180 temporary	Proposed PAN:	180 permanent

Background information

Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Authority responsible for education provision, has a statutory responsibility to make sure that there are sufficient places for all of the children in Worcestershire who wish to attend a taxpayer funded school to do so. Taxpayer-funded schools are those which are maintained by the Local Authority or receive funding direct from the government, such as Academies and Free Schools. Ensuring that there are sufficient places is known as Basic Need.

Wolverley CE Secondary School has had temporary teaching accommodation comprising 14 classrooms on site since 2007. Planning consent has now expired, and as the school site is located in a Green Belt area, replacement of the temporary buildings with permanent accommodation is required.

Who can propose and decide the changes?

For Voluntary schools:

The Governing Body of the school can propose and decide to permanently enlarge premises and increase capacity of a school by 30 or more pupils if the increase in capacity is less than 25% of the existing capacity or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser).

This proposal increases the capacity of the school by 20%, and 150 pupils in total (5 year groups x 30 pupils).

What is proposed

The school Governing Body working with the Local Authority propose to permanently alter the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school to 180.

It is proposed that the existing 14 temporary classrooms will be replaced by a new classroom teaching block comprising 12 classrooms, and re-configuration of some of the existing permanent accommodation will deliver classrooms of the required size and supporting teaching and non-teaching spaces.

Why is it being proposed

The formal PAN of the school has been 150 since 2018. The school has had 'The Mall', comprising 14 temporary classrooms, on site since 2007, and has therefore been able to admit 180 pupils per year since September 2019.

Planners at Wyre Forest District Council require that the existing temporary accommodation be removed, so a solution which delivers sufficient permanent accommodation to support a permanent PAN of 180 is required. Planning permission for the new permanent buildings has been [granted](#).

The number of pupils living in the school's catchment area who are due to start Year 7 over the next 4 years exceeds 150, and in the Kidderminster area, all secondary schools are forecast to be almost full (with less than 5% surplus capacity) for at least the next four years, so a permanent change of PAN to 180 is supported by the Local Authority.

The Impact of the Proposal

These proposals are expected to provide the following benefits:

- The school is supported to deliver good education outcomes in suitable accommodation, and
- The school is able to deliver a full curriculum and remain sustainable and financially viable.
- More families are likely to receive their first preference of Year 7 places from September 2023 onwards
- More families living in the catchment area of Wolverley Secondary School are likely to receive their first preference of a Year 7 place;

Accommodation

The [plans](#) for the permanent accommodation that required planning permission can be seen on the Worcestershire County Council planning website. Planning permission has been granted for the development to proceed.

Other internal re-configurations are planned to convert the Library and an IT room to create 4 classrooms, an office and a storeroom.

Financial

These proposals require capital investment from the Local Authority. Detailed feasibility studies are being finalised to identify the full capital costs.

The cost of the new permanent accommodation will be met from several funding sources, including

- Section 106 Education Obligation contributions (received from local housing developments to help improve infrastructure to mitigate the impact of the development on education) and
- the Local Authority's capital maintenance fund, where aspects of the scheme include maintenance works.

The Governing Body are satisfied that any necessary funding required to implement the proposal will be available and that all relevant local parties (e.g. trustees of the school, diocese or relevant diocesan board) have given their agreement.

Who is being consulted?

The consultation will be made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending / known to the school
- Staff, Governors, Board Members of school and other local schools
- Local Parish, District and County Councillors
- Immediate neighbours of the school
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Children and Families
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Education
- Diocesan authority
- Any other local stakeholder

How to respond to the consultation

Consultation Phase – Monday 23rd January to noon Friday 17th February 2023

During the consultation phase anyone with an interest can express their views on the options expressed in this document. It is very important that all those involved or have an interest have a say, we welcome your views.

All of the information available is accessible from the school website or the [Worcestershire County Council website](#).

The four-week consultation period commences on Monday 23rd January and closes at noon on Friday 17th February 2023. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to these proposals do so within this timeframe.

What happens next?

How the decision will be made

The Governing Body will take note of any issues raised during the consultation, and at the conclusion of this consultation period, the Governing Body will consider any issues that have been raised before deciding whether to proceed with the proposed changes.

The Governing Body will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular the following factors:

- the response to the public consultation;
- the quality of education provision at the school;
- the ability of the school to manage the proposed change to support the continued improvements at the school;
- demand for places at the school and in the local area; and
- funding to cover the capital costs of the proposed change has been secured, and that there are no issues with the school's current budget and/or finances.

If the Governing Body decide to support the proposals, they will need to be satisfied that the appropriate fair and open local consultation period has been carried out and they have given full consideration to all the responses received. Before making any changes, Governing Bodies should ensure that:

- they have consulted with the Local Authority to ensure the proposal is aligned with local place planning arrangements;
- they have secured any necessary funding;
- they have identified suitable accommodation and sites;
- they have secured planning permission and/or agreement on the transfer of land where necessary. The proposal can be approved subject to planning permission being granted;
- they have the consent of the site trustees or other landowner where the land is not owned by the Governing Body;
- where a school is designated as having a religious character, they have the consent of the trustees of the school, the diocese or relevant diocesan board, or any other relevant faith body, where appropriate; and
- the admissions authority is content for the published admissions number (PAN) to be changed where this forms part of expansion plans, in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

Procedure for Responses

It is very important that all those involved have a say.

Please submit your comments by noon on Friday 17th February 2023 by completing the online response form available on the school website at <https://www.wolverley.worcs.sch.uk/1657/consultation> or on the Worcestershire County Council website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations. If you are unable to access the online response form, you can obtain a paper copy from the school office