

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

--

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school .

Wirral Council, Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 8ED Gilbrook School, Community Special, Pilgrim Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 5EH
--

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

1 st March 2010 or nearest practicable date thereafter

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
 - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

a) Within 6 weeks of the date of the notice

b) Howard Cooper, Director of Children's Services, Hamilton Building,
Conway Street, Birkenhead, CH41 4FD.

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

It is proposed to transfer Gilbrook Special School to the former premises of Arrowe Hill Primary School on Glebe Hey Road, Woodchurch, Wirral, CH49 8HE. Gilbrook is a special school for primary aged boys and girls who have statements of special educational needs because of emotional and behavioural difficulties. Some have additional learning needs such as dyslexia. The school is currently situated in Birkenhead but serves the whole of the Wirral.

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

(a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Not applicable

(b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Not applicable

(c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Not applicable

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not applicable

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

Not applicable

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable

Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

Not applicable

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not applicable

Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

Not applicable

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

Not applicable

(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

Not applicable

(d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

Not applicable

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

Not applicable

(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

Not applicable

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

(a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

The former premises of Arrowe Hill Primary School on Glebe Hey Road, Woodchurch, Wirral, CH49 8HE.
The school will occupy a single site.

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

The two sites are 5.6 km (3.5 miles) apart in a straight line. This equates to approximately 7.2 km (4.5 miles) actual “driving” distance.

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

At present, Gilbrook occupies a single storey school with six teaching rooms, an assembly hall and a sports hall.

Arrowe Hill’s building is two storey, with eight teaching spaces in the main building, an assembly hall, and a linked single storey building formerly used as an ICT, community and before/afterschool club facility.

Relocating to the former Arrowe Hill building would increase the net floor area available to Gilbrook by a third, and although the school would no longer have access to the Sports Barn, the total site area available to the school would triple including a substantial increase in hard and soft play area. The Authority would retain the former Infant building for storage purposes. The site is centrally located within Wirral.

The Governing body believes that the benefits would be as follows:

- More classrooms, which should help reduce class sizes even further
- Better quality accommodation for the exclusion base
- More meeting spaces for various agencies including social care, health, education and parents, as well as one to one sessions with pupils
- More capacity to provide extended services – parents weekly workshops, for example
- More car parking and a larger staffroom
- More space to carry out additional behaviour support training and advice to mainstream schools

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

The site is fully accessible.

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

Travel to school arrangements would continue as specified in the Authority's information booklets for parents, which are that the Authority would pay the travel costs of children attending Gilbrook either by providing a travel pass for pupils able to travel by public transport, or by arranging travel on the Authority's own or contracted vehicles, including providing an escort if necessary.

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

See (e) above.

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

To relocate Gilbrook Special School to the former premises of Arrowe Hill Primary School on Glebe Hey Road, Woodchurch, Wirral, CH49 8HE.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
 - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
 - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
 - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
 - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

a) Public consultations were held during June and July 2009, including a consultation meeting at Gilbrook School on 24th June 2009. All statutory consultees were consulted in accordance with the relevant DCSF guidance and statutory requirements. See also e) below. Anonymised comments are attached as Appendix A.

(b) The meeting held on 24th June 2009 was attended by 16 people – 11 were parents/carers, four were staff members (including the headteacher) and 1 was an interested person. 20% of pupils attending the school were represented by at least one parent/carer. The comments and views made at

this meeting were recorded in writing. The notes are attached as Appendix B.

c) Ten written responses to the consultation were received. Eight of these were from parents/carers of pupils at the school, the remaining two from other interested people.

d) All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

e) In order for all stakeholders to have access to relevant background information and have the opportunity to comment and respond, the following methods of consultation have been employed :

(i) A consultation leaflet and comments form to all parents/carers of pupils attending Gilbrook School. The information was also provided to trade union representatives, relevant Ward and parliamentary representatives and other persons specified by guidance.

(ii) A dedicated web-site on the Wirral Learning Grid was established and advertised on the council web-site, the council Intranet, and in the parents' consultation leaflets and the standard letters to schools. This site provided access to all the information produced in paper form and allowed e-mail responses to a dedicated e-mail address. Woodchurch T.R.U.S.T residents association was contacted and has advertised the consultation on their website, www.woodchurchtrust.com.

(iii) The consultation leaflet was made available and advertised at Woodchurch and Upton libraries, the central libraries, Woodchurch community centre, The Lauries community centres and at the Conway Centre One-Stop shop.

(iv) A meeting for all interested stakeholders was held at Gilbrook School. This comprised a short presentation on the option, followed by audience comments, feedback and questions. The meetings were attended by parents, carers and staff. The date of the meeting was in the parents' leaflets and on the specific web-site and a general notice was published in the local press.

(v) Opportunities have been provided for other means of response. Submissions have been received in paper and e-mail formats – all of which will be made available before and at the Cabinet meeting, in addition to the summaries contained in this report.

(vi) All of the relevant LA documentation produced for the consultation has been shared with the Diocesan Bodies.

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

Estimated costs of £200,000 are to be met by the Local Authority.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

An amount of £200,000 has been allocated in the 2009/2010 Schools Capital Programme to cover costs of relocation. This was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting of 23rd February 2009.
<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MID=356#A13528>

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Not applicable

Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

Not applicable

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

Not applicable

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

Not applicable

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

Not applicable

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

Not applicable

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

Not applicable

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

Not applicable

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

Not applicable

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

Not applicable

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

Not applicable

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

Gilbrook School is a local authority maintained community special school with 50 places for boys and girls aged 5 to 11, who have statements of special educational needs because of emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Some have additional learning needs, such as ADHD, Autism, Moderate Learning Difficulties and Specific Learning Difficulties.

Pupils are admitted at different times during the school year, sometimes with a history of non-attendance and extreme behaviour, which in some cases has led to exclusion from their mainstream school. Consequently, many learners have considerable gaps in their skills and knowledge, particularly in terms of communication, language and literacy. When pupils reach the end of Year 6, some return to mainstream secondary education every year.

The school also provides an Outreach Service offering advice and training for teaching and non-teaching staff in mainstream primary schools.

(b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

Not applicable

(c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

50 pupils

(d) details of how the provision will be funded;

LA maintained special school

(e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

Gilbrook occasionally provides education on site for pupils who have been excluded from their school, some of whom have special educational needs.

(f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

The expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget.

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

The former premises of Arrowe Hill Primary School on Glebe Hey Road, Woodchurch, Wirral, CH49 8HE

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

See 20 below.

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

No change is proposed to the number of places, which is 50.

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

Not applicable

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

Not applicable

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

Not applicable

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

Not applicable

20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

Benefits include

- More classrooms, which should help reduce class sizes even further (a, c, d)
- Better quality accommodation for the exclusion base (c, d)
- More meeting spaces for specialist staff from various agencies including social care, health, education and parents, as well as one to one sessions with pupils, improving access (b, c)
- More capacity to provide extended services – parents weekly workshops, for example (a, c)
- More car parking and a larger staffroom (c)
- More space to carry out additional behaviour support training and outreach advice to mainstream schools (a, b,c)

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

Not applicable

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

Not applicable

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

Not applicable

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

Not applicable

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

Not applicable

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

Not applicable

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Not applicable

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

Not applicable

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not applicable

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

Not applicable

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Not applicable

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the

presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Not applicable
