

## **School Organisation Proposal**

**Prescribed Alteration to create an additionally resourced  
provision at**

**Mill Lodge Primary School**

# School Organisation Proposal for a Prescribed Alteration

## In respect of a Council Proposal: School and Council details

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

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council**, Children's Services and Skills, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, West Midlands. B91 3QB.

| School                    | Address                        | Type of School |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Mill Lodge Primary School | Aqueduct Road, Shirley B90 1BT | Community      |

## Alteration Description

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

This proposal seeks to create an additionally resourced provision (ARP) at Mill Lodge Primary School. This provision will cater for up to 8 pupils across years 1 to 6, who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where autism has been identified as their primary need. If required, a further 4 places can be created increasing the capacity to 12 places in future years.

Additional accommodation will be required at the school to support this development.

## Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

3. 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 for each stage.

This proposal will be implemented from 1 September 2021.

#### 4. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on any or all of the proposals by emailing the School Place Planning Team at [researchandpolicy@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:researchandpolicy@solihull.gov.uk) or by writing to the School Place Planning Team, Children's Services and Skills, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QB.

The last date for comments is Noon on **1 February 2021**. Full details of the proposals including copies of the public notice can be found at [www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation).

#### School Capacity

5. 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.

| School                    | Current Net Capacity | Published Admission Number |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Mill Lodge Primary School | 210                  | 30                         |

This proposal makes no changes to the admission arrangement to the school. Admission of pupils to the additionally resourced provision will be over and above the schools current capacity.

#### 6. Objectives

The objectives of these proposals are:

The proposed additionally resourced provision at Mill Lodge Primary School will cater for children who need an increased level of specialist support in order to thrive. This new provision will be a key part of the Borough wide strategy to enhance the opportunities for children and young people with autism.

Mill Lodge School has been judged 'good' by Ofsted. The School is highly regarded for its inclusive practice and is fully compliant with Autism Education Trust (AET) National Standards. The Governing Body of the School has agreed in principle to support the development of this specialist provision.

The creation of specialist autism provision will enable more children to remain in Solihull schools and reduce the need to place pupils outside of Solihull. The creation of local specialist provision will reduce the cost of out of Borough placements and contribute to reducing the spending on home to school travel assistance.

## **7. Consultation**

All requirements in relation to the proposals to consult have been complied with. All interested parties have been consulted with and their views considered by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Skills on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, before this statutory proposal was published. The full report outlining the pre statutory consultation process that has been undertaken can be found on the website at [www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation).

As part of the consultation process a frequently asked questions document has been compiled to answer the main questions and issues raised. This is published on the Council website alongside this proposal.

## **8. Project Costs**

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

This provision will be located in an existing building on the school site which will be remodelled to ensure that the environment is appropriate to the needs of the pupils. Detailed feasibility work has been undertaken and formed the basis of the provisional funding included in the, now, approved Children's Services Capital Programme 2020/23, reported to the Cabinet Member on the 9 July 2020.

Costs for the project will be met by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

## **9. Special Educational Needs**

The proposed additionally resourced provision at Mill Lodge Primary School is being created to cater for pupils with autism and will have capacity for up to 8 pupils. The pupils attending this provision will be on the roll of the host school and will have an Education Health Care Plan that names the additionally resourced provision as the appropriate provision.

Access to this additionally resourced provision will be through referral to an admissions panel. It will have a delegated funding from the Local Authority to the school, through the Council's agreed funding methodology.

This proposal will create new provision and will widen the range of specialist provision available for children unable to manage in a mainstream setting, in Solihull. The creation of specialist provision should reduce the need to place children outside of the area making available local specialist provision. This new provision will lead to an improvement in the standard and quality of educational provision through the creation of specialist accommodation and teaching by specialist staff that will be tailored to meet the needs of individual children.

## **10. Need or demand for additional places**

The Council's SEND School Place Commissioning Strategy published on 25 September 2019, provides information regarding the current and future SEND population and identifies the need to add places and make changes to specialist provision in Solihull.

At January 2020 1,618 pupils living in Solihull had an Education Health and Care Plan, 10% more than in January 2019. 38% of these pupils are identified as having autism as their primary need.

The vast majority of pupils with autism can have their needs successfully met in a mainstream school. For those pupils that need specialist provision, the Council will always seek to identify an appropriate place in Solihull. However, where this is not possible or a provision is already full, then pupils are placed in schools outside of Solihull, sometimes having to travel some considerable distance away from home, and invariably at high cost. Over 50% of pupils placed in out of borough provision have autism as their primary need.

Over the past 5 years Solihull Council has invested extensively in bespoke autism provision by creating primary additionally resourced provisions at Dickens Heath and Windy Arbor Primary Schools and a secondary provision at Alderbrook Secondary School. In 2018, the Council's bid for a Special Free School catering for pupils with autism and associated high level social emotional mental health needs was approved and work is currently underway to open this school by September 2023. In addition to the creation of additional specialist provision, all schools have received Autism Education Trust (AET) accredited training, through the Solihull Inclusion Support Service, to ensure that they can provide appropriate support to pupils with Autism.

The proposed ARP at Mill Lodge Primary School will cater for children with complex Autism needs who are unable to thrive in a mainstream school setting. It will play a key part of the Borough wide strategy by providing a high quality local alternative for children, reducing their travelling times and reducing spending on placement and travel costs.