

## **School Organisation Proposal**

**Prescribed Alteration to expand**

**Reynalds Cross Special School**

**On to a split school site**

# 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
Reynalds Cross Special School	Kineton Green Road, Solihull B92 7ER	Community Special School

The School is designated for pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties.

## 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.

The Council is seeking to expand Reynalds Cross Special School from 1 September 2021. This expansion will create 12 additional places in the first year, with a further 8 additional places (a total of 20 places) the following year.

Working in partnership with the school, the Council has developed a proposal that will increase the number places available at the school through the use of a 'hub' based in the Coronation Youth Centre building on Green Lane, Shirley.

## 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 create 12 place from 1 September 2021 and a further 8 places (a total of 20 places) in September 2022 across a split school site.

#### 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 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 proposal 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 purchased Places at September 2020	Proposed purchased places at September 2021
Reynalds Cross Special School	126.2	138.2

#### 6. Objectives

The objectives of these proposals are:

The aim of this proposal is to expand Reynalds Cross Special School across a split school site, through the use of the Coronation Youth Centre building, located in Green Lane, Shirley.

The School already operates its early years provision at Green Lane Nursery, in the building attached to the Coronation Youth Centre building. This proposal will allow the school to use the whole building and create a wider offer for children with Special Educational needs who require specialist provision. This specific development would be aimed at older pupils, in the 14-19 age range, whose needs can be met in this bespoke provision.

The Governing Body of the School has approved this proposal in principle and will continue to work with the Council to ensure that these additional places provide the very best education for pupils at their school.

The creation of additional special school places 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.

As part of this proposal we are seeking an in-principle agreement, from the Governing Body of the School for the ongoing use of the centre, outside of school hours, for the delivery of youth/community provision. Coronation Youth Centre is currently closed due to the need for repair to the building. This proposal will bring much needed investment into the building. Once the School is established in the building the Council will work with them to develop a wider youth/community offer if that were required, including the creation of a youth offer for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

## **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).

The key issues raised during the consultation process were around the process of health services on the Shirley site, the appropriateness of the Youth Centre building and the impact on school transport. These issues are being explored further and will be considered before a final decision is taken on 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 that was previously used for Coronation Youth Centre 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 of £150,000 to be funded through the Children's Services Capital Programme.

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

## **9. Special Educational Needs**

The proposed expansion of Reynolds Cross Special School across a split school site will meet some of the growing demand for special school places from families living in Solihull. The pupils will be on roll at the School and will have an Education Health Care Plan that names the School.

This proposal will increase the number of special school places available for children unable to manage in a mainstream setting, in Solihull. The additional places should reduce the need to place children outside of the area making available local specialist provision.

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

In January 2020 1,618 pupils living in Solihull had an Education Health and Care Plan, a 10% increase since January 2019. 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 at high cost.

There has been a 14% increase in special school places in Solihull over the last 3 years, but the demand for places at Reynolds Cross Special School continues to exceed the number of places that the school has space to provide. Without an increase in the number of places at the School for September 2021, the School will not be able to offer places to pupils due to start in Reception. The creation of places at Coronation Youth Centre for older pupils, will free up space on the main school site which will enable younger pupils to be admitted.

Reynolds Cross School is deemed consistently as good by Ofsted, and already has experience in successfully operating its early years provision from a hub on the separate site. The Headteacher is confident that this further expansion will enable more places to be offered across the two sites whilst continuing to provide the very best education to all of the pupils.

In addition to teaching spaces the school will be able to provide additional facilities on this site, such as an indoor sports court, specialised hygiene room and offices for fellow professionals to work from. There will be ample space to practice life skills whilst also being located near to local community shops and good transport links. There is also the potential for work experience in the nursery facility attached to the Youth Centre.