

School Organisation Proposals

Prescribed Alterations for 3 community primary schools

Dickens Heath Primary School

Windy Arbor Primary School

Yew Tree Primary School

Proposals for Prescribed Alterations other than Foundation Proposals

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority 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
Dickens Heath Primary School	Three Acres Lane, Dickens Heath, Solihull B90 1NA	Community
Windy Arbor Primary School	Woodlands Way, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham B37 6RN	Community
Yew Tree Primary School	Wherretts Well Lane, Solihull B91 2SD	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.

The proposed changes are to locate additionally resourced centres at all three schools.

Dickens Heath Primary School - to create an additionally resourced centre (ARC) to cater for up to 14 pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. From September 2016, 7 places will be created in interim accommodation at the school increasing to 14 places from 1 September 2017 when the permanent accommodation will be available.

Windy Arbor Primary School – to create an additionally resourced centre (ARC) to cater for up to 14 pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Due to the remodelling of the school building the ARC will open in purpose built accommodation on 1 April 2018.

Yew Tree Primary School – to create an additionally resourced assessment centre to cater for up to 7 pupils with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs opening from September 2016. An outreach service providing support for traveller children will also be located at the school.

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.

For Dickens Heath Primary and Yew Tree Primary Schools implementation will be from 1 September 2016. The proposal for Dickens Heath Primary School will be phased with 7 places available from September 2016 and 14 places available from 1 September 2017 when the permanent accommodation is expected to be available.

For Windy Arbor Primary the implementation will be from 1 April 2018.

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

Or by writing to School Place Planning Team, Children's Services and Skill, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, West Midlands. B91 3QB.

The last date for comments is **11 May 2016**. Full details of the proposals including copies of the public notice can be found at www.solihull.gov.uk

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
Dickens Heath Primary	420	60
Windy Arbor Primary	420	60
Yew Tree Primary	210	30

This new provision will be located at each school in bespoke accommodation, additional to current accommodation available at each school. Admission of pupils to the ARC will be over and above the schools current capacity. The creation of specialist provision at each school will not change the schools published admission number for Reception.

At the time of publication of these proposals, the number of pupils on roll at each of the schools is:

Dickens Heath Primary: 415 plus 42 part time nursery pupils

Windy Arbor Primary School: 363 plus 58 part time nursery pupils

Yew Tree Primary School: 202 plus 27 part time nursery pupils

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to foundation or voluntary controlled schools 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 as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

These proposals relate to community schools.

7. Additional Site

No additional site is required for either of these proposals.

8. Changes in boarding arrangements

These proposals do not make any changes to boarding arrangements

9. Transfer to new site

These proposals do not require any of the schools to transfer to a new site.

10. Objectives

The objectives of these proposals are:

The proposed ASD ARCs at Dickens Heath Primary and Windy Arbor Primary Schools will cater for children who need an increased level of specialist support in order to thrive in a mainstream school setting. This new provision will be a key part of the Borough wide strategy to enhance the opportunities for children and young people with Autism. In addition to the creation of ARC provision, all schools and settings will receive Autism Education Trust (AET) accredited training, through the Solihull Inclusion Support Service, to ensure they can provide an environment within which all pupils with Autism can succeed in education.

The creation of specialist ASD 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.

The proposed provision at Yew Tree will create specialist short term assessment provision for children with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs and will aim to work with children and their families in a small nurturing environment in order to identify and assess what is underlying their behaviours and/or anxieties and thus preventing the children being successful and making progress in a mainstream setting. The needs and required intervention support plan will be different for each child, so a flexible and innovative approach will be paramount.

11. 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 Education, Skills & Culture 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.

12. 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 local education authority, and any other party.

Feasibility assessments of the school sites and accommodation will inform the necessary capital budget required to deliver the new ARC provisions. A nominal £0.3m has already been earmarked for these developments within the Schools Asset Management Plan to augment the DSG revenue fund of £1.8m identified for these developments. At this stage an indicative capital cost of £0.35 has been assumed for each ARC pending the outcome of the detailed feasibility work for each school site.

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

13. Age Range

No change is proposed to the age range of the schools as part of these proposals.

14. Early Years Provision

No change is proposed to early years provision as part of these proposals.

15. Changes to Sixth Form Provision

No change is proposed to sixth form provision as part of these proposals.

16. Special Educational Needs

The proposed ARCs at Dickens Heath Primary School and Windy Arbor Primary School are being created to cater for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and will each have capacity for up to 14 pupils. The pupils attending the ASD ARCs will be on roll at the host school and will have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health Care Plan that names the ASD ARC as the appropriate provision.

The proposed ARC at Yew Tree Primary School will cater for pupils with Social Emotional Mental Health needs and will have capacity for up to 7 pupils. This ARC will provide short and long term assessment places so pupils will be dual rolled with their existing school. Access to this ARC will be through referral to an admissions panel.

The proposed ARCs will be have delegated funding from the Local Authority to the school, through the Council's agreed funding methodology.

The proposed ARCs 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. Currently there is no specialist ASD provision available.

17. Sex of Pupils

No change is proposed.

18. Extended Services

These proposals do not change the extended services currently offered by the schools.

19. Need or demand for additional places.

The Council, in partnership with its schools has undertaken a review of the provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities within Solihull. The needs analysis that has been undertaken has identified that at January 2015, 14% of pupils in Solihull provision were identified as having ASD as their primary need and 26% of all statements of special educational need or Education Health Care Plans are for pupils with ASD as a primary need.

In addition 23% of pupils placed in Independent or out of Borough Provision have ASD as their primary need. The needs analysis also identified a growing number of pupils diagnosed with ASD in short-term Pupil Referral Unit provision or receiving Home Education.

ASD is the only need where there is no specific designated specialist provision in Solihull.

The proposal for Yew Tree School will create a small flexible additionally resourced centre which can offer short term tailored provision and support to children struggling to manage in their mainstream primary school and who may be a risk of permanent exclusion. The needs of these children will fall within the Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) umbrella. The Yew Tree ARC will provide an opportunity to quickly respond to children needing more intensive therapeutic support and assessment in a very small and calm environment, before moving on to longer term appropriate provision.