



Extension of Age Range at Woodlands School.

It is proposed, in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that the Local Authority, Shropshire Council, intends to make a prescribed alteration at Woodlands School, The Woodlands Centre, Tilley Green, Wem, Shrewsbury, SY4 5PJ from 5th January 2015.

Description of Alteration

The Local Authority (LA) intends to extend the age range of provision at the school from 11-16 to 9-16 years. The proposal does not increase the total number of places at the school, which will remain at 56. The accommodation for the additional two year groups will be sited on the campus of Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Middleton Road, Oswestry, SY11 2LF, within separate, specially-resourced rooms and will provide a maximum of 12 places on the site.

Objectives

Woodlands School provides specialist education for children who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the area of social, emotional and mental health and who have found a mainstream setting highly challenging. The aim of this proposal is to extend, to 9 and 10 year olds, this provision, and this proposal will also provide additional specialist localised provision in Shropshire.

The provision will enable pupils to access a carefully planned personalised programme to support their learning so that they can either re-integrate into a mainstream setting, or continue to follow a more specialist approach to learning at Woodlands School.

Effect on other schools or educational establishments

There will be little or no effect on the day to day running of Holy Trinity School. There will be no effect on other schools as this is a specially resourced provision, separately provided to all other mainstream and special school provision within the county.

Consultation

Following significant internal discussion with strategic groups, pre-statutory consultation took place through the following forums during June and July 2014:

- SEN Strategy Group (Head Teacher representatives from mainstream and special schools and LA officers responsible for SEN provision)
- Specialist Placement Planning Board
- Monitoring Committee at Woodlands School, Wem – Appendix A
- Interim Executive Board of Holy Trinity School, Oswestry – Appendix B

Following this, letters were sent to the parents/carers of pupils currently on roll at both Woodlands School and Holy Trinity CE Primary School, and copies were sent to the Diocese of Lichfield and surrounding Local Authorities with pupils attending Woodlands School – Appendix C

The LA received one response to the informal consultation, as follows:

- The Diocese of Lichfield support the proposal.

Following this informal consultation and consideration of the responses received, the proposal is taken forward as detailed in this notice.

Project costs

The estimated cost of the project is £50,000.

Implementation

It is intended that this proposal will be implemented on 5th January 2015.

Objections and comments

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may make comments or object to the proposal by sending them to: The Director of Children's Services – Learning & Skills (ref: Woodlands School) Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND; or by e-mailing jenny.crowder@shropshire.gov.uk

Signed



Karen Bradshaw, Director of Children's Services, Shropshire Council

Publication Date: 9th October 2014

Appendix A

Woodlands School Monitoring Meeting

24th June 2014 @ 4.30pm
Extract from Minutes

Present: Robin Wilson (RW), Edwin Thorpe (ET) (Chair), Pauline Jones (PJ), Paul Nicholson (PN), Nic Carter (NC) (left at 7.00pm), Bernard Wills (BW), Louise Mallett (LM) (left at 7.10pm) Christine Humphreys (CH) (minutes)

Item	Discussion	Impact / Actions
5.	<p data-bbox="236 799 501 831">Headteacher's Report</p> <p data-bbox="236 875 991 907">The focus for this meeting is to be on Pupil Progress to include:</p> <ul data-bbox="284 947 1158 1084" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="284 947 1158 1084">• Proposal to Manage an Off-Site Primary Proposal Handed out, looking at setting up site in Oswestry area in January 2015 (initially it was going to be September 2014 but a lot of work needed on the set up) <p data-bbox="331 1126 1171 1294">RW looking for outline consent to take the proposal further as there are potential 10-15 pupils with 6 ready and waiting now, all from the Oswestry area. If successful as pilot other placements will be put in place. Oswestry and any additional units would act as a feeder school for Woodlands.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1339 1171 1476">Governors raised concern over the availability of RW's time and funding costs as start up expenses to cover Building work, furniture etc. need to be factored in. RW would be looking at having control of the start up funding.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1520 1147 1688">All governors accept in principal and agree 100% providing no financial cost to the school. Governors would be looking for reimbursement for any time spent by RW setting up the unit even if it did not go ahead. Also setting up needs to be done on a timetable that is relevant and practical.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1733 1147 1798">Woodland School will benefit and current staffing levels will be able to cover the 6 pupils at the unit.</p>	

Appendix B

HOLY TRINITY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, OSWESTRY

MEETING OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2014 at 4.00 PM

Extract from minutes

8. Woodlands

Anne Gribbin reported to the IEB that the local authority is looking at a range of hubs that would provide localised SEN provision. The school had already engaged with Woodlands with regard to work on behaviour. There was a need for some small-scale provision local to the Oswestry area which focused on high-needs SEN support.

A feasibility study had been carried out to consider whether the MAT building might be a suitable location for a hub. This would be small-scale provision for year five/year six pupils with SEN behavioural needs. The initial findings indicated that it would be feasible to take the project further.

Woodlands is currently a secondary school and would need to be re-designated to work with pupils at this phase of provision. Decisions were imminent about the transfer of buildings on the Holy Trinity site with the move to academy status. The talks between Jenny Crowder and Steve Rayner had linked into this discussion. Legal considerations as to the licensed use of buildings on conversion to academy status were happening at the right time for this project.

The space under consideration is currently mothballed. The need for provision for these children, who were currently travelling by taxi some distance to access provision, was strong. The proposed hub would not be a part of Holy Trinity School but a part of Woodlands School on the same site. The hub would be separated from the rest of Holy Trinity School, although the school could benefit from staff training opportunities on a shared site.

IEB members considered the proposal to be a sensible use of the accommodation and to be of benefit local children and their specific needs.

Appendix C

Letter to the parents of Woodlands School pupils

9th September 2014

Dear Parents / Carers

RE: Proposal to re-designate Woodlands School to include pupil aged 9 and 10 years

I am writing to you as part of an informal consultation process for the above proposal. The Local Authority (LA) has identified a small number of pupils who are subject to an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP), formerly known as a Statement of Special Education Needs, who need a specialist placement. Currently there is no specialist provision for pupils with an identified SEBD need at primary level within Shropshire. In order to provide specialist provision for this group Woodlands School has been requested to consider re-designation to accommodate these pupils.

The proposal would be to develop accommodation at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School site in Oswestry. The intention would be to develop some existing accommodation which is available at Holy Trinity School for these purposes. The admissions process would be the same as pupils who currently attend Woodlands School; all pupils will have gone through the new rigorous assessment, including full consultation with parents, leading to an EHCP.

Comments from parents and carers of existing pupils would be very welcome and will be shared and discussed with the LA. If it is decided to proceed with the proposal a public notice would be published and a formal four week consultation period would apply where further comments can be registered for consideration.

If you would like any further information about the proposal please contact the school. Comments can be registered by the 29th of September 2014 either by writing to the Local Authority, reference The Woodlands School, to The Director of Children's Services, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND, or emailing jenny.crowder@shropshire.gov.uk. Alternatively you can contact the school and we will ensure your comments are passed onto the Local Authority.

Yours sincerely

Robins Wilson

HEAD OF CENTRE

RW/JC/LETTERS TO PARENTS /SEPT2014

Letter to the parents of Holy Trinity School pupils

9th September 2014

Dear Parents / Carers

RE: Proposal to re-designate Woodlands School to include pupils aged 9 and 10 years

I am writing to you as part of an informal consultation process for the above proposal. The Local Authority (LA) has identified a small number of pupils who are subject to an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP), formerly known as a Statement of Special Education Needs, who need a specialist placement. Currently there is no specialist provision for pupils with an identified SEBD need at primary level within Shropshire. In order to provide specialist provision for this group Woodlands School has been requested to consider re-designation to accommodate these pupils.

The proposal would be to develop accommodation at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School site in Oswestry. The intention would be to develop some existing accommodation which is available at Holy Trinity School for these purposes. The admissions process would be the same as pupils who currently attend Woodlands School; all pupils will have gone through the new rigorous assessment, including full consultation with parent, leading to an EHCP. As this accommodation/provision is separate to the school, it is considered that there will be no effect on the day to day running of Holy Trinity CE Primary School.

Comments from parents and carers of existing pupils would be very welcome and will be shared and discussed with the LA. If it is decided to proceed with the proposal a public notice would be published and a formal four week consultation period would apply where further comments can be registered for consideration.

If you would like any further information about the proposal please contact the school. Comments can be registered by the 29th of September 2014 either by writing to the Local Authority, reference The Woodlands School, to The Director of Children's Services, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND, or emailing jenny.crowder@shropshire.gov.uk. Alternatively you can contact the school and we will ensure your comments are passed onto the Local Authority.

Yours sincerely

Pam Edwards
Headteacher