

Public Consultation – June 2021

Proposed Increase in Places and Age Range at Kingfisher School

Introduction

Central Learning Partnership Trust is proposing to increase the number of places at Kingfisher School from 91 to 140 places, including increasing the age range of the school from 7-16 to 7-18, with 20 of those places being proposed for the post 16 provision (ten in year one and ten in year two). The proposal has met the criteria for a significant change and therefore public notice of this proposed change must be issued. This document helps to explain the background to the proposal and the final steps of this process.

- What is proposed
- Why it is being proposed
- The impact of the proposal
- Details of the representation period
- How to submit a response

Have your say...

The four-week representation period commences on Monday 28th June 2021 and closes at **noon on Monday 26th July 2021**. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to this proposal do so within this timeframe.

School details

Address:	Kingfisher School, Clifton Cl, Matchborough, Redditch B98 0HF
Status:	Special School Academy
Ofsted Rating:	Good
Current age range:	7-16

Background

Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Authority responsible for education provision, has a statutory responsibility to make sure that there are sufficient places for all of the children in Worcestershire who wish to attend a taxpayer funded school to do so. Taxpayer funded schools are those which are maintained by the Local Authority or receive funding direct from the government, such as Academies and Free Schools. Ensuring that there are sufficient places is known as Basic Need.

Kingfisher Special School is graded as a 'Good' school by Ofsted. This proposal will increase the number of places available in good quality Special schools in Worcestershire. Kingfisher Special School is located in Redditch. The school is one of nine state funded special schools in Worcestershire, it has an age range of 7 – 16. It is designated an SEMH School catering for all social, emotional and mental health needs in addition to a range of neurodiversity including, ASD, ADHD, PDA and ODD. All pupils attending the school from year 3 will have an Education, Health and Care plan that identifies that they require special school education provision. This EHCP will continue through to the proposed post 16 provision and will maintain the provision of the plan

The Central Learning Partnership Trust is proposing to make a significant change to Kingfisher Special School under The Making significant changes to an open academy and closure by mutual agreement regulations 2019. This statutory proposal document contains all the relevant information to allow interested parties to decide whether to support the proposed change. Central Learning Partnership Trust must follow a statutory process for making prescribed alterations to schools. The publication of this statutory proposal and notices forms part of that process.

What is proposed

Kingfisher School is commissioned for 91 full-time equivalent (fte) pupil places. This proposal is to increase the number of commissioned full-time equivalent places to 140 from September 2021, including 20 places over the next two years for post 16 provision. This will involve a physical expansion of the current building by five teaching spaces to accommodate the increase.

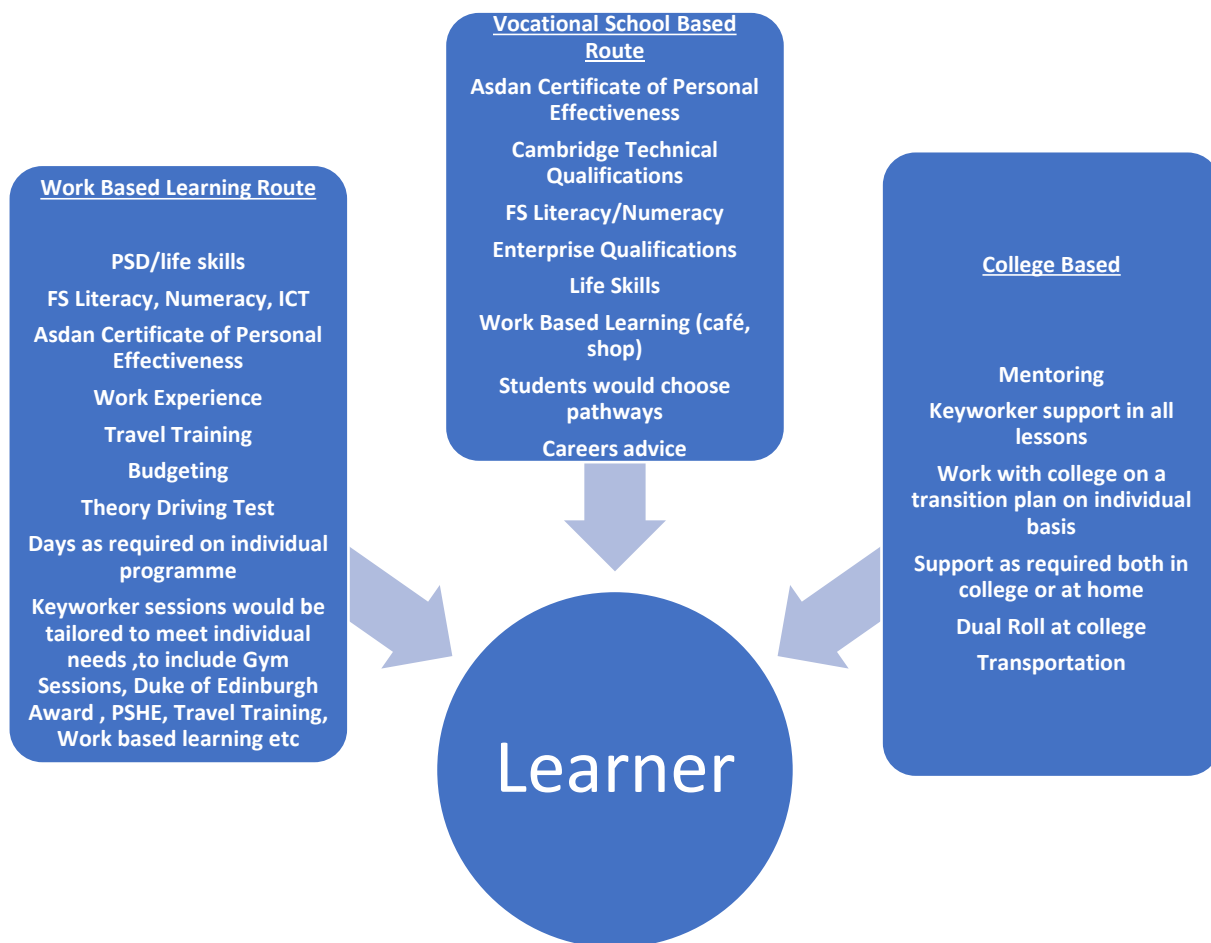
At Kingfisher 23% of the 2018-19 cohort arrived in years 10 or 11. The vast majority of students have missed large chunks of their education either at primary or secondary, or in some cases both. This, in addition with students' other complex needs, can mean that their development is delayed, and some are simply not ready to transition to mainstream post-16 provisions.

In addition, decisions around post-16 provision are made at the time of a pupil's Year 10 annual review. For a number of Kingfisher students, such as those who join the School in Year 10, it is too early to give post-16 providers the most accurate picture of a student's level of need as they still have 18 months of secondary education ahead of them. This can result in provision not being secured (due to the complex level of need) or the provision agreed at that point not being the most appropriate. Having to make a choice at this point reduces the options available to students and increases the likelihood of pupils becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

Currently Kingfisher school leavers transition to mainstream colleges, schools and training providers. A new sixth form will offer students with complex SEMH needs, which include ASD, ADHD, PDA and ODD the opportunity to receive a post 16 curriculum offer that includes programmes to support social and emotional development, promote learning independence and prepare them for inclusion within the wider world of mainstream college and employment.

The provision will consist of a fully personalised and bespoke package but will typically involve a combination of learning in school, supported learning in FE College and work based learning (working with employers and work experience providers on enhanced and supported apprenticeship and work support packages). The exact composition of this will depend on the needs of the individual and will be flexible throughout the programme so that as pupils develop they can adapt their post 16 experience to prepare fully for next steps.

Below is a samples of the available packages, however this is not 'typical' as this will be planned alongside pupils and parents/carers:



Why is it being proposed

The 2017 High Needs Commissioning Review (HNCR) and SEND Sufficiency report, considered by Cabinet in February 2021, detailed a need for more special school places in Worcestershire.

Due to the rise in demand over the last 5 years, there has been a growing number of children taught at the school, formally increasing from 68 to 80 in 2018, then 80 to 90 in 2020. The school has been above roll since 2018 and currently has 99 pupils on roll. The Local Authority approached Kingfisher with a view to increasing commissioned places to 120 in the KS2-4 cohort in December 2020 as a response to a growing need for SEMH places in the County.

The table below shows the numbers of pupils on roll each January at Kingfisher School over the last 4 years:

School	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kingfisher School	61	67	74	80	91	94

The following table details the full-time equivalent commissioned places each academic year:

School	Sept 15- July 16	Sept 16 - July 17	Sept 17 - July 18	Sept 18 - July 19	Sept 19- July 20	Sept 20 - July 21	Sept 21- July 22
Kingfisher School	68	68	68	68	80	91	140*

**proposed*

As per the prescribed alterations regulations outlined in ‘Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to academy schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers October 2018’ the school has been able to increase the number of pupils supported at the school by up to 10% each year without undertaking a statutory change, which has allowed them to meet the growth in pupils in 2018 and 2021.

However, there is a requirement for the school to support additional pupils permanently. For September 2021, the school could support an additional 50 children on roll (41 actually additional to current numbers) for whom the school has been identified as best placed to support their needs. Of these, 30 would be additional in current year groups and have already been identified and referred for a September 2021 start. An additional 10 have been identified as requiring a place in post 16 provision in September 2021 and a further 10 will require post 16 provision in September 2022. The final 10 will come from offering a post 16 placement to current year 11 pupils who would be leaving in July 2022.

The post 16 provision is being proposed as the average success of next steps placements for the six months after leaving Kingfisher, while support through the transition by our staff is around 80% successful, however in the following period going into the end of year one and into year two this drops off significantly and pupil attendance, outcomes and success in remaining in post 16 education drops by 50% to a 30% ongoing success. Where the pupil’s needs are higher, many pupils will become NEET within the first year of leaving Kingfisher.

However, where pupils have remained in SEMH provision for an additional two years, or have been supported in FE or work based learning beyond year 11 the success rate has been over 90%.

The school will have sufficient accommodation, facilities, and capability to support up to 140 pupils due to a building project being carried out to create five new classrooms and attendant facilities, however, without undertaking the school organisation process, the school are restricted to 91. Therefore, in order to allow pupils to access places in the right provision for their needs, this change is proposed.

The impact of the proposal

Pupils attending Kingfisher travel County wide. The largest majority of pupils reside in the district of Redditch and Bromsgrove but pupils also travel from all the other districts of

Worcestershire (Wychavon, Evesham, Kingfisher, Worcester and Malvern). A small number of pupils attending Kingfisher School live outside of Worcestershire County Council.

Demographic growth has increased the number of children requiring a place in special schools in Worcestershire. This proposal will ensure that the school can continue to serve local families, keeping the school at the heart of the community.

As with any school expansion there are concerns about the impact of additional children on traffic congestion at the start and end of the school day. The school is proactive in encouraging parents and pupils to use sustainable methods of travel to school. It is anticipated that the majority of pupils will continue to receive transport assistance.

Details of the representation period

The four-week representation period commences on Monday 28th June 2021 and closes at noon on Monday 28th July 2021. A Public Notice has been issued in the Redditch Advertiser, as well as around the school and in the local area.

The following stakeholders will also be directly notified:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending the named schools
- Neighbouring schools
- Local, District and County Councillors
- Immediate neighbours
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Children and Families
- Any other known local stakeholder

Implementation

At the conclusion of this consultation period the Local Authority will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view of the proposal, in particular:

- The quality of current education provision at the school;
- The impact of this proposal;
- The response to this Public Notice.

Any objections to the proposal will be considered on behalf of the Local Authority by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education & Skills before a final decision is made as to whether to proceed with the proposal.

Procedure for responses

Responses can be made via the following link:

Responses must be received by **noon Monday 28th July 2021**.

If you require a paper copy of this survey, please contact

