

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

Proposal made under School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

Queensway School, Queensway, Banbury OX16 9NF. [Community school].

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented:

1 April 2015

Objections and comments

Any person may respond by 11 December 2014, sending their comments or registering an objection or support in writing to:

Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, Oxfordshire County Council, FREEPOST.

Responses may also be emailed to

diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting QUEENSWAY in the subject line, or can be submitted online via a feedback form at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Alteration description

The proposal is to close the Communication & Interaction Resource Base located at Queensway School in Banbury.

School capacity

Current capacity of the school is 338 but the school is in the process of expanding to a capacity of 420 and has increased its admission number from 30 to 60 due to demand for school places in Banbury. The expansion of the school is not dependent on this proposal.

Objectives and reasoning

To formally close an unused Resource Base in order to free accommodation up for the use of Queensway School as teaching accommodation.

In the 1990s, the focus switched from resource bases to advisory support for inclusion in mainstream schools, and at Queensway numbers steadily dropped from 16 and the base has been empty since September 2010.

The number of primary school pupils across the Banbury area has risen and this trend is forecast to continue. Queensway School has admitted an additional form of entry since 2012. There is steep growth in pupil numbers in the north of the county generally.

- The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are all factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at the Queensway School base.
- Schools in the partnership have shown they can meet the needs of all but the most complex pupils with C&I needs in their local schools with the specialist advisory support from existing services including SENSS. There is NO reduction in budget. Services are being deployed to intervene earlier and empower schools to meet the needs of pupils now and those who will join the school in the future.
- The current need for resource base places in a more central part of North Oxfordshire and in particular for pupils in the Bicester area (who currently need to be transported to Oxford and / or Chinnor)
- The specifications for new primary schools in the North where there is significant population growth include a resource base. These would be smaller, more local provisions enabling the LA to respond flexibly to need.

This proposal is in line with the key principles of the SEND reforms, in

particular early identification of needs and early intervention, high quality provision as local to the child's home and greater choice and control for young people and parents over support.

Consultation

Persons consulted: the governing body and staff of Queensway School, Partnership primary schools, special schools, parents / guardians of Queensway School pupils, the local MP, relevant Parish, District and County Councillors, trade union representatives, Church of England and Catholic Dioceses, members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group and county council teams involved in Special Education provision and support.

- 1 responses to the consultation was received. The respondent supported the proposal in principle.

The consultation document was widely distributed by both the school and the county council and is available to view on the county council website in the Current Consultations list at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Project costs

There are no costs associated with the closure of the Resource Base.