

STATUTORY PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

In respect of a Local Authority proposal: School and LA details

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the Local Authority are publishing the proposals:

Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon OX14 2AW. This is an academy. The Local Authority is Oxfordshire County Council.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

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

From 1 February 2015.

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations:

Representations (responses) to the proposals can be made online using the feedback form at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation> .

Alternatively any person may respond by email to diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting **Rush Common HI Base** in the subject line, or in writing to: Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, County Hall, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Representations must be received by midnight on 10 December 2014.

Alteration description**4.** A description of the proposed alteration

Oxfordshire County Council proposes to close the Hearing Impairment Resource Base located within Rush Common School. The Resource Base is run by the county council.

Objectives**5.** The objectives of the proposals.

Teaching and advisory support from qualified teachers of the deaf will continue to be available in a wide range of local educational provision across south Oxfordshire including home visits, pre-school settings, maintained schools, academies, free schools and colleges.

There will be no change to the support provided by the county council SENSS Hearing Impairment Team for children and young people aged 0-25 years, with all levels of hearing impairment, mild to profound, continuing to be supported.

Children with hearing impairment at Rush Common School will continue to receive teaching and advisory support, as appropriate, from the SENSS Hearing Impairment Team with no change to their current provision. This will include provision and maintenance of specialist equipment such as radio aids and training to mainstream staff.

The demand for places for Oxfordshire children with more severe and profound hearing losses, requiring additional specialist support, has decreased over the period that Rush Common School has hosted a resource base. The school had no children on roll who required a resource base placement in September 2014.

Project costs

6. Project costs and how these will be met:

There are no costs related to this proposal, and it is not the result of cuts to funding. The accommodation that has been used by the Resource Base will be made available for use by Rush Common School.

7. Evidence of demand / support

Since the introduction of the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP) to Oxfordshire in 2001 the confirmation of hearing loss in infants has happened at a much earlier age. This has allowed for earlier intervention, including the provision of new technologies such as digital hearing aids and cochlear implants.

These advances have meant that children with severe and profound hearing loss are generally developing much better communication and language skills than previously. This in turn means many more children can attend their local school rather than specialist provision elsewhere.

Additionally, the Special Educational Needs Support Services (SENSS) Hearing Impairment Team has developed a strong outreach programme, helping schools and other settings to provide effective learning environments for children and young people with hearing impairment.

The school will have no children on roll who need a resource base placement in September 2014. This continues a trend as the number of pupils attending the resource base at Rush Common School has reduced over recent years:

Academic Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Number pupils in resource base	3	3	4	2	1	1	0

There are no children of early years age, currently supported by SENSS (Hearing

Impairment Team) in the south area of Oxfordshire that have the level of need that would make them eligible for a resource base placement at Rush Common School. In the event of such children moving in to Oxfordshire, alternative provision can be made either in a local school e.g. Rush Common School if the child was in the catchment area, or in the primary resource base hosted by New Marston Primary School in Oxford.

Projections suggest that the resource base at New Marston Primary School will have viable numbers of children with hearing impairment, who meet the admissions criteria for a primary resource base without becoming oversubscribed.

One of the functions of a resource base for hearing impaired children is to provide a peer group of children with similar experiences of hearing loss. SENSS anticipates that this will continue to be available at the resource base at New Marston Primary School whereas it hasn't been available at Rush Common recently.