

## 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**

The name, address and category of the school.

Caldecott Primary School, Caldecott Road, Abingdon, OX14 5HB.  
[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 10 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](mailto:diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk) putting CALDECOTT 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 Caldecott Primary School in Abingdon.

## School capacity

Current capacity of the school is 352 but the school is expanding to a capacity of 420 and increased its admission number from September 2014 due to demand for school places in Abingdon. 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 Caldecott Primary School.

The resource base hosted by Caldecott Primary School was originally established for children with speech and language needs, and from 2010 it broadened to include children with autism.

The number of pupils in the base has reduced over time and in 2012-13 there were only 3 pupils, all in year 6. Since September 2013 the base has been empty. There is another Communication and Interaction Resource Base in the South of the county at St Andrew's CE School in Chinnor and numbers there have remained in double figures.

The number of all primary school pupils across the Abingdon area has risen and this trend is forecast to continue. This means that Caldecott Primary School has increased its pupil intake from September 2014. While the resource base is empty the school is using the classroom space to meet the increasing demand for places at the school.

The county council aims to provide a broad range of ways and contexts in which children with Communication and Interaction needs are supported. This includes early intervention, specialist support for mainstream schools and a continuum of Communication and Interaction specialist provision. Wherever possible children are supported in their local area and the strategy is for each area of Oxfordshire (North, Central and South) to have one Communication and Interaction Resources Base. There is specialist advisory support provided by SEN Support Services (SENS) for all schools. Some partnerships of schools have also set up their own enhanced provision, ensuring specialist support when needed and developing high quality inclusive practice across the partnership.

This proposal to close a specialist resource base has not been taken lightly. The lack of demand for places in the resource base over recent years and increasing demand for school places at Caldecott Primary School have prompted this recommendation.

The existence of the specialist provision at St Andrew's CE Primary School is meeting local needs. The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are also factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at Caldecott.

## Consultation

Persons consulted: the governing body and staff of Caldecott Primary School, Partnership primary schools, special schools, parents / guardians of Caldecott Primary 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 response to the consultation was received which supported the proposal in principle. The reason given for supporting the proposal was:

- Putting the unused accommodation to good use for the increased numbers of pupils being admitted to the school.

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.