



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

FULL STATUTORY PROPOSAL

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

Proposed removal of residential provision at Woodeaton Manor School

1. School and LA details

School: Woodeaton Manor School

Address: Woodeaton, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX3 9TS

Local Authority: Oxfordshire County Council

2. Description of alteration

Removal of boarding provision at a special school (Foundation status).

Woodeaton Manor School is currently a Foundation School. Governing bodies of Foundation Schools have the statutory power to propose the removal of boarding provision; the decision-maker is the Local Authority – in this case, Oxfordshire County Council.

Woodeaton Manor School was inspected by Ofsted 7 to 8 November 2023, and was assessed as “inadequate”, which resulted in the governing body being replaced by an Interim Executive Board (IEB), and the school being required to convert to an academy.

The IEB, as the governing body, is formally proposing that the residential provision be permanently closed, prior to academy conversion. The local authority, Oxfordshire County Council, does not intend to commission residential provision at the school in the future.

3. Evidence of demand

The residential provision at Woodeaton Manor School was inspected by Ofsted 30 October to 1 November 2023. At that time, the school was recorded as having 10 residential places, available for four days a week during term time, but it was noted that the residential provision had not been used since July 2023.

The Ofsted inspection assessed the residential provision as “inadequate”, noting “serious and widespread failures that mean children and young people are not protected and their welfare is not promoted or safeguarded and the care and experiences of children and young people are poor.”

While the IEB now responsible for the school has made progress in addressing management and safeguarding arrangements, concerns raised in the inspection included the unsuitability of the residential accommodation available, which does not meet the relevant national minimum standards.

In making a decision on a proposal to remove boarding provision from a school, the decision maker should consider whether there is a state funded boarding school within reasonable distance from the school and whether there are satisfactory alternative boarding arrangements for those currently in the school and those who may need boarding places in the foreseeable future.

- Of the pupils now at Woodeaton Manor School, none has a requirement for residential provision included in their Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP).
- Oxfordshire County Council’s SEND team does not expect to require residential provision at Woodeaton Manor School in the future.

There is, therefore, no requirement for alternative boarding arrangements, if the residential provision at Woodeaton Manor School is closed.

4. Objectives

The proposed alteration would formalise and make permanent the “pause” in residential provision since 2023. It would address some of the concerns raised in the 2023 Ofsted inspection, which highlighted the unsuitability of the previous arrangements.

Formal closure of the residential provision would ensure the IEB, and incoming academy trust, are able to fully focus on raising educational standards at the school.

Formal closure would also simplify some aspects of the academy conversion process.

Formal closure would have no impact in practice on families and children, as the accommodation previously used for residential provision is not fit-for-purpose, and the provision has not been in use since 2023.

5. The effect on other educational institutions within the area

There would be no impact on other educational institutions.

6. Project costs and funding

There are no project costs associated with this project, as the provision has not been in use since 2023. Woodeaton Manor School received additional revenue funding for the operation of residential provision. The permanent closure of the residential provision will therefore mean a permanent end to this funding stream, alongside the

permanent end to the revenue costs of running residential provision. The school will continue to receive revenue funding based on the nature of provision it delivers and its pupil numbers. Formalising the closure of the provision would provide more clarity over financial planning.

7. Implementation plan

If this proposal is approved, the formal closure of the residential provision would take effect as of 1 April 2025. As the provision is already “paused” there will be no impact from this.

8. How to submit your views

The statutory process for the change described in this proposal is that the Woodeaton Manor School IEB, as the governing body of a Foundation School, can propose the removal of boarding provision, but the decision-maker is the Local Authority – in this case, Oxfordshire County Council.

To inform the decision, this statutory proposal has been published for a 4-week representation period, as required under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

Comments or objections must be received by the end of **27 February 2025**.

You can respond by:

- using the online questionnaire at letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/woodeaton-school-residential-provision
- or emailing school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk (*please quote Woodeaton Residential in the header*)

All responses will be taken into consideration in the decision-making process.

9. Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is Oxfordshire County Council. The decision will be made by the Cabinet Member responsible for Education at a meeting which is open to the public, and publicised on the county council’s website. The decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of this representation period, and is currently expected on 19 March 2025.