

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND MAYFIELD SCHOOL

Section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

1. The name and contact details of the LA or governing body publishing the proposal, and the name, address and category of the school proposed for expansion.

The school proposed for expansion is Mayfield School, Whitehaven Campus, Red Lonning, Whitehaven CA28 8UG. This is a community special school. This proposal is being published by the Governing Body of Mayfield School.

2. Description of alteration.

The recent relocation of Mayfield School to the new Whitehaven Campus provides the opportunity to accommodate additional children in the school. The school has previously had space to accommodate 130 children, and this is proposed to increase to 160.

3. Evidence of demand

Cumbria County Council's Special Educational Needs and Disability Services have been facing pressures arising from increased demand for specialist education placements for a number of years. This increase in demand is in line with a national trend due to advances in medical technology and higher survival rates of children with complex needs and increases in medical diagnoses for conditions such as autism. Significant numbers of children are presenting with needs which cannot be met in mainstream schools, and the shortage of places within the county means that many have to be educated elsewhere. Mayfield School has already exceeded its previous capacity in order to meet an increased level of demand, and the formal increase to 160 places will provide further scope for children with the most complex needs to be educated in a specialist facility in line with their parents' wishes, close to their home.

4. Objectives of proposal.

The objective of the proposal is to provide additional capacity within the county for children with complex special educational needs and disabilities. This is in response to the recently increased roll at the school, the likelihood is that this pressure will continue into the future, and the county council's policy to decrease the number of children with SEND who have to be educated outside the county.

This will provide a sustainable and well equipped facility in the local area for children with special needs.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The extra capacity will benefit other mainstream schools in the area by providing additional places for children with complex special educational needs and disabilities. The next nearest special schools are approximately 40 miles distant in Carlisle and Ulverston.

A new free school catering for children with autism is due to open in Workington in September 2019, but it is not expected that the creation of new places there, or the expansion of capacity at Mayfield, will have any negative impact on either school. The schools will deal with distinct cohorts of children and, as such, will not be 'competing' for roll numbers

6. Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

There are no costs associated with the expansion as Mayfield School is already located in the new Whitehaven Campus. The expansion proposal is a recognition of the increased capacity available now that the school has relocated.

7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation.

The proposal would be implemented in full on 1 September 2019.

8. Objections and comments

Within four weeks of the publication of this notice, i.e. by 19 June 2019, any person wishing to raise objections or make comments on the proposal may do so in writing to the School Organisation Team, Cumbria County Council, Parkhouse Building, Baron Way, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ or by emailing school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk.