



Department
for Education

Local Authority Commissioned Primary Alternative Provision Free School

**Seeking proposals to establish a
Primary Alternative Provision Free
School Worcestershire County
Council**

March 2019

SECTION ONE: OVERVIEW

1. Summary

The Department for Education (DfE) is working collaboratively with selected Local Authorities to establish new schools that fit within the local authorities' strategies for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those requiring alternative provision. This opportunity is intended to identify and meet untapped demand for special and alternative provision free schools as a supplement to LAs' existing resources. If a strong proposal is received by a trust that both the Local Authority and the Secretary of State wish to take forward, DfE will provide capital funding and start-up grants subject to value for money assessments.

This document sets out the key information regarding the school that Worcestershire County Council will be establishing alongside DfE. Trusts should use the information within this document, alongside the engagement events, to determine whether they would like to apply to open the school, and to base their application on.

2. Key dates

24 July 2018	Special and AP free schools wave is launched – the guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools is published.
March 2019	Announcement of successful LA bids. Competitions in successful areas subsequently open.
17th July 2019	Sponsor Engagement Event
Midday 30th September 2019	Deadline for proposers to submit applications in successful areas.
September to December 2019	Worcestershire LA and DfE to evaluate submitted applications and interview trusts
Early 2020	Approved applications announced.

3. Contact details and further information

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss your application, please contact:

Name: Robert Williams
Job title: Group Manager Sufficiency and Place Planning
Email: rjwilliams@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk
Tel: 01905 844505

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss the site, please contact:

Name: Lorraine Buswell
Job title: Capital Accommodation Officer
Email: lbuswell@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk
Tel: 01905 846392

Please find below the contact details of the Regional Schools Commissioner:

RSC: Andrew Warren
RSC's office: West Midlands
Email: rsc.wm@education.gov.uk

4. Worcestershire Context and Planning

Please include here details of why the local authority is running this competition and requires this school. Should this be a joint bid, please explain how the local authorities will work together and how other local authorities are involved in commissioning places.

Worcestershire has six Alternative Provision Schools, either Free Schools and Academies or maintained Pupil Referral Units, two at Primary Age. More specifically, to the area of this school the Wyre Forest is a designated area by the DfE in this Wave of Free Schools. It benefits from a unique infrastructure through local partnership arrangements to support the establishment and sustainability of a Primary Alternative Provision Free School and it is the 32 Primary Heads themselves who have led and provided the evidence of demand with Worcestershire County Council for this new school.

An ability to build and demonstrate effective relationships with those local stakeholders will be essential for any organisation allocated this proposal. As such, there is an evidence based need and demand for an Alternative Provision Free School in the Wyre Forest alongside an establishment culture of commissioning through local collaboration across schools. No other alternative provision exists at primary level in the area.

More widely in Worcestershire 2016/17 there were a total of 141 permanent exclusions of which 114 were secondary aged children compared to 27 primary aged children which is an increase of 26% on the previous year; however, during the academic year only 20 children were reintegrated back into school. Furthermore, the number of days from the start date at the Alternative Provision to the reintegrating school has increased from 190 in 2014/15 to 285 in 2016/17. Where the Local Authority has been able to provide effective impartial support and monitoring to schools, parents and providers it has been able to ensure that all parties are clear of the expectations and how schools can better work together to support children in school and reduce the need to exclude or for parents feel the need to withdraw their children to either attend another school or home educate.

If the new school bid was successful, not only would the Council increase its much-needed alternative provision within the County, based upon the pupil numbers projected in each cohort/group and the reduction in Section 19 placements then in 2022 the Council would achieve in year savings of just under £250k (compared to pupil costings if the school bid was unsuccessful). Using the projected pupil numbers, in 2026 the Council could achieve in year savings of just under £400k. This against a time of forecast increased demand.

SECTION TWO: THE SCHOOL

The tables below list key details of the school proposed. Your application must be for a school that has these key characteristics. Please note you only need to complete the relevant table depending on the type of school.

Type of school	Primary Alternative Provision Free School
Which local authorities are committed to commissioning places?	Worcestershire
How many places have been commissioned and by which local authority?	45 places – Worcestershire County Council and Local Primary Schools
Per-pupil revenue funding the local authority would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain and detail the rates per pupil, including estimates for how many of the cohort will be in each band)	<p>LA commissioned places- £10k per place (base funding) plus £10,300 - £21,400 per pupil (top-up funding) Top up rates on Councils E3 and E4 banding and subject to pupil profile. We project an approximate split for LA Commissioned places of 1 at E2 (£5,600) 2 at E3 (£10,300) and 2 at E4 (£21,400). Meaning a total top up allocation of £69,000 from the LA for the 5 commissioned places.</p> <p>School commissioned places- £10k per place (base funding) plus an average rate of £5,600 pro rata'd for the agreed length of stay. As the time spent in Alternative Provision reduces and reintegration back to the mainstream school increases, the funding for provision will be reduced on a phased basis, reducing to around £3,400 on a pro rata basis.</p>
Age range	4-11 (NB Nursery capacity to be considered in dialogue with DfE)
Gender (Boys/Girls/Co-educational)	Co-educational
Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity – this should include 16-19 places but not nursery)	45

Type of placements offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	Bespoke programmes focussing on resilience, building family based capacity and reintegration. Therefore, part time and full time over reviewed periods.
Number of nursery places, if applicable	0 (Would wish to explore with DfE)
Number of 16-19 places, if applicable	0
Any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)	<p>The provision of <u>specialist behavioural advisory support</u> to pre-school settings and schools, , so that the children and young people can flourish in locality provision</p> <p>The provision of <u>expert advice, assessment and intervention</u> where there is a potential placement breakdown.</p> <p>The hosting of <u>jointly commissioned therapy services</u> – in particular speech and language therapy and occupational therapy, so that an integrated multi-agency approach to learning is an integral feature of school provision in support of local Special School capacity.</p> <p>A <u>strong partnership with CAMHS</u> and adult MH services as a feature of the provision for some of the CYP who will be on roll.</p> <p>The provision of an <u>on-site parent resource</u>: an area for networking, accessing information, attending training events geared to parents expressed interests and needs. Additionally, early intervention family support services will work both to enhance both the curriculum and parental resilience to narrow the gap in future progress.</p>

The table below details the number of places that the local authority proposes for each year group at the point of opening until the school is full.

	Year of opening	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
Nursery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reception	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Key stage 1 (Y1-2)	12	21	21	21	21	21	21
Key stage 2 (Y3-6)	15	24	24	24	24	24	24
Totals	27	45	45	45	45	45	45

SECTION THREE: RATIONALE AND CONTEXT FOR THE SCHOOL

This section describes the rationale and the context in which the new school will operate.

3A. Please include a brief description of the existing provision in your area, future expected growth in pupil numbers and how you expect places to be filled.

The Wyre Forest benefits from a unique collaborative ethos across all phases of education. For eg The ContinU Trust (Educational Charity established 10 years ago by local schools) includes all the local secondary schools, the local Special School, the local FE College and, via its services, all the local Primary Schools. It is via this collaboration that the need for a Primary AP School was conveyed to WCC within the Council's own assessment processes. There are no Primary AP providers within the area and a concern exists that small primary schools were individually struggling to support those pupils demonstrating higher level behavioural challenges. This was both in terms of staffing and financial investment in early intervention programmes. This has led to the "achievement gap" not being closed sufficiently from an early stage alongside a growth in applications to the local Special School which is oversubscribed. This early intervention and reintegration provision gap at Primary level is not only impacting on the lives of children but is an inefficient use of public funds. The area needs the economies of scale of a local Centre aligned with targeted strategies to support parents as co-educators at an early stage, whilst also avoiding the potential misplacement of pupils into Special Schools in the absence of a middle way back to mainstream. This was the conclusion of the all phase capacity review by local Headteachers with secondary heads eager to work with primary Heads colleagues around transition and secondary readiness. Moreover, local schools also, uniquely, via the ContinU Trust, deliver the Early Intervention Family Support Service for Primary Schools (commissioned by WCC). This gives a further source of capacity to a new AP school in designing the bespoke parenting support interventions from KS1. Vision - To create specialist provision to ensure the most appropriate educational support at each stage in their education both within school and at home by targeted parenting support and co-educator programmes. Students will achieve better outcomes through participating in a specialised programme of alternative provision that will reintegrate them productively back into mainstream school. Through established Networks of Local Senior leaders and the Wyre Forest Primary Headteachers Association, the school will be the hub for developing and sustaining innovation in behaviour and family support for learning. It will see a narrowing of the achievement gap among the pupils it educates and have long term Social Mobility at its core. Moreover, it will champion the needs and expectations of its pupils in preparing them for mainstream Secondary School progression. Steering groups are co-designing the specialist behavioural and learning intervention packages the new school will provide which is directly aligned to the government's vision for alternative provision 'Creating opportunity for all'. Primary Heads are unequivocally united in improving the way AP is delivered and evidence committed in writing demand to exceed the 45 KS1 and 2 places planned for the new school. This package of clear evidence of need alongside a sound and experienced infrastructure of collaboration makes a new Primary AP School highly sustainable, sound in capacity to deliver and a future beacon of success for the Free School Programme.

3B Please also include details as to how these proposed new arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special educational needs, and the outcomes for pupils, across the local authority and how you expect trusts to support this.

The Wyre Forest has no access to alternative provision at the primary phase. Moreover, it is a designated area of need nationally with KS3 and KS4 outcomes underperforming against statistical neighbours and across Worcestershire. There are 32 Primary schools across the local area and, together, they have highlighted a series of key interventions covering, specialist curriculum, personal development and resilience needs and also family support and assertive parenting approaches. They have explored government and wider publications around Social Mobility, Exclusions and Mental Health to inform the potential of the transformational school they wish to support. They have concluded that it is unviable for each individual school to establish the necessary infrastructure and have been working collectively through a Creative Solutions Steering Group to shape how a newly established school could be established and supported by long term commissioning through their own schools, alongside Local Authority permanent exclusion commissioning. The new school would be part of their drive to raise standards in their own schools as the central hub for behavioural and motivational interventions and the emerging Ofsted priorities around personal development. They also see the school as securing consistency of their own approaches in securing progress around reading, writing and all aspects of numeracy again with parenting programmes featuring significantly in programmes and referral packages.

All referrals will have specific progress targets which will include emotional and wellbeing measures such as SDQ data alongside learning and development indicators. These have been tested in the Secondary Alternative Provision Free School (ContinU Plus Academy) which is part of local collaborations. Moreover, they will help shape new benchmarks to be shared through the ongoing Headteacher panel that will support the eventual Sponsor of the school.

A key benefit from this innovative school will be its potential in due course to enhance range of wider developments working with primary schools across Worcestershire to support school improvement.

SECTION FOUR: THE PROPOSED LOCATION AND SITE

This section describes the provisional site.

Full address and full postcode	Former Sladen Middle School site, currently vacant. DY10 2QJ
Size of site	1.8ha
Further details on site (for example, current use/your reasons for choosing it/further developments (e.g. housing) planned for area	Vacant site owned by WCC and with previous covenant committing it to education use. Former playing fields and land associated with Sladen Middle school. Demolished in 2007. Potential support from Sport England re playing fields as registered with them. Housing expansion across Wyre Forest taking place. New school would meet all key facets re the use of the vacant site in an area of high deprivation – DY10 is a Big Lottery area.