**COMPLETE PROPOSAL**

**St Michael’s CE (A) Primary**

**School**



**COMPLETE PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATION:**

**Establishment of a Resource Base for Pupils with Social Emotional Mental Health at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School**

**Voluntary aided School and Local Authority Details**

School Details: St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School, Lower Street, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 9AF

LA Details: City of Wolverhampton Council (Contact: Civic Centre, St Peter’s Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL).

**Description of Alteration**

The prescribed alteration is that with effect from 1 January 2022, a 16-place resource base for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health is established at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School.

**Evidence of Demand**

The establishment of resource base provision at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School would ensure the sufficiency of provision in the City and address the existing demand issue with pupils leaving the City.

In recent years, the number of primary age pupils in Wolverhampton with an Education, Health and Care Plan/Statement identifying a primary need of Social Emotional and Mental Health has increased. In April 2019, 15% of pupils with Wolverhampton EHCPs were placed in out of City or Independent provision. (source: ONE database, City of Wolverhampton Council).

**Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice**)

The prescribed alteration is proposed to enable St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School to offer specialist provision for pupils with SEND. The establishment of resource base provision at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School would ensure the sufficiency of provision in the City, enable a wider range of pupils to benefit from the education and support provided by St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School and address the existing demand issue with pupils leaving the City.

In December 2017, St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School was judged by Ofsted to be a ‘Outstanding’ school.

By establishing specialist provision at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School there would be a broader range of provision available locally and greater opportunity for parental choice to be reflected in placement decisions.

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

The proposed prescribed alteration would introduce additional capacity and greater flexibility into the City’s local offer and maximise opportunity for pupils to access appropriate local provision.

Further information regarding the potential impact of the proposals is available within the accompanying SEN Improvement Test at Appendix A.

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

To facilitate the proposed changes, capital investment would be required to support the establishment of a 16-place resource base for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School. Council representatives are working closely with school leaders to develop an appropriate capital scheme which fully meets the needs of the pupils. It is proposed to deliver new accommodation on the site including; two new classrooms, a specialism room, a general-purpose room, storage facilities, pupil and staff toilets, circulation space and external remodelling.

Project costs would be met from the Department for Education’s Special Provision Capital Fund (Central Government has committed capital funding to help local authorities to create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities).

The proposed prescribed alteration is expected to support long-term value for money by reducing the potential need for expensive out of City placements.

**Implementation and any Proposed Stages for Implementation**

The proposed date for implementation is 1 January 2022.

**Consultation Responses: support; objections and comments**

Formal Consultation (Representation) commenced on 1 December 2020 and ends on 11 January 2021.

Any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by writing to: email:SENDTeam@wolverhampton.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is 11 January 2021.

**Appendix A: SEN IMPROVEMENT TEST**

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| **Current Provision**St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School is a mainstream Voluntary aided primary school which does not currently house specialist provision for pupils with SEND. **Proposal**The prescribed alteration is that with effect from 1 January 2022, a 16-place resource base for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health is established at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School. The establishment of resource base provision at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School would ensure the sufficiency of provision in the City, enable a wider range of pupils to benefit from the education and support provided by St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School and address the existing demand issue with pupils leaving the City. |
| **KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL** |
| **OBJECTIVE** | **ACTION** |
|  Proposals should take account of parental preferences for particular styles of provision or education settings | Pre-publication Consultation commenced on 14 September 2020 and ran until 12 October 2020.A number of supportive comments regarding the proposed prescribed alteration were received from parents during Pre-publication Consultation including:* “Not only would the base provide a resource for pupils who have SEMH needs, it would also educate existing St Michael's pupils. Education is key to reducing the stigma around SEMH. As someone who works with young people (Post 16) who have SEMH needs, it is clear to see that early intervention is key. Key to helping young people/children to progress both emotionally, socially and academically.” “This facility would fulfil a need in the City and improve overall facilities at Warstones Primary School”
* “It would be very helpful if a base was open at St Michael's CE Primary School for children with special needs and disabilities as I have a son who has additional needs and has just started reception. I would like a base to be open at St Michael's School as i have a daughter already attending and my son will be having an EHCP Plan in place and i would love for him to carry his school life journey at St Michael's School”
* “A fantastic idea, having the base on site will make it easier for parents to access. Pupils need more support especially with the current situation of covid.”
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| Proposals should take account of any relevant local offer for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and the views expressed on it | Wolverhampton's Local Offer of support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or who are Disabled can be found at: <http://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0> |
| Proposals should offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children and young people | The proposed prescribed alteration would introduce additional capacity and greater flexibility into the City’s local offer and maximise opportunity for pupils to access appropriate local provision.By establishing specialist provision at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School there would be a broader range of provision available locally and greater opportunity for parental choice to be reflected in placement decisions. |
| Proposals should take full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, within a learning environment where children can be healthy and stay safe | Warstones Primary School has been judged to be ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted since December 2017.To facilitate the proposed changes, capital investment would be required to support the establishment of new accommodation at St Michael’s CE (A) Primary School. Council representatives are working closely with school leaders to develop an appropriate capital scheme which fully meets the needs of the pupils.  |
| Proposals should support the LA’s strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and their scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people | The proposal aligns to the City of Wolverhampton Council’s strategic aspirations to:* Ensure Wolverhampton’s school estate is fit for purpose and meets the full range of more complex needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities now being placed.
* Develop local provision in order to reduce the number of children needing residential and out of area education, health and care services.

The City of Wolverhampton Council has recently consulted on its draft Schools Accessibility Strategy; consultation ran from 18 June 2018 to 20 July 2018. The draft Strategy aims to:* Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
* Improve the physical environment of schools to enable pupils with SEND to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
* Improve the delivery of information to disabled pupils.

The proposed change to Warstones Primary School supports these aspirations by maximising the opportunity for pupils to attend high quality local provision. |
| Proposal should provide access to appropriately trained staff and access to specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils can have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community | School leaders and Governors recognise the need to ensure that staff are fully prepared to support pupils in the Resource Base. During Pre-publication Consultation, Governors highlighted the importance of teaching staff and pupils understanding the needs of any additional children to ensure inclusivity. |
| Proposals should ensure that appropriate full-time education will be available to all displaced pupils | No children would be displaced as a consequence of this proposal. |