

Statutory Consultation

A proposal to expand Slated Row Special School to include a new site at Kents Hill Park

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Dept for Education guidance *'Making prescribed alterations to maintained schools – statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, April 2016'*, that **Milton Keynes Council proposes to expand Slated Row Special School to include a new site at Kents Hill Park with effect from an intended opening date of January 2018.**

Notice Date: 12 January 2017

Consultation End: 10 February 2017

School

Slated Row Special School
Old Wolverton Road,
Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5NJ

Proposer

Education Sufficiency, Milton Keynes Council
Saxon Court, 502 Avebury Boulevard
Central Milton Keynes MK9 3HS

Lead officer for this proposal :

Lisa Munro, Inclusion & Intervention Manager, Special Educational Needs and Disability

This consultation invites interested parties to respond to whether it is appropriate to expand Slated Row School onto a second site. The new site would be in addition to and not instead of the existing Wolverton school.

This statutory 4 week consultation follows the informal consultation carried out in Sept/Oct last year to gather views. The cabinet member for Children and Families was presented with the findings - that 92% of 71 respondents were in favour of the expansion - and the political decision was taken to proceed with this Statutory Consultation. Our proposal follows Dept for Education guidance for (1) "expansion of an existing maintained school onto a new school site" and (2) guidance for decision makers on "making changes to a SEN provision".

The current position - Slated Row School is a community school in Wolverton which is judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. As our largest special school, it caters for pupils aged 4 to 19 with a range of complex needs in addition to their

Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD). The school does not have space to expand on its current site but there are an increasing number of children across Milton Keynes with SEN. The school already had a vision to develop its services so it was proposed to expand onto a satellite site.

The opportunity - The new housing development at Kents Hill Park provided the opportunity for three education sites for our growing population – a primary, a secondary and a special school; all of which are in the process of being built. This is a cost effective way to commission a special school since pupils will be drawn from all over the LA area and the building project can save time and resources by using the same architects, education consultants, contractors and materials for all three schools.

Implementation - The new special school will cater for up to 50 places of SEN provision for pupils of secondary school age with a range of complex needs. It will be built and fitted out for the specific requirements of these pupils and is anticipated to be ready for January 2018.

Benefits of expanding Slated Row School –

A new 50 place school is relatively small so would be more financially viable by sharing overheads as part of a larger organisation.

There will be better opportunities for staff development and career choice as part of a larger organisation which will have new facilities.

SEN provision on the new site would be a consistent high quality if managed by a local 'Outstanding' provider. Slated Row has staff skilled in supporting pupils with the range of complex needs for which there is the highest demand for school places.

Staff of the new site would be part of the existing Slated Row team which attracts good quality applicants when recruiting. There would be consistent senior leadership and governance to benefit both sites.

The approach of teaching styles would be uniform between primary and secondary provision across the two sites and pupils and their families would benefit from the curriculum being planned through a whole school approach.

The new site will provide modern facilities to benefit an increased number of SEN pupils and existing pupils as they move to secondary phase. Key Stage 4 & 5 will all take place at the new site so the Wolverton site can concentrate on primary phase and Key Stage 3. This is more cost effective than mirroring all Key Stages across both sites.

Evidence of demand - Slated Row has been consistently over-subscribed; although only by 10 places, this cannot be used as the indicator for understanding demand for places across our special schools. Those which had physical space to expand have been able to exceed their funded place numbers. Slated Row did not have space to expand, so was unable to significantly exceed its number of places.

Addressing concerns – Kents Hill Park special school is built separately with its own access, boundaries and playing areas. SEN professionals welcome the opportunity for some integrated activity with the nearby new secondary school, as a benefit to both SEN and mainstream pupils and staff, and to share the sports facilities.

There will be little movement of pupils between sites; for example, for special events, whole school celebrations, sports, forest school etc. Slated Row has existing safe policies for offsite activity.

The leadership team would ensure that the expansion leads to minimal disruption at the current site and not be detrimental to existing pupils' education. Expansion will allow existing staff to share their outstanding practice to the benefit of the second site and new pupils.

Pupils at Slated Row live all over Milton Keynes so are as likely to live near or far to either site.

The effect on other schools - Admissions to special schools are handled by the SEN casework team who place pupils according to their type of need and age. Another provision for pupils aged 8 to 19 with MLD is at White Spire School in Bletchley and they are supportive of this proposal.

How to respond to -

The closing date for comments is 10 February 2017

If you responded to the previous consultation please do so now as well.

Please go online and complete the form at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/398> to tell us whether you agree or disagree with this proposal. If you are unable to go online you may respond by email to:

sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk or in writing to Education Sufficiency, Milton Keynes Council, Saxon Court, 502 Avebury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3HS or by telephone to 01908 253338 option 7

Who this consultation has been sent to - parents, staff and governors of Slated Row School, all schools and academy trusts in Milton Keynes; health professionals and specialist teachers who work with children with SEN; local parent/carer organisations; local MPs, all Ward Councillors and Parish/Town Councils; neighbouring councils with schools adjoining our catchment areas.

This consultation is the 3rd stage in a formal process:

1. Informal consultation
2. Consideration by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families of the outcome and decision whether to proceed with a statutory consultation
3. Statutory consultation lasting 4 weeks
4. Consideration by the Cabinet Member of the outcome and decision whether to proceed with expansion of Slated Row School
5. If agreed, open the new special school in Kents Hill Park as a second campus of Slated Row School for January 2018.