



**Orchard House**  
HIGH SCHOOL

**New SEND Free School**

**Orchard House High School**

**Section 10 Consultation**

**Monday 10th June 2024 - Monday 22nd July 2024**



# Welcome

**Orchard House High School will provide the very best education for secondary aged children with a range of special educational needs.**

Orchard House Specialist Support High School is a Local Authority commissioned special school with FE provision. The school will include places for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) young people aged 11-19, including those with PMLD. This is a co-educational local authority special free school with 150 places (120 for 11-16 & 30 for 16-19-year-olds).

## **What are the key features of the new school and what will make it Distinctive?**

### **KS3 and KS4**

We will offer a fully differentiated and personalised curriculum with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. However, what is distinctive about our offer is the expansive skills and communication programme running in tandem to enhance and compliment national curriculum subjects. We will utilise the flexibilities of the academy programme to structure the curriculum so that the proportion of time spent on different areas of learning is not only significant but increases as young people move through each key stage, taking into account the needs of individuals. We will ensure that a comprehensive communication and skills curriculum will enable our learners to achieve the skills they need to access the wider world and meet the demands of everyday life. A stepped and sequential approach will allow us to embed these skills over time so that students have the building blocks to work towards increasing fluency and independence. We will be ambitious and aspirational in our aims for students whilst also adapting and personalising a broad variety of pedagogies to their needs. We will ensure that our curriculum and targets are inclusive whilst also stretching, challenging and highly aspirational for all learners.

### **Further Education**

Our vision for FE is to create a school that offers a strong focus on core skills, applied learning, skills for life and living, which prepares young people for independence and the world of work. We will focus on enterprise projects and both internal and external work experience placements; as well as creating learning environments that feel more like the workplace than a school.

To have an amazing career offering, a school must have both a curriculum (what you will learn about careers) and follow the Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance. We do both at our Trust Schools.

The current FE departments at Piper Hill, Pioneer House and Grange offer a vast range of work experience opportunities through innovative Careers offers. For example, Pioneer House has superb links with Careers Hive and earned the Skillsbuilder Gold Award in 2021. Pioneer House are one of the first schools in the country to earn the Skillsbuilder Flagship Status.

## Our Values

- High quality educational provision is an entitlement of all young people.
- Our schools and academies will deliver high standards of academic achievement and personal development.
- We will recruit, train and retain the very best staff driven by a strong culture of professional development and mutual support in the pursuit of highly effective teaching and the highest levels of student progress.
- We will be forward thinking and highly aspirational, grounding our strategy and development in the latest educational research.
- Our academies will be truly comprehensive and inclusive, and rooted within their local community.
- We will enable all of our students to succeed promoting and providing equal opportunities and equity of provision.
- We will champion the Cooperative values of Self-help, Self-responsibility, Democracy, Equality, Equity and Solidarity
- We will operate our organisation with the ethical values of Openness, Honesty, Social Responsibility and Caring for others

## Our vision is underpinned by seven key principles:

- 1. Outstanding Teaching** – nothing is more important than excellent teaching underpinned by high quality professional development. Through our engaging applied learning curriculum focus, highly effective teaching will provide an outstanding and stimulating educational experience for every student.
- 2. High Expectations** – we set exceptionally high expectations for all our students; on-going individual advice will support each student to not only make appropriate choices at each stage of their education but also to challenge and encourage them to reach their full potential in all they do.
- 3. Creating a Safe Learning Environment** – we will ensure that for every one of our students we afford them the greatest preparation we can for their future ambitions and aspirations in adult life, including developing safe independence skills.

**4. Providing Flexible Pathways through the curriculum** – the diversification of our curriculum will ensure that the needs of all students can be met and each student will be equipped and prepared for success in the future, and have appropriate skills to be an effective citizen in modern Britain.

**5. Commitment to CPD** – we are committed to developing all staff through reflective practice and through a focus on developing learning communities; this has been recognised by Investors in People Gold (IIP).

**6. Commitment to parents** – we are committed to tackling inequalities including for our parents/carers. Often caring for a child and young person with significant learning needs reduces opportunities for parents to develop work skills. We will ensure that through the free school, parents will be offered the opportunity to work and develop employability skills. This links to the LA requirements on “travel support to access education policy” The proposal will enable more families to take their children to school under the Manchester’s Travel Support to access Education policy which is better for children with SEND and will reduce transport time for children living in this area or surrounding areas who will continue to require transport. This will mean a shorter journey for children and enable both commissioning Local Authorities to better manage their cost pressures on home to school transport.

**7. Inclusive Community** – we are committed to ensuring that young people with learning needs are fully included with their peers. This means developing pathways to independence, focussing on developing the skills to travel as independently as possible, to enable access to, and the use of local facilities, developing healthy lifestyles and the skills to contribute to their local community. The curriculum approach and the skills for life and learning to be taught in the Free School will support in this area.

## **Admissions to Orchard House High School**

For a child to be admitted, the school must be named, by the local authority, in the child’s Statement/ Education Health Care Plan.

Orchard House will work in partnership with the local authority and parents/carers to assess the suitability of students for a place.

A full copy of the admissions arrangements for the school is available at:

<https://prospere.org.uk/orchard-house-high-school> or you can phone 0161 436 3009 to request a copy.

## Questions & Answers

### What is a free school?

Free schools are independent, state-funded schools. They have the same legal status as academies.

### Will free schools be able to make a profit?

No. Free schools are run on a not-for-profit basis by a charitable trust. The school will be run by the Principal and their leadership team and they will be answerable to the Prospere Learning Trust.

### Where will the school be situated?

The school will be located on Sawley Road, Miles Platting, Manchester. This site was identified by the Local Authority and reviewed by the Education Funding Agency and has been confirmed as an ideal location for this school.

### Which year groups will the school open with?

In September 2025 (date TBC), Orchard will open with approximately 50 places, by 2030 pupil numbers will rise to 150.

### Are free schools selective?

No. Free schools have to follow the new admissions code like all state-funded schools. Local Authorities will commission Orchard House to provide places for children where it believes a child's statement of need/ EHCP can best be met by the school.

### Will Orchard House High School be inspected by Ofsted?

Yes. All free schools are subject to inspection in the same way as any other schools.

### How will the school be accountable?

The school will be run by a board of members and directors who will be accountable to the trust which oversees the school.

In addition the school will also be accountable to the Department for Education through the terms of its Funding Agreement.

### How can I apply for a place?

Full details of the admissions procedure are available on the school's temporary webpage:

<https://prospere.org.uk/orchard-house-high-school>

**SURVEY**

Please print and return this survey via post to the address overleaf by 12 noon on Monday 22nd July 2024 or complete it online at: <https://prospere.org.uk/orchard-house-high-school>

1. Do you support the proposal to open a new secondary special school in the Mile Platting area of Manchester?

Yes  No

If you have any comments please add them below.

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2. Do you support Orchard House's values which is underpinned by seven principles?

Yes  No

If you have any comments please add them below.

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3. Do you agree that the Prospere Learning Trust should sign a \*Funding Agreement, which will enable us to open and run the new Free School - Orchard House High School?

Yes  No

If you have any comments please add them below.

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4. Do you have any additional comments or feedback regarding Orchard House High School?

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**Register your interest\*\***

If you would like to register your interest in a place for your child at Orchard House and wish to be kept up-to-date with the school's progress, please fill out the form below or email:

Name:

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Email:

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\* The model Funding Agreement can be found online at <http://gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>

\*\*Please note that registering your interest has no bearing on the admissions process.

## SURVEY CONTINUED

About you: Which of the following best describes you?

- Parent / carer
- Member of staff or governor at a local school
- Community member
- Local resident
- Local business owner / employee
- Other (please specify)

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Please take the time to read this booklet and complete the survey.

You can return it by post to Orchard House, C/o Piper Hill High School, Firbank Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M23 2YS or complete it online at: <https://prospere.org.uk/orchard-house-high-school>

You can also email: [abryan@prospere.org.uk](mailto:abryan@prospere.org.uk) or phone 0161 436 3009 and we will note your comments.

The consultation period ends at 12 noon on Monday 22nd July 2024.

### Data Protection Act 2018

The Data Controller is Prospere Learning Trust which will collect information provided. Any personal information provided may be shared with representatives of the Prospere Learning Trust in order to develop plans for the proposed Prospect House Primary Specialist Support School.

If you would like any of the information in a different language or format, please contact us on 0161 436 3009 and we will assist you.