

# Formal consultation about our proposal to increase the number of special school places at Red Marsh Special School by creating 'satellite' provision

**September 2021**

This is the statutory proposal to make a prescribed alteration to a school in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

We are seeking your views about our proposal to expand Red Marsh School, Holly Road, Thornton-Cleveleys, FY5 4HH by creating separate 'satellite' provision. We want to assure you that we will give careful consideration to all your comments and opinions.

We have used the feedback that was given during informal consultations that were carried out between July and September, to develop our plans for Red Marsh School. This formal consultation is a legal requirement that we need to do to make a change like this to the school.

## What are we planning to do?

### **Create separate 'satellite' provision that will be part of Red Marsh School**

Red Marsh School is a special school for pupils with severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties and autism spectrum conditions. This is a school for pupils between the ages of 2 and 19 years.

We are proposing to develop three more classrooms in the Haven building. The Haven is a separate school building that is on the same site as Northfold Community Primary School, Ringway, Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 2NL. It is an empty school building that is 1.6 miles away from Red Marsh School.

Red Marsh School would be responsible for the education of any children that are taught on the Haven site and they would receive the same teaching and support as they would if they were taught at Red Marsh School. This is what is known as 'satellite' provision and will be governed and managed by the governing body and senior leadership team of Red Marsh School

## Increase the number of places

Red Marsh School has 94 pupils on roll. The use of three classrooms in the Haven building would create up to 30 special school places for primary age children with special educational needs. All pupils attending the school at either the Red Marsh School site or the Haven site would have education, health and care plans.

## Why are we doing this?

To make sure we have enough special school places for all children and young people with special educational needs who need them.

All special schools in Lancashire are over-subscribed and over 200 more places in special schools will be needed over the next four years. More special school places are needed this year, particularly in the Fleetwood/Lytham St Annes area.

Red Marsh School is an 'Outstanding' school (Ofsted, 2019).

The benefits for pupils include:

- opportunities for children attending both Northfold Community Primary School and the 'satellite' provision to get a broader range of experience of children with different needs
- opportunities for children attending both schools to experience a different type of school environment
- teachers and other staff at Northfold Community Primary School having more training and support from teachers

from Red Marsh School who have specialist knowledge about special educational needs

- more space for children already at Red Marsh School, many of whom need lots of equipment, particularly in shared areas such as the school hall
- more children on roll at Red Marsh School would mean more children would be able to access specialist facilities at the main school site, such as the hydrotherapy pool and will be transported between the two sites by the school's minibuses.

Children and young people already attending Red Marsh School will remain on the roll and should not experience any change in class size because of the increase to approved numbers.

Key teachers and support staff for each class will remain with the pupils in their class in the 'satellite' unit as they do at Red Marsh School now. Specialist staff will move between Red Marsh School and the Haven site as required.

## How will we do this?

- By providing funding for any adaptations to the school buildings on the Haven site, through the basic needs grant provided by the local authority.
- The school will receive additional funding from the high needs block to provide support for any additional pupils that join the school, in line with the funding for places at specialist schools. This means the school should not be financially disadvantaged by the proposed expansion.

## What have we done so far?

We considered different options for increasing the number of special school places in the Fleetwood/Lytham St Annes area with the head teachers of the special schools in that area in July 2021.

We discussed this proposal with the headteachers and governors of Red Marsh School and Northfold Community Primary School.

We carried out an informal consultation to find out what parents and carers, staff and other members of the school communities thought about the proposal to expand Red Marsh School. We also put forward three different proposals about how this might be done. The informal consultation was carried out in September 2021.

A total of 114 responses were received to the survey that was carried out during this consultation.

86% of respondents agreed with the proposal to expand Red Marsh School.

68% of respondents indicated a preference to do this through the development of 'satellite' provision at the Haven site. The reasons given for selecting this option included a need for more special school places, that it would be beneficial to use the empty school building and there would be more space for pupils at Red Marsh School.

23% of respondents indicated a preference to expand the school by adding a modular building to the Red Marsh School site. The main reason respondents gave for choosing this option was that it would be better for the school to remain on one site.

8% of respondents identified extending the Red Marsh School building as the best option for expanding the school.

## What will happen next?

Responses received by 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 will be used to provide information to Lancashire County Council Cabinet to help councillors make a decision about whether to agree to expand Red Marsh School by developing separate 'satellite' provision at the Haven site. The date of the Cabinet meeting for this decision is 4th November 2021. If Cabinet agreement is given any building work that is needed will take place before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and the changes should be in place from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

## Have your say

We would like your views on this proposed expansion of Red Marsh School. An event will be held at the school so that you can get more information and ask any questions you may have. Details about this will be available on the school website.

For your information and in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government regulations, all written responses may be disclosed to the public and could also be published on our website as background papers to any reports.

We are sorry that, due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal.

If you have any queries or require further information please contact the Inclusion Service by phone: 01772 531597 or email [Inclusion.South@Lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Inclusion.South@Lancashire.gov.uk),

## QUESTIONNAIRE

We are proposing to expand Red Marsh School by creating separate 'satellite' provision on the Haven site. The 'satellite' provision will have three classrooms for up to 30 primary aged children who would be on roll at Red Marsh School.

### How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

*Please tick one option only*

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

### Why do you say this?

*Please write in the box below*

## About you

This final section is about you. It's a little more personal, but is really useful to us. By answering these questions you will help us to understand the views of different groups of people. If there are any questions that you'd rather not answer, please tick 'prefer not to say', or leave it blank and go on to the next question.

### Are you responding to this proposal as...?

*Please select one option only*

- Parent/carer of a pupil currently at Red Marsh School
- Parent/carer of a future pupil at Red Marsh School
- Member of staff at Red Marsh School
- School governor at Red Marsh School
- Parent/carer of a pupil currently at Northfold Community Primary School
- Parent/carer of a future pupil at Northfold Community Primary School
- Member of staff at Northfold Community Primary School
- School governor at Northfold Community Primary School
- Member of the local community of either school
- Other

If other please write in the box below

### Are you...?

*Please select one option only*

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

**What was your age on your last birthday?**

*Please select one option only*

- Under 16
- 16-19
- 20-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

**Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?**

*Please select one option only*

- White
- Black or black British
- Asian or Asian British
- Mixed ethnic background
- Any other ethnic background

Prefer not to say

**Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?**

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

*Please select as many as apply*

- Yes, learning disability
- Yes, physical disability
- Yes, sensory disability
- Yes, mental health disability
- Yes, other disability
- No
- Prefer not to say

**Are there any children or young people in your household with special educational needs?**

*Please select as many as apply*

- No
- Yes, aged under 5

- Yes, aged 5-11
- Yes, aged 12-15
- Yes, aged 16-17
- Prefer not to say

**What is your home postcode?**

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Business Intelligence,  
Lancashire County Council,  
PO Box 100,  
County Hall,  
Preston PR1 0LD

**Thank you for completing the questionnaire**