**A formal consultation about our proposal to increase the number of places at** **West Lancashire Community High School through the expansion of provision on the school site or through the creation of satellite provision in the former Children's Centre on the site of St John's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale.**

February 2023

This is a formal consultation about making 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 create additional places at West Lancashire Community High School and whether you think this is a good idea. We are proposing to increase the number of special school places by up to 50 places either by creating additional classrooms on the school site or by creating satellite classes in the former Children's Centre on the site of St John's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale.

This is a formal consultation that we are carrying out as part of the process to make a change like this to the school.

We want to assure you that we will give careful consideration to all your comments and opinions.

**What are we planning to do?**

West Lancashire Community High School is a special school for pupils with generic learning difficulties, for pupils aged 11-19. The proposal is to further expand the school by up to 50 places either by creating additional classrooms on the school site or by creating a satellite provision in the former Children's Centre on the site of St John's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale which is 2.5 miles away from West Lancashire Community High School.

All of the children and young people attending the satellite provision will be on roll at West Lancashire Community High School. West Lancashire Community High School will be responsible for the education of the children and young people and they will receive the same teaching and support as they would if they were taught on the West Lancashire Community High School site.

Currently there are 126 pupils attending the school.

**Why are we doing this?**

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

All special schools in Lancashire are over-subscribed. There are currently over 400 pupils with special educational needs attending private or independent schools. These school places usually cost more than places in Lancashire schools.

West Lancashire Community High School is a 'Good' school (Ofsted, December 2018).

Children and young people already on the roll at West Lancashire Community High School will still be able to attend the school and should not experience any increase in class size as a result of the increase to approved numbers.

More space should become available for existing pupils.

**How will we do this?**

* By creating additional classrooms on the West Lancashire Community High School site or by creating a satellite provision in the former Children's Centre in the grounds of St John's Catholic Primary School, that is 2.5 miles away from West Lancashire Community High School.
* By providing funding 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?**

An informal consultation took place between 7 December 2022 and 20 January 2023, in respect of the proposal to create a satellite provision for West Lancashire Community High School in the former Children's Centre on the site of St John's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale. Further information was brought to the authority's attention after the start of the formal consultation on 24January 2023 and as a result of this information it has been decided that other options need to be considered.

The proposal to create a satellite provision for West Lancashire Community High School in the former Children's Centre on the site of St John's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale has been withdrawn.

The proposals now being formally consulted on are to either:

* Create additional places at West Lancashire Community High School by creating additional classrooms on the school site.

Or by

* Creating satellite classes in the former Children's Centre on the site of St John's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale.

**What will happen next?**

Careful consideration will be given to all responses that are received on or before 23 March 2023. These responses will be used to inform us how to develop this proposal, ready for a formal consultation that is needed to make a change like this to a school.

**Have your say**

We would like your views on this proposed expansion of West Lancashire Community High 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,

|  |
| --- |
| * We are proposing to expand West Lancashire Community High School which will provide up to an additional 50 special school places by creating additional classrooms on the school site or by creating satellite classes in the former Children's Centre on the site of St John's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale.

**QUESTIONNAIRE please cut pleasplease****How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase places by providing extra classrooms on the existing school site?** *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* |
| **How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase places by creating a satellite provision in the former Children's Centre, on the site of St John's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale?** *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 West Lancashire Community High School |
|  | Parent/carer of a future pupil at West Lancashire Community High School |
|  | Member of staff at West Lancashire Community High School  |
|  | School governor at West Lancashire Community High School  |
|  | Member of the local community |
|  | Other  |

 If other please write in the box below**Are you responding to this proposal as…?***Please select one option only*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Parent/carer of a pupil currently at St John's Catholic Primary School |
|  | Parent/carer of a future pupil at St John's Catholic Primary School |
|  | Member of staff at St John's Catholic Primary School  |
|  | School governor at St John's Catholic Primary School  |
|  | Member of the local community |
|  | 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** |