

Consultation on a proposal to  
increase the number of pupils  
attending:

**The Westminster School**

Consultation Period: (4 weeks)

**Education, Skills and Employment**

## **Introduction**

Sandwell Council is consulting on a proposal to make a change to The Westminster School. This change is explained in the sections below.

This consultation starts on 19 January 2018 and will run for four weeks until 16 February 2018.

## **School Information**

The Westminster School is a community special school located in Curral Road, Rowley Regis, B60 9AN. The school provides education for pupils deemed to have the following:

Complex Moderate Learning Difficulties, including Autism  
Moderate Learning Difficulties with Physical and Sensory Disabilities  
Moderate (MLD)

The age range of the school is currently 7 to 19.

All admissions to the school are as a result of Sandwell Council determining that this is the most appropriate educational provision. Students are accepted who have an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP)/Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) agreed by the Council which specifies Complex, Moderate Learning Difficulties, including autism.

## **What changes are proposed?**

It is proposed to increase pupil capacity by up to 60 places. This will mean that the school will cater for children from within Year 3 up to Year 14 with a total school population of 250 pupils.

## **Why do we want to do this?**

As the population of Sandwell grows so does the demand for school places. This also includes the demand for places in our special schools. Having undertaken a recent review (EVOLVE Review 2015-2016) of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision in Sandwell the council and the Joint Executive Headteachers' Group (JEG) has identified the need to increase SEN provision by using the full capacities of our schools, including special schools. We are looking at what additional provision is required and what we can use better within our existing schools.

At The Westminster School we propose to expand the current school into the connected building occupied by Whiteheath Pupil Referral Unit. By relocating the 37 students currently on-site at Whiteheath to a modern well maintained

building within Sandwell, a significant increase in capacity will be established that will a) confirm current provision for 7 to 19 year olds and b) create space for a bespoke 16 to 19 provision that will enable students to extend their studies and access Supported Internships and Supported Apprenticeships.

### **When will this start from?**

If the proposal is approved by Sandwell's Cabinet it is anticipated that the proposal will be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

### **What is the impact on:**

#### **Children and young people**

The proposal allows for The Westminster School to extend its curriculum and provide support for children approaching Post 16 and in preparing for adulthood. More pupils will be able to access Supported Internships and Apprenticeships. There will be an increase in existing places for school-aged pupils in mainstream schools who require specialist provision for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties where parents have expressed a preference.

#### **Staff**

Staff currently employed by The Westminster School will have no change to their circumstances. All staff will have opportunities to continue their professional development by sharing practice and expertise across an extended age and in developing Supported Internships and Supported Apprenticeships.

#### **Facilities**

The facilities at The Westminster School will be increased to include the opportunity to provide education for up to 60 more children across the age range of age 7 to 19. The proposal will include the reassigning of spaces within The Rowley Regis Campus to become new areas for teaching and learning Post 16 and in developing a curriculum for Supported Internships and Supported Apprenticeships. This will bring the total school population to 250.

### **How can I make my views known?**

We want to hear your views on the proposal and would like you to complete our consultation form. If you would like to request a consultation meeting please contact the school's Head Teacher or the Chair of Governors.

Views can be sent and shared in a number of ways. A consultation form is available at the back of this document which can be returned to the school or alternatively views can be expressed at a consultation meeting (please

arrange this via the school's Head Teacher) or in letters and emails. This document is also available on the Council's website:

[www.consult.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.consult.sandwell.gov.uk)

If you would like to make any comments or suggestions, please return the attached consultation response form to The Westminster School or write to:

Dr Kevin Rowland MBE,  
Principal Educational Psychologist,  
Group Manager Inclusive Learning,  
Connor Education Centre,  
Connor Road,  
West Bromwich B71 3DJ  
Email: kevin\_rowland@sandwell.gov.uk

Please note the closing date for comments is 16 February 2018. Although it will not be possible to respond to individual comments, all the issues raised during this initial consultation process will be considered.

### **What happens now?**

Please see the proposed timescale below. Although every attempt will be made to follow this timeline, it is possible that some dates may change. Sandwell Council must follow a formal process to increase capacity of The Westminster School. This begins with a 4 week initial consultation period with a number of interested parties including parents, staff and governors. The council will then need to consider the outcome of this consultation before deciding whether or not to proceed to a second stage of consultation – the publishing of a full proposal and statutory notice. If the proposal proceeds then a decision is expected in April or May 2018.

\* If an appeal is received after Cabinet's decision then the matter would be referred to the schools' adjudicator. This could affect the final decision or an implementation date.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
19 January 2018	Initial consultation begins
16 February 2018	Initial consultation ends
19 - 28 February 2018	Cabinet member to be briefed
01 March 2018	Statutory notice and full proposal published
01 – 29 March 2018	Representation period
April / May 2018	Decision by Cabinet*
01 September 2018	Implementation

## Increasing pupil numbers at The Westminster School Consultation Response Form

**Are you a:**

**Please tick**

Parent/Carer of a child

Student

Governor

Member of Staff

Member of the Community

Do you agree with the proposal that The Westminster School should increase numbers by up to 60 students from 1 September 2018?

Yes  No

Don't Know

**Please add any comments here (and overleaf if necessary):**

Please return this form by 16 February 2018 to either The Westminster School or Dr Kevin Rowland MBE, Principal Educational Psychologist, Special Educational Needs Service, Connor Education Centre, Connor Road, West Bromwich B71 3DJ

**Data Protection Act, 1998**

The information that you supply on this form will be used by the local authority for the purpose of consultation. All information is regarded as confidential and any data collected via this form will be processed or disclosed only within the limits of the data protection notification.

**Additional Comments:**

[Empty rectangular box for additional comments]