

Proposals to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School, Atherton and to enlarge Westleigh High School - A College of Technology



Part 1

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan WN3 4HH intends to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School (voluntary-aided school), Hamilton Street, Atherton, M46 0AY on 31 August 2012.

There will be no intake of pupils from 01 September 2010 onwards. Pupils currently in years 9, 10 and 11 at the school will not be affected by the proposals. Pupils currently in years 7 and 8 at the school will transfer to alternative schools at the end of their year 9 as follows: Current year 8 pupils will transfer to alternative schools on 01 September 2011. Current year 7 pupils will transfer to alternative schools on 01 September 2012.

Pupils transferring to alternative schools: Pupils who will transfer to alternative schools will be offered a place at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools according to parental preference and the oversubscription criteria. If necessary, the local authority will over-admit up to 20 pupils more than the admission number at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in year 10 in 2011 solely for the purpose of accommodating all pupils transferring from Hesketh Fletcher C E High School. Pupils may be admitted to alternative schools of their parents' preference if places are available at the time of transfer.

Future year 7 intakes: In 2010 and 2011 it is intended that children living in the Atherton area will access Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools at year 7. It is proposed to increase the size of Westleigh from 01 September 2012 onwards to accommodate predicted future pupil numbers. If necessary, the local authority will over-admit up to 20 pupils more than the admission number in year 7 at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in September 2010 and 2011 solely for the purpose of accommodating all pupils in the area. From September 2012 onwards it is intended that children living in Atherton will access Westleigh and Fred Longworth High Schools at year 7. It is proposed to increase the size of Westleigh from 01 September 2012 onwards to accommodate predicted future pupil numbers. It will be necessary to amend the oversubscription criteria for Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools from September 2010. The proposed oversubscription criteria are given in Note (c) below.

The local authority believes that the proposal will lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of education for pupils with special educational needs because, according to the most recent Ofsted reports, the quality and standard of education provided at the receiving schools is equal to or better than that at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School. The receiving schools have higher pupil numbers resulting in greater flexibility in the budget for staffing and the ability to provide a wider ranging curriculum.

The walking distance from Hesketh Fletcher C E High School to Fred Longworth High School is 1.45 miles and a number of pupils will still be able to walk to school. The walking distance from Hesketh Fletcher C E High School to Westleigh High School is 2.34 miles and to Bedford High school is 2.47 miles. School buses already operate from the Atherton area to Westleigh and Bedford High Schools. Additional school buses may be provided if necessary to minimise car use. Wigan Council will provide assistance with travelling expenses, if appropriate, in accordance with its transport policy in force at the relevant time.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, that is by 15 October 2009, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH or by email to: SchoolsForFuture@Wigan.gov.uk

Part 2

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Wigan Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Westleigh High School - A College of Technology (community school), Westleigh Lane, Leigh, WN7 5NL from 01 September 2012.

It is proposed to enlarge Westleigh High School by extending the school premises to increase the physical capacity of the school to admit more pupils. The building works would be complete by 31 August 2012. This proposal is dependent on the discontinuation of Hesketh Fletcher C E High School as additional places will not be needed if the proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School does not go ahead. Westleigh High is one of the schools that will receive students from Hesketh Fletcher C E High and cater for Atherton residents in the future.

The current capacity of the school is 775 and the proposed capacity will be 1250. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 740. The current admission number for the school is 155 and the proposed admission number will be 250. The new admission number of 250 will apply from September 2012 across all year groups.

Wigan Council, the local authority, will implement and fund the proposal as part of phase 1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, that is by 01 October 2009, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH or by email to: SchoolsForFuture@Wigan.gov.uk

Part 3

Part 3 relates to both Parts 1 and 2 above.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH, phone 01942 486299. It is also available on the Wigan Council website: www.wigan.gov.uk/SchoolsForFuture

Signed: Nick Hudson Executive Director Children and Young People's Services

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Notes.

a) Hesketh Fletcher C E High School had 636 pupils on roll and 36% surplus places at January 2009. There were only 64 first preference applications for admission in September 2009. Projections suggest that pupil numbers will fall to less than 400 by 2015. The local authority must take action where surplus places are more than 25%.

b) Westleigh High School is significantly oversubscribed each year and had less than 5% surplus places at January 2009. There were 228 first preference applications for 155 places in September 2009. The proposed expansion will allow more pupils to access this popular school.

c) The proposed oversubscription criteria for Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools from September 2010 (after the admission of children with a statement of special educational needs that names the school) are:

Westleigh High School – A College of Technology

1. Children in public care.
2. Children with a brother or sister who will be attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Children who live in Westleigh, Leigh and Atherton (postcodes M46; WN7-4 and WN7-5) and who attend the following primary schools at the time of application: Newton Westpark; Westleigh Methodist; Westleigh St Paul's C E; Leigh St Peter's C E; Atherton St George's CE; Meadowbank; Parklee and St Michael's C E.
4. Other children that live in Westleigh, Leigh and Atherton (postcodes M46; WN7-4 and WN7-5).
5. Other children living nearest to the school.

Fred Longworth High School

1. Children in public care.
2. Children with a brother or sister who will be attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Children who live in Tyldesley, Astley and Atherton (postcodes M28; M29 and M46) and who attend the following primary schools at the time of application: Hindsford C E; Tyldesley Primary; Tyldesley St George's Central C E; Garrett Hall; Astley St Stephen's C E; St John's Mosley Common CE; Chowbent; and Atherton St Philip's CE.
4. Other children that live in Tyldesley, Astley and Atherton (postcodes M28; M29 and M46).
5. Other children living nearest to the school.

Bedford High School

1. Children in public care.
2. Children with a brother or sister who will be attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Children who live in Leigh (postcodes WN7-1; WN7-2; WN7-3; WN7-4) and who attend the following primary schools at the time of application: Bedford Hall Methodist; Christ Church Pennington C E; Higher Folds; Leigh C E Junior School; Leigh Central; and Leigh St Thomas C E.
4. Other children living in Leigh (postcodes WN7-1; WN7-2; WN7-3; WN7-4).
5. Other children living nearest to the school.

d). If the decision to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School is made, it is intended that the site will be used to establish a 14-19 Centre. The centre will deliver high quality education in the form of Diplomas for young people aged 14 and above and a range of academic and work based courses for those aged 16-19.