



**Consultation on Proposals  
for  
Hope School and College**

## Introduction

We are writing to tell you about our proposals about Hope School and College and to ask your view.

This proposal follows consultation that took place last year and Cabinet's approval that we strategically develop the borough's special school provision to:

- improve the offer to children and young people
- increase capacity of places
- develop new provision within mainstream services; and
- improving the condition of our special school buildings.

Phase 1 of the strategy is to address this at Hope School and College.

## Current provision at Hope School and College

The buildings on the current Hope School and College site at Marus Bridge are no longer big enough to accommodate the number of learners who need a place there. The buildings also have condition issues that must be addressed. We recently provided a mobile on the school site to ensure we had enough places available to meet demand. This is a temporary solution and not suitable in the long term.

We want our learners to be taught and nurtured in buildings that provide them and their teachers with the required modern space and facilities. We want to ensure that we have adequate places available for the number of children who need this specialist education. That children who live in the borough can access places close to where they live rather than having to travel to other authorities to receive their education. That we can offer outreach support for our learners in mainstream school provision.

Hope School and College is currently categorised with the Department for Education as a community special school catering for children with special needs / complex needs within an age range of 2 to 19 years. The current designated number of places is 200. The school currently accommodates 206 learners.

The number of places available is as follows:

### Primary age children

Reception*	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
16	14	16	16	21	12	16

\*this includes a small number of places for children age 2 to 3 years

## Secondary age learners 11 to 19

Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	6 <sup>th</sup> Form up to 19 Years
19	10	14	8	17	27

In addition to this, the Hope School and College site also has a mixed ability nursery school provision for 2 to 4 year olds. As well as post 19 social care provision for young adults in The Grange and The Hamlet which is off site provision.

## Our proposal for Hope School and College

We are proposing to:

- Rebuild Hope School and College to cater for children age range 2 to 19 years
- Relocate the school on the Central Park Site on Montrose Avenue, Worsley Hall, Wigan
- Increase the capacity of the Hope School and College so it can accommodate up to 230 children

It is proposed we do this with effect from September 2021.

## Nursery provision

The current nursery provides places mainly for children who live locally to the school site and is inclusive of children with SEND. At this stage, we are unable to move the nursery to the new Central Park site as the area is currently sufficient (enough places available) in the catchment area. The current nursery provision on the Hope School Marus Bridge site will remain in place until September 2021. In the meantime, we will be carrying out a sufficiency exercise which will allow us to look at opportunities to continue to provide the nursery provision on the current Hope site or elsewhere within the local community. We will be ensuring the best possible nursery offer is available within the area. We will have a limited number of 2 – 4 year old places available at the new Hope School on the Central Park site for those children who are assessed as necessary to access the facilities at the school.

## Post 19 Provision

The Hamlet based at the Three Sisters, Ashton-in-Makerfield. The Grange at the Marus Bridge site is a post 19 social care provision catering for young adults. This provision will remain in place at the Marus Bridge site until 2021 and will not be moving to the Central Park site. We are working with adult services to look at opportunities and alternatives to ensure we still provide a package of support for young adults post 19.

## **What this means for you and your children / learners age 2 to 19 years at Hope Special School and College**

If this proposal goes ahead, your child will continue to attend Hope School and College until the new school building is completed and the transition process can begin.

We will take extra care when managing transition to the new building taking into account the individual needs of your children.

### **Transport**

Transport will continue to be arranged for eligible pupils in accordance with the transport policy.

### **Consultation process**

We will hold meetings about the proposal and to answer any questions you may have.

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date, time and venue</b>	<b>Who should attend</b>
Meeting for staff	Date: 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 Time: 3.30 pm Venue: Hope School and College	All staff of Hope Special School and College
Meeting for governors	Date: 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 Time: 5.00 pm Venue: Hope School and College	All governors of Hope Special School and College
Open consultation sessions	Date: 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 Time: 6 pm And Date: 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 Time: 10.30 am Venue: Hope School and College	These sessions are open to everyone but especially to parents of children and learners attending Hope School and College  If you wish to attend one of these sessions, please contact The school either in person or by phone on 01942 824150 and you will be allocated a time to attend.

## The consultation process

The information provided in this document and at the consultation sessions should be enough to enable you to form an initial view on the proposal. However, at this stage we have not worked out every detail of the proposal as we need to listen to your views and concerns so that the detailed proposals which we make later in the process can take these into account.

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.

Please note that all responses to this consultation will be made available to Elected Members (councillors) for decision making purposes.

## Next steps

We must follow strict legal procedures if we want to reorganise schools. The timetable below shows the periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be made. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Consultation – during this time you can make your views known by <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• attending the open consultation sessions (notes will be taken);</li><li>• writing to or emailing the council; or</li><li>• completing the response form at the end of this booklet</li></ul>	28 <sup>th</sup> October to 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
Results of the consultation will be considered by Cabinet who will determine whether statutory notices are published	By 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020
Representation period – if Statutory notices are published. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the school and in another public place in the area, such as a community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to or emailing the council at the address on page 6. The address and date by which you must send written comments will also be given on the public notice.	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 4 week period
The council makes the final decision on the proposal*	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
If Cabinet decide to agree the proposal, the changes take effect	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021

\*The following can appeal against the council's decision: the Bishop of the Liverpool Archdiocese; the Liverpool Church of England Diocese; and the governors of Hope School and College.

Please note that the timetable may alter. The council or the staff at the schools will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know the new dates we are working towards.

### **Circulation list**

We are consulting the following:

- Parents of children attending Hope School and College
- Children and Learners at the school
- Governors and staff
- Other special schools in Wigan
- Trade Unions and Professional Associations
- Elected Members (councillors)
- The local Member of Parliament
- The community via the Council web site
- Voluntary groups that use the school premises

Address for correspondence

Wigan Council  
People Directorate: Children, Adults and Families  
School Organisation Team  
PO Box 100  
Wigan  
WN1 3DS

Email : [wsf@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:wsf@wigan.gov.uk)

## Proposal for Hope School and College

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below and place an **x** in the box that most closely describes your views.

a) Do you think that the booklet explains the consultation process about our proposals to:

- Rebuild Hope School and College to cater for children age range 2 to 19 years
- Relocate the school on the Central Park Site on Montrose Avenue, Worsley Hall, Wigan
- Increase the capacity of the Hope School and College so it can accommodate up to 230 children

Yes

No

b) Do you understand how and when to make your views known?

Yes

No

c) Do you think that we should continue with the proposals for Hope School and College?

Yes

No

d) If **yes**, please tell us why:

e) If **no**, please tell us why not:

f) Please tell us who you are:

A Parent of a pre-school child attending the nursery  
at Hope School and College

A parent or guardian of a learner attending Hope School and College

A parent or guardian of a child attending Hope School and College

Please return your completed form no later than 6th December 2019 to:

Wigan Council  
People Directorate: Children, Adults and Families  
School Organisation Team  
PO Box 100  
Wigan  
WN1 3DS