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| **Complete Statutory Proposal** |
| **Proposal to expand St Paul’s Catholic School Resourced Provision**  **by September 2023** |

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the ‘Making prescribed alterations to maintained schools – Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, April 2016’, that **Milton Keynes Council** **proposes to expand St Paul’s Catholic School by 24 places as a unit model with effect from September 2023.**

**Notice Date**: 7 October 2022

**School**

St Paul’s Catholic School

Phoenix Drive

Leadenhall

Milton Keynes

MK6 5EN

**Proposer**

St Paul’s Catholic School

Phoenix Drive

Leadenhall

Milton Keynes

MK6 5EN

The lead officer for this proposal is Caroline Marriott, Head of Special Educational Needs and Disability

**This consultation invites interested parties to respond to the principle of expanding the school to provide an additional 24 places as a unit model in terms of the need for additional provision and whether it is appropriate to expand St Paul’s School to meet this demand.**

**Description of alteration**

St Paul’s Catholic School is a secondary school with resourced provision for children aged 11 to 18 with communication and interaction needs. Currently there 28 commissioned places, but with 34 pupils currently accessing the provision. The proposal is to increase the number of places available in the resourced provision by 24 places in years 7 to 11. These additional places will be phased in from September 2023, with all the places expected to be required by September 2025. This increase will be possible through a dedicated 3 classroom block to enable the growth in the resourced provision at St Paul’s Catholic School. As well as increasing the overall places of communcaiton and interaction resourced provision, this will address a current gap in provision for young people who are able to access a mainstream curriculum but require a smaller environment with greater levels of support.

**Evidence of demand**

There is a growing demand across specialist provision in MK and alongside this we have seen a change in the needs of children entering the social communication departments in Milton Keynes.

We have a growing number of children and young people with Education, Health, and care plans (1641 in 2015/16 which has risen to 2276 in 2020/21) and 1.7% of children and young people are educated within specialist provision, meaning approximately 17 children and young people to every 1,000 will require specialist provision and solely from growth in Milton Keynes we need to develop a minimum of 40 places per year.

## A formal consultation on this proposal was carried out between 11 February to 8 April, a period of eight weeks. Notification of the consultation was sent to a range of stakeholders associated with the school, local authority and parent and carer groups and the consultation was also available online to give stakeholders the opportunity to submit views and discuss the proposed expansion plans in principle.

## Of the 199 responses to the consultation, 97% agreed with the proposals on communcaiton and interaction resourced provision in Milton Keynes, which included an additional 24 places and a unit provision at St Paul’s Catholic School.

**Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)**

## The objective of the proposal is to ensure that the council can continue to fulfil its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in this area. Milton Keynes City Council and the Governing Body of St Paul’s Catholic School have carefully considered the expansion and believe that it brings many potential benefits to the school and the local community including:

* *By opening additional resourced provision places at a popular school, we are addressing parental preference and providing the opportunity for more children to have a high standard of education.*
* *We are providing more choice for children who can access a mainstream curriculum but require higher levels of additional support to be successful*
* *Children in Milton Keynes with Education Health and care plans will be able to attend a local school and be part of their communities, continuing their sense of community belonging and ensure a greater consistency of education for the children of Milton Keynes*
* *Additional resources and staffing enabling greater opportunities to further develop the school as a learning community*

**Proposed stages for implementation**

It is intended for the additional places to become available in September 2023. Planning permission has been sought through the appropriate process and a decision is now awaited.

**The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area**

Milton Keynes City Council believes the expansion will have a beneficial impact on other local schools within the area. Local schools were included in the early consultation and are aware of the increasing demand for school places

**Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved**

The additional places will be funded through place and top up funding through the high needs funding block.

The total cost for providing the additional accommodation is expected to cost up to 2.6 million and is being funded through the high needs capital allocation fund that is specifically to deliver additional places and improve provision for children and young people with education health and care plans.

**How to respond to the formal consultation**

The closing date for comments is **Friday 4**

**November**

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (7 October 2022) any person may support, object or make comments by emailing

[highneedsplanning@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:highneedsplanning@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

or in writing to the council address.

A copy of this consultation can be found online at

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations)