

## Consultation Document in Retrospective

The Local Authority, Worcestershire County Council, requested an increase to pupil places at the above school from 156 to 172 which the school were able to accommodate, from September 2015, following building works to enhance spaces which included enlarging classroom spaces.

The Vale of Evesham School has an excellent reputation and is a high performing school with parents seeking admission from all parts of the county. There is a huge commitment on the part of the pupils, staff and governors to achieve the very best in all aspects of school life, recognised by successive outstanding Ofsted inspections, the latest taking place in June 2016.

Having carefully considered the issues the Governing Body believed that increasing capacity was in the best interests of the school and local community, and provided a real opportunity for further development. The Governors have been advised to undertake retrospective consultation over on these additional special educational need pupil places by the Academies Regional Delivery Group West Midlands.

### The Retrospective Consultation Process

This process has been agreed by the Governing Body and has been designed to gather as wide a range of views as possible. It is important that you have your say, as your views will be shared with the Department of Education, following the March 2016 guidance relating to making significant changes to an open academy.

Who will we consult with?

- Pupils
- Parents/Carers
- Staff and their Union Representatives
- The local Campus schools
- The Local Authority

### How can I share my views?

The Governors are happy to receive correspondence by e-mail or letter. Emails can be sent to [finance@advancetrust.org](mailto:finance@advancetrust.org) letters should be marked Private and Confidential – Significant Changes to an Open Academy (this can also be used as the subject line in an email). All responses will be considered and where questions are raised we will set up a FAQ section on the school website to answer these and share with others.

The consultation period will begin on 30 January 2017 and end on 28 February 2017. A document will be produced summarising the outcome of the consultation.

### **Rationale for the increase to pupil places**

The Governing Body's primary function is to ensure that the Vale of Evesham School delivers the best possible education to its pupils and provides support to their families.

The governors also take seriously the responsibility to serve the local community and address the increasing need for places in not only the town of Evesham but the wider Worcestershire area; this due to significant increases in new housing around both Evesham and Pershore.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Special Educational needs**

#### **Admissions**

The school continues to comply with the admissions code and SEN obligations. The Local Authority retains responsibility for pupils with Statements and/or EHCP's. The Local Authority will still have to:

- ensure reviews are carried out at least annually
- ensure the provision is in place as identified on the statement
- consider parental representations
- fund home to school transport for those pupils who qualify

As academies are classed as state funded independent schools the LA will continue to consider representations from parents/carers to attend the Vale of Evesham School just as they would any other school.

#### **What will happen in future to the school buildings**

Building works took place 2 years ago to support the increased need and no further works will be required for the capacity to take 172 pupils.

#### **What if there had been no increase from 156 day pupils to 172 places?**

The Local Authority would face a serious shortage of special school places available locally. The actual numbers on roll were already higher than 156 and the process to enable an "officially recognised" increase requires this sharing of information.

Funding has been received to meet the actual pupil numbers since September 2015.