

## **School Organisation: (Q&A).**

### **Project: Oscott Manor School – increase pupil places by expansion onto an additional site.**

Summary of the main themes from the statutory school organisation consultation and answers/responses to them.

1Q. What measures are in place in response to concerns that Oscott Manor School's post-16 provision adjacent to Erdington Hall Primary School creates safety and safeguarding risks for the primary pupils.

1A. The Post-16 pupils will not be sharing any spaces or facilities with the neighbouring primary school pupils. The Oscott Manor School building will be secured in such a way that neither their staff nor pupils from Oscott Manor would have free access to the primary school or pupils and vice versa for the primary school. The ratio of supervision on the Oscott Manor premises is one staff member for every four pupils, with direct and passive supervision throughout. Oscott Manor School has a strong ethos instilled within the pupils, "ready, respectful and safe", and have the Gold Award from UNICEF "rights respecting schools".

2Q. What measures are in place in response to concerns about traffic and parking in the area that is local to the additional site?

2A. The Council's "Home to School Transport Service" have investigated and proposed an appropriate plan that would be consistent with the needs of the Post-16 pupils. The plan is sympathetic to the local community, transport infrastructure and the neighbouring primary school e.g. arrival and departure times for pupils would be adjusted to avoid the highest congestion periods. Options for some additional off-street parking continues to be explored. Oscott Manor School will continue to review and update the school travel plan with consideration to safety and sustainability of travel practices for the additional site.

3Q. What measures are in place in response to opinions that the building/locality is unsuitable for Post16 provision?

3A. Oscott Manor School is judged by Ofsted to be Good. The staff knowledge and experience has formed the basis of using the site for this purpose. The feedback from early engagement with the current Post-16 pupils was positive and influenced the proposal. The curriculum will be planned to make the most efficient use of the additional site and the facilities at the main school site.

4Q. What measures are in place in response to concerns about the lack of immediate outdoor space on the additional site?

4A. Pupils will have access to a combination of local sites for outdoor curriculum and activities including: the main school site (Reservoir Road), community leisure facilities and local playing fields (options being explored at Jaffray Road and Spring Lane playing fields). A private and enclosed seating area at the front of the site would provide sufficient space for supervised pupils to step outside as needed (this would be in addition to planned leisure time).



5Q. What is the Council's response to concerns about the consultation process and engaging local stakeholders?

5A. The consultation process was completed in compliance with relevant statutory process and government guidance for this type of change to a school. Anyone with an interest in the proposal was welcome to send their comments in writing during the consultation period.

The proposal was publicised in the following ways:

- A public notice was in the local newspaper for anyone interested in the proposal to comment within the statutory timescales.
- Erdington Hall Primary School were notified directly and members of their staff shared the proposal information with the local community.

The local community and stakeholders of the neighbouring Erdington Hall Primary school accounted for approximately 50% of all responses received.

Engagement and meetings continue with Oscott Manor School, Erdington Primary School and Council Officers and the Local Ward Councillor to review and address any prevailing concerns.

6Q. What is the Council's response to concerns that some approval was in place and activity had already started at the additional site before the consultation had closed?

6A. Preliminary work was approved and undertaken to ensure that a suitable level of maintenance and decoration was already in place which would allow the proposal to be implemented swiftly, **if** it was approved. If the proposal was not approved, the Council would need to identify alternative solutions to provide sufficient places for pupils with EHCPs for ASC and SLCN. (The proposal was approved and cleared for implementation by the Council on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.)

7Q. If a majority of people that responded to the consultation were in objection to the proposal, why did it get approved by the Council?

7A. The consultation is not a vote and there is no number or percentage of responses that would automatically mean that the proposal is rejected or approved. There is statutory guidance that the Council must follow with this type of proposal. The consultation responses are an important consideration and a summary and copy of every response received was shared with the decision maker (responses were anonymised) and appended to the decision report for their consideration.

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