

Formal consultation outcomes for the proposal to establish seven more SEN units at primary and secondary mainstream schools across Lancashire.

Statutory proposals were published for each of these on 10th June 2021, and formal consultations were undertaken between 10th June 2021 and 16th July 2021. More specific information about the nature of each change being proposed for each school is provided in the table below.

| School name | Location | Age range | Type of special educational need | Nature of change |
|--|-----------------|------------------|---|--|
| Morecambe Bay Community Primary School | Morecambe | 4 to 11 years | Social communication and interaction | Establish an SEN unit for up to 16 places that will be phased in over time |
| Barden Primary School | Burnley | 4 to 11 years | Social communication and interaction | Establish an SEN unit for up to 16 places that will be phased in over time |
| Walverden Primary School | Nelson & Colne | 4 to 11 years | Social communication and interaction | Establish an SEN unit for up to 16 places that will be phased in over time |
| Delph Side Community Primary School | Skelmersdale | 4 to 11 years | Social communication and interaction | Establish an SEN unit for up to 8 places that will be phased in over time |
| Highfield Community Primary School | Chorley | 4 to 11 years | Social communication and interaction | Establish an SEN unit for up to 16 places that will be phased in over time |
| Seven Stars Primary School | Leyland | 4 to 11 years | Generic Learning Difficulties | Establish an SEN unit for up to 16 places that will be phased in over time |
| Ashton Community Science College | Preston | 11 to 16 years | Social communication and interaction | Establish an SEN unit for up to 16 places that will be phased in over time |

The statutory proposals for each of the schools above were published on 11th June 2021 the printed versions of the local newspapers for each school and they also appeared in the online versions of the same papers. The statutory notices were posted in a conspicuous place on each of the school premises, at the entrances to each school and on all the schools' websites.

The statutory proposals for the seven schools were sent to all schools within a five mile radius of each of the schools. The publication of the statutory proposals coincided with the start of the formal consultation period, which for each of the schools comprised:

- the circulation of the statutory proposal to the governing body and the parents of every registered pupil at the school;
- an online survey via the Lancashire County Council 'Have your say' website that was made available to the parents of children attending, the staff and governing body of the school concerned as well as another interested parties;
- access on request to a paper copy of the information provided in the online survey
- meetings for each of the schools for parents, staff, governing bodies and other interested parties were convened for each school through online video conferencing facilities. A face to face meeting was arranged for one of the seven schools.

Morecambe Bay Community Primary School

There were 15 respondents to the online survey in relation to the formal consultation and of these 86% strongly agreed or tended to agree to the proposal; 7% tended to disagree and 7% strongly disagreed. 60% of respondents were the parent or carer of a pupil currently attending the school; 7% of the respondents were the parent or carer of a future pupil at the school; 33% of respondents identified themselves as other.

The comments provided by respondents who agreed with the proposal referred to the benefits of building on existing inclusive practice in the school and the potential advantages afforded individual children. Comments relating to the potential impact of pupils attending the SEN unit on disrupting the education of existing pupils were made by the very limited number of respondents who disagreed with the proposal. One respondent commented that parents may move their children to another school.

Barden Primary School

There was one respondent to the online survey in relation to the formal consultation for this school. This respondent is a member of the local community and strongly disagreed with the proposal, no further comments were made.

Walverden Primary School

There were 11 respondents to the online survey in relation to the formal consultation for this school. Of these 91% strongly agreed or tended to agree to the proposal; 9% tended to disagree. 36% of respondents were the parent or carer of a pupil currently attending the school; 9% of respondents were a member of staff at Walverden Primary School. 18% were members of the local community and the remaining respondents were either head or deputy head teachers in other schools or identified themselves as other.

The comments provided by respondents who agreed with the proposal referred to the benefits of building on existing inclusive practice in the school and the potential advantages afforded individual children. Reference was also made to the need for more specialist provision within the local area. One comment by a respondent who disagreed with the proposal, expressed concern about the restricted capacity of the building.

Delph Side Community Primary School

There were 106 respondents to the online survey and of these 99% strongly agreed or tended to agree to the proposal; 0.5% neither agreed nor disagreed, 0.5% tended to disagree a. 19% of respondents were the parent or carer of a pupil currently attending the school, 4% of respondents were the parent or carer of a future pupil at the school ; 25% of respondents were members of staff at Delph side Community Primary School; 4% of the respondents were school governors; 36% of the respondents were members of the local community; 15% of the respondents identified themselves as other.

The comments provided by respondents who agreed with the proposal referred to the benefits of building on existing inclusive practice in the school and the potential advantages afforded individual children. Reference was also made to the need for more specialist provision within the local area and more generally.

Comments were provided by a respondent who disagreed with the proposal. These related to the unsuitability of the surrounding area for additional building and parking. The same respondent also expressed concerns about the unit being based at Delph side Community Primary School.

Highfield Community Primary School

There were 18 respondents to the online survey in relation to the formal consultation and of these 83% strongly agreed or tended to agree to the proposal; 6% neither agreed nor disagreed; 11% strongly disagreed. 39% of respondents were the parent or carer of a pupil currently attending the school; 11% of respondents were members of staff at Highfield Community Primary School. 50% of respondents identified themselves as other or a member of the local community.

The comments provided by respondents who agreed with the proposal referred to the benefits of building on existing inclusive practice in the school and the potential

advantages afforded individual children. Reference was also made to the need for more specialist provision within the local area and more generally.

A range of different comments were provided by the limited number of respondents who disagreed with the proposal. Comments relating concerns about the potential for congestion around the school site at the start and end of the school day. One respondent commented on how local schools would make referrals to the units and the cost implications. One respondent commented on the funding school already received through Chorley Inclusion Support Service (CISS) not being value for money.

Seven Stars Primary School

There were 30 respondents to the online survey in relation to the formal consultation and of these 90% strongly agreed or tended to agree to the proposal; 3% neither agreed or disagreed and 7% strongly disagreed. 27% of respondents were the parent or carer of a pupil currently attending the school; 13% of respondents were members of staff at Seven Stars Primary School. 50% identified themselves as other and the remaining respondents were either a school governor or members of the local community.

The comments provided by respondents who agreed with the proposal referred to the benefits of building on existing inclusive practice in the school and the potential advantages afforded individual children. Reference was also made to the need for more specialist provision within the local area and more generally.

From the very limited number of respondents who disagreed with the proposal. One respondent commented on the level of special educational need of the children who will be attending the unit. One respondent commented 'not good idea'.

Ashton Community Science College

There were 8 respondents to the online survey in relation to the formal consultation and of these 100% strongly agreed to the proposal. 12.5% of respondents were the parents or carers of a pupil currently attending the school; 12.5% of respondents were members of staff at Ashton Community Science College; 62.5% were school governors and the remaining respondent identified themselves an educational professional.

The comments provided by respondents who agreed with the proposal referred to the benefits of building on existing inclusive practice in the school, generally about a community school supporting the needs of the community and offering a continuum of provision which meets parents and young people's wishes. Reference was also made to the potential for this provision to 'free up' capacity in maintained specialist schools.