



Walsall Council

Castle Business & Enterprise College

Proposal to significantly enlarge and alter the designation of

Castle Business & Enterprise College

from

1 September 2018

Consultation Document

November 2017

Proposal to significantly enlarge and alter the designation of Castle Business & Enterprise College From 1 September 2018

Introduction

Walsall Council is proposing to significantly enlarge and alter the designation of Castle Business & Enterprise College from 1 September 2018.

The formal consultation period starts on Thursday 2 November 2017 and ends at 5:00 pm on Thursday 30 November 2017. The final decision on the proposal will be taken by the Council's Cabinet on Wednesday 13 December 2017.

Castle Business & Enterprise College

Castle Business & Enterprise College is a community special school that provides places for children and young people aged 7-19. The principal type of SEN provision is described as MLD – Moderate Learning Difficulty, though the proposal is for a re-designation of the type of school so that it more accurately reflects that range of special educational needs that are provided for at the school. The school admits children from across the borough of Walsall, with a small number from neighbouring authorities. Currently, the school's published admission number is 100 – the total number of places at the school. (Unlike mainstream schools the 'PAN' refers to the total capacity of the school rather than the number up to which the school must admit to its admission year). The school is however able to safely admit around 120 pupils a year, places commissioned and funded by the local authority.

What is the proposal?

It is proposed to increase the number of places at the school by 30 places for children of statutory school age from 100 to 130 from 1 September 2018. The increased admission number and school intake can be in any year of the year groups.

The school's current designation is that of 'Business and Enterprise College'. The proposal is to change the designation to that of 'Communication, Cognition and Learning' to better reflect the provision it makes:

"At this time of significant and exciting change and expansion it is time to move away from the College status, as this does not reflect the current ethos and standing of our school. We are an 'Outstanding' School and wish to be identified as such and would like the consultation to take this into consideration".

The school would be re-named Castle School.

Why do we want to do this?

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available in the local area. Additional places are needed at Castle School in order to meet an increasing demand for specialist school places in the local area. The school is technically full and there are projections of an increase in demand in the area for the type of specialist school place that Castle provides.

The total school age population of Walsall (in all schools) will continue to increase over the next 10 years – it is increasing by just under 1% a year, adding around 400 young people a year to the school age population.

There is a *pro rata* increase in the number of young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Around 15% of children have some form of special educational need. In Walsall, 3.5% have significant special educational needs and have either a statement or an Education Health and Care plan. Whilst the vast majority of children with SEN are in mainstream schools, the general increase in the school age population alone is enough to justify over 100 additional specialist places.

There has been an increase in the numbers of young people identified as having some form of SEND and the marked growth in particular types of SEND, such as ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) - an increase of 15% over a 5 year period- and other more complex special needs.

No local authority is or ever will be self sufficient in its SEN provision. However, typically, there are over 200 children and young people a year going out of borough to school placements in other authority areas. Many are the nearest appropriate placement in neighbouring areas; others are in regionally based specialist provision, while around 70 or so a year are in independent specialist provision. Placement costs are typically higher than those in-borough, even more so when transport costs are added.

There is a decline nationally in the proportion of pupils with a statement or Education Health and Care plan who are in mainstream school settings.

Also nationally, the Department for Education, forecast a significant (30%+) increase in the number of special school places that will be required in England up to 2024.

The proposed expansion of Castle School would provide an additional 30 places for children with a range of special educational needs at Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 across the Borough.

The re-designation of the school as ‘Communication, Cognition and Learning’ better reflects types of special educational needs met by the school-

Why would this be good for Castle School?

The school’s funding would increase proportionally and in line with the increase in pupil numbers, as a consequence additional teaching and support staff could then be employed. There would also be additional finance available to the school, to fund equipment and provide extra curriculum resources.

How would this affect pupils at Castle School?

The impact on existing pupils would be minimal. New classes would be created or there may be a small increase in numbers in some of the existing class groups. The building scheme provides for improvements across the school not just a new classroom extension.

How would this affect staff at Castle School?

As pupil numbers increased, the school would receive additional revenue funding, to finance the additional staff required and provide additional teaching resources. An increase in the number

of staff would allow the school to review the organisational structure of the school and share the management and curriculum responsibilities across a larger group of staff.

Will there be any changes to the school building?

Feasibility studies have been completed at the school to determine where the school could best locate an expansion. Four options were produced. The preferred option from the feasibility study is to create 30 additional places through classroom extensions and/or new classroom blocks, with covered walkways built between the teaching blocks at the school. Each option was for an extension at different areas around the school and all were of a very similar cost. The school’s preferred option is one that sees most of the new accommodation being built on the south side of the site.

Any development on this scale would be subject to and would require planning permission.

How can I make my views known?

You can make your initial views on the proposal known to us before the end of the formal consultation period by completing the response form at the end of this document and returning it to the address given below. The formal consultation period will start Thursday 2 November and a consultation meeting(s) will be held at the school.

The consultation meeting will be held on Thursday 23 November at 2.30 pm at Castle Business & Enterprise College

Please complete the consultation response form. We do want to hear your views. It will not be possible to send individual replies to consultation responses; however, issues raised will be included in a report on the outcome of the consultation, which will be considered by Walsall Council (Cabinet) on Wednesday 13 December 2017.

All responses should be received by **5:00 pm on Thursday 30 November 2017**. A report on the response to the consultation will be considered by Walsall Council (Cabinet) at the next available Cabinet meeting which is Wednesday 13 December 2017.

What happens next?

The timetable below is provisional and is dependent upon decisions at each stage; however, every effort will be made to adhere to it.

Thursday 2 November 2017	Statutory notice published, 4 weeks representation period follows
Thursday 2 November 2017	Consultation starts (4 weeks)
Thursday 30 November 2017	Consultation ends at 5:00 pm
Wednesday 13 December 2017	Walsall Council (Cabinet) considers responses to consultation and decides whether to agree to (determine) the proposal
End of December/ early January	Notification of final decision to parents, staff and governors

Where can I get more information?

More information is available from:

Claire Goss, Head of SENDI (Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and Inclusion), Tel: 01922 655761; Email Claire.goss@walsall.gov.uk)

Philip Wells, SEND projects, Tel 01992 655897; Email Philip.wells@walsall.gov.uk or from

Ms Alex Haigh, School Organisation Manager, Admissions and Pupil Place Planning (Tel: 01922 652583; email alex.haigh@walsall.gov.uk).

✉ Admissions and Pupil Place Planning
Zone 2E Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall
WS1 1TP

Where do I send my consultation response?

Consultation responses should be returned to Alex Haigh by 5:00pm on Thursday 30 November 2017. You can email or post your response directly to Alex at the addresses given above, or you can hand your response in to Castle School by the end of the school day on **Thursday 30 November 2017**.

This document is available in large print.
To obtain a copy, please telephone Alex Haigh (01922) 652583.



Walsall Council

Children's Services – Education

CASTLE BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

Proposal to significantly enlarge and alter the designation of

CASTLE BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

from

1 September 2018

Consultation response form

Walsall Council is proposing to significantly enlarge and alter the designation of Castle Business and Enterprise College, from 1 September 2018.

A consultation document has been published and is available on the Walsall Council website – www.walsall.gov.uk where it can be accessed through the Admissions/School Organisation section.

A paper copy of the document can also be obtained from Alex Haigh, Walsall Council, Zone 2E, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1TP or Castle Business and Enterprise College, Odell Road, Leamore, Walsall, WS3 2ED

All interested parties are invited to make their views known, by using this form to comment on the proposal.

The form should be returned by **5:00 pm on Thursday 30 November 2017** to:-

Alex Haigh
School Organisation Manager
Walsall Council
Zone 2E, Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall
WS1 1TP

You can also send the form by email to Alex at alex.haigh@walsall.gov.uk you can also hand the consultation response form into Castle School before the end of the school day on Thursday 30 November 2017.

Please note that it will not be possible to reply individually to consultation responses. However, issues raised will be included in a report on the outcome of consultation, which will be considered by Walsall Council (Cabinet).

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from 1 September 2018**

Consultation Response Form

It will help us to analyse consultation responses, if you would indicate your interest in the proposal:

Castle Business & Enterprise College:

- Pupil
- Parent/carer of a pupil
- Governor
- Member of staff

Other

Please state your interest

1. Do you support the proposal to enlarge and alter the designation of Castle Business & Enterprise College?

- Yes
- Unsure
- No

2. Do you have any comments on the proposal to enlarge and alter the designation of Castle Business & Enterprise College?

Comment:

This form should be returned by **5:00 pm on Thursday 30 November 2017** to: Alex Haigh,
Zone 2E Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1TP or by email to
alex.haigh@walsall.gov.uk

Thank you for completing this consultation response form.