



Proposal to increase the number of places at Mill Green Special School from 93 to 106 for 2020-21, 115 for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 130 for 2023-24 onwards

This proposal provides relevant information in accordance with the *School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013*.

School Details:

Mill Green Special School
Lansbury Avenue
St Helens
WA9 1BU

Local Authority Details:

St Helens Council
People's Services
Atlas House
Corporation Street
St. Helens
WA9 1LD

Description of the proposal:

St Helens Council, acting as Local Authority, has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available in the local area for our children, including those with special educational needs.

Mill Green is a community special school that educates students with a range of learning needs, including severe and profound learning difficulties between the ages of 14 and 19.

St Helens Council is proposing to permanently expand Mill Green to allow an additional 13 pupils for the 2020-21 academic year - the current capacity is 93 and the proposed capacity will be 106. With a further increase to 115 for 2021-22, 2022-23 and rising to 130 for 2023-24 onwards.

Evidence of Demand:

Additional places are needed at Mill Green in order to meet an increasing demand for special school places in the Borough. If no action is taken, there will be insufficient places for pupils transitioning from Lansbury Bridge Special School.

Using the January 2020 School Census data, the projected admissions to Mill Green based on Lansbury Bridge pupils transitioning at Year 10 are as follows:

Academic Year	Year Group					Total
	10	11	12	13	14	Total
2020	22	20	16	26	22	106
2021	24	22	20	16	26	108
2022	32	24	22	20	16	114
2023	27	32	24	22	20	125
2024	26	27	32	24	22	131
2025	18	26	27	32	24	127

The Objective of the Proposal:

The proposed expansion in pupil capacity at Mill Green will:

- meet the demand from Lansbury Bridge parents who wish their children to transition to Mill Green in Year 10;
- ensure good educational standards are maintained – Mill Green is a popular and successful school with strong leadership and governance. The School was rated as “Outstanding” by Ofsted in November 2018.
- the proposal is both viable and affordable as it saves on more costly out of borough provision.

Effect on other schools in the area:

Due to the age and type of special educational need pupil for which Mill Green Special School was established, the proposed expansion should not have a detrimental effect on other educational institutions in the area.

Site Arrangements:

Any capital investment in the School building will be subject to consultation with the governing body of Mill Green. It is anticipated, however, that this will not be significant as the Council has already invested £330k in the re purposing of the Rising Stars Nursery as a post 16 base for Mill Green Learners.

Project's Costs and Funding:

The annual running costs of the school are likely to increase as a result of the proposed change in pupil places. The annual school budget share that the school receives via the Council's school funding formula will increase to reflect the increase in pupil places. The funding for this will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant, which is the ringfenced money that the government makes available to fund school operating costs.

Implementation:

The proposal would be implemented from the 2020-21 academic year onwards.

Details of how to respond to the proposal:

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by 16th October, 2020), any person wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objecting to, the proposal may do so by sending them to:

- a) Trish Barton,
School Organisation & Forward Planning Team,
People's Services,
Atlas House,
Corporation Street,
St Helens,
WA9 1LD.
Tel: 01744 671026
Email: trishbarton@sthelens.gov.uk

All comments will receive an acknowledgement and will be incorporated into the final summary report on this decision.