



Figure 1 Concept art by ADP Architects

Section A - Introduction

Worcester is a growing City in the heart of the West Midlands, well connected by road and rail to the rest of the UK. As a result, the City has seen its population increase over the last decade, and with it, the need for additional school places.

The number of children seeking a year seven place in Worcester has been consistently increasing over the last decade. Despite (o)-3 q0 637.54 Td.f76nsf (sing)-5 u654.1 Td[eu 12 Ta)-3 (ss)8

will in turn release pressure from existing schools to support pupils from new housing proposed around the City. The school will be located on land at Newtown Road on the eastern edge of Worcester, identified on the map below:

Figure 2

agree an Admissions Policy. Please note that the preferred Academy Sponsor will need to prepare and submit this to the DfE promptly once notified. Please refer to the external guidance on Admissions for further information of requirements¹.

It is expected that the Academy Trust will be part of the co-ordinated admissions scheme of the Local Authority from the year of opening, unless exceptional reasons arise. This is to ensure we are able to work closely on arrangements for opening, and to ensure the process is clear and streamlined for families wishing to apply for a place at the school. All endeavours must be made by the preferred Academy Sponsor to be a part of the co-ordinated admissions scheme from the first year of admissions to provide clarity and consistency for applications.

Transport

The school will be accessible through walking and cycling routes from the community it serves and will be close to major bus routes. A Traffic Impact Assessment will be carried out by the Council as part of the planning process for the build project. The appointed Academy Sponsor will then be required to develop a School Travel Plan encouraging safe travel to school which promotes walking and cycling.

Facilities

It is expected that the chosen Academy Sponsor will build an ongoing holistic understanding of their pupils and their needs, and facilities must reflect an ethos of inclusivity. The Academy Sponsor must have an Inclusivity Policy which highlights ways in which this will be achieved.

It will be expected that the Academy Sponsor will have a strong IT Policy that seeks to utilise technology to support inclusivity and accessibility for all pupils, including children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) including children with Dyslexia or hearing impairment.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389813/Free_School_Admissions_Guidance.pdf.

Moreover, the management of other facilities such as bathrooms and staff facilities must link to the Inclusivity Policy of the school in particular gender and self-identity.

The community use of core facilities such as sports halls and libraries can have a positive effect on the local community, support in community cohesion and integration, and enable these facilities to be used most effectively. It is expected that the Sponsor will establish a Community Use Agreement to ensure facilities are available and accessible for community use. Fees and charges for the use of such facilities must be in line with other facilities in the City. A link to the Worcester City Council fees and charges is available here: [Worcester City Council Fees and Charges 2020-2021](#)

Section C – Vision

Accessibility and Inclusivity

It is expected that the chosen Academy Sponsor must have a strong ethos and evidence of effective practice to ensure inclusivity of all pupils and staff, and ensure all pupils are able to access the curriculum, quality first teaching (QFT) and high-quality teaching

will include proactive working as well as fulfilling statutory duties for pupils with SEND (including those receiving SEND Support and those with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs)).

In addition to provision for children and young people (CYP) with an EHCP who have a diagnosis of autism through the Mainstream Autism Base, the chosen sponsor will be expected to evidence a strong approach to supporting pupils with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and those with social communication difficulties in particular supporting them to access mainstream lessons and ensuring provision is available to all pupils.

The school must actively engage with the Worcestershire Children First (WCF) Vulnerable Learners team to support the needs of vulnerable pupils and must be compliant with all legislation focused on this cohort of CYP.

The school must engage with the Virtual School to meet the needs of LAC pupils where needed and must be compliant with all legislation focused on this cohort of CYP.

The school must have a behaviour policy that does not discriminate against pupils with SEND or vulnerable learners and achieves good outcomes for these CYP in line with evidence-based practice.

The school must pay full regard to understanding and implementing good practice from the national context such as the:

- SEND Code of Practice 2015 [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/401892/SEND_Code_of_Practice_2015.pdf)

The school must commit to implementing reasonable adjustments so pupils with SEND can be an active and valued part of the school community and access learning, which will include but not be limited to effective differentiation of the curriculum.

The school must meet the parent/carers of CYP with SEND regularly to develop school and parent/carer relationships and agree support/outcomes for pupils to ensure continual integration and access to education and school life. The coproduction of policy and practice for CYP with SEND alongside families will be key to effective provision.

The school will effectively delegate Pupil Premium funding and track impact on pupils.

The school must have a SEND Governor in place – the SEND Governor will be provided with ongoing support & provided with Governor training.

The school will utilise the Early Help pathway to identify CYP at the earliest stage for support and complete an assessment in line with WCF Community Early Help assessment processes, including the completion of a Supporting Families assessment and follow WCF processes for reporting.

An Early Help offer must be integrated onto the school website/s to enhance support for parent/carers, CYP and their families.

Pupil participation in decision making that directly affects them is critical, and it will be expected that the school will have a formal structure in place which allows pupils, including those students who have SEND and/or are vulnerable learners, to have a real say in issues that affect them and know that their opinions count. We will expect the Academy Sponsor to, as a minimum, have a School Council which actively encourages participation W*nBT/F5 155.66 3dli1841.93(r)JTJETQq0.000008871 0 595.32 841.92

An ethos of pupil and staff wellbeing throughout policy and practice, with evidence of engagement and commitment to National and Local schemes, initiatives and opportunities to promote wellbeing and prevent mental ill health.

A clear Policy which documents the approach to ensuring and improving pupil and staff health and wellbeing.

Safe spaces and quiet areas accessible to pupils for counselling sessions or to support with emotional regulation or sensory needs.

Development opportunities for staff and a process for ensuring wellbeing is

A staffing structure that will deliver the planned curriculum within the expected

using the previous October pupil census. There is also a national Pupil Growth Fund (PGF) allocated by the DfE based upon their national formula, which is designed to support the revenue cost implications of approved growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need and revenue costs for new schools.

The funding has been based on the current funding structures in place as at the time of the Academy Sponsor competition. However, it is anticipated that by school opening date, the DfE will have implemented their full 'hard' NFF. The implications of this on the Schools Block DSG and PGF are currently unknown but therefore the below may be subject to change by the time of school opening.

So, taking this into account, in terms of pre-opening funding and on-going revenue funding, this will be a call on the allocation of the PGF received by WCC as part of its Schools Block DSG. The pre-opening funding will be £100k to support the set-up costs for the key appointments e.g. Headteacher, School Business Manager etc from the start of the Spring Term prior to the school being opened in the following September. Based upon the 4FE model (120 pupils in KS3), using the approved WCC PGF criteria on the current secondary MFL of £5,415 per pupil, will require an annual commitment of £0.65m for 5 years from the PGF to support the school's growth in Year 7. This is indicative funding and is subject to Worcestershire Schools Forum approval and any changes from the DfE arising from any

As prescribed by section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 and section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Local Authority must assess the potential impact of any new school on existing educational provision in the area. The Local Authority must also consider whether the new school will impact on any groups with protected characteristics. A full impact assessment has been undertaken on the proposal and the Academy Sponsor will be involved in assessing such impact as the school is built and delivered.

Section H – Application Process and Contact Details

Proposers *must* be a DfE approved Academy Sponsor. If you are not already an approved Academy Sponsor you will need to apply separately through the formal Academy Sponsor approval process and this must be completed by the application deadline.

You must contact the DfE about becoming an Academy Sponsor before submitting a proposal and you can find out more information at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sponsor-an-academy>

Bids must be submitted by 22nd April 2022. Applicants must take account of the relevant criteria in Annex C of the free school presumption guidance and expectations outlined in Section B-G of this document.

All forms can be downloaded from www.worcestershire.gov.uk/newsecondaryschool

Please submit your application by the submission deadline via the In-Tend system.

NB: The Local Authority led free school presumption is a different route to the DfE's free school programme. Further information about how to establish a new school via the DfE's free school programme route can be found at: [Setting up a free school - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/setting-up-a-free-school).

Section M - Timeline for Provider Competition

Start of Free School Academy Sponsor Competition – 14/03/2022

Application deadline – 22/04/2022

Recommendation shared with the Regional Schools Commissioner – June 2022

The Regional School Commissioner (RSC) for West Midlands, on behalf of the Secretary of State, will then consider the Local Authority assessments and recommendations before deciding which proposer is in the best position to take forward the new school. The RSC

will inform the Local Authority and the successful proposer of its decision, and the Local Authority will inform any unsuccessful proposers.