



CABINET MEMBER DECISION
30 August 2023

**APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PUPILS AT FORT
ROYAL SPECIAL SCHOOL, RIGBY HALL SPECIAL SCHOOL AND
WYRE FOREST SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**

Relevant Cabinet Member
Cllr Tracey Onslow (Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education)

Relevant Officer
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Local Members
Cllr Kit Taylor - Bromsgrove (Rigby Hall Special School)

residents of the proposals, and WCF Officers notified local members and published the proposals in the local papers. A copy of the full proposals can be found at Appendix 2.

4. In accordance with the Authority delegated by the by the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education is authorised to take all decisions on behalf of the Executive relating to prescribed alterations to maintained schools including school places in respect of which objection to the Public Notice or other proposal is received. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility may make the final decision whether to implement the change or not following the Publication of the Statutory Proposal(s) and Notice having regard to any representations. This authority was endorsed by Cabinet in January 2020 and can be found in the background papers.

Responses Received

5. Five (5) responses were received during this representation period; the responses were from parent/carers and local residents of which all objected / had concerns to the proposals. Three (3) responses related to Fort Royal school and two (2) to Rigby Hall school. No responses were received relating to Wyre Forest proposal.

6. The key reasons for concern / objection to the proposals related to:

- a) the existing traffic and parking at Fort Royal and Rigby school opening and leaving times, and concerns that the proposal would create more traffic and further exacerbate this; and how emergency vehicles could pass through the parked cars outside the school(s);
- b) Schools already being under pressure and not thriving with increased pupil numbers; and other infrastructure provision; and
- c) The support available to the current pupils at Rigby school; including training for teachers and teaching assistants.

7. The objections / concerns have been considered and responses include:

- a) the existing traffic and parking at Fort Royal and Rigby school opening and leaving times, and concerns that the proposal would create more traffic and further exacerbate this; and how emergency vehicles could pass through the parked cars outside the schoo

- ◁ The possible impact on traffic and parking has already been considered and mitigated as part of this proposal in the following ways:
 - The school have staggered scheduled start and end times so that they do not extend the period of disruption for residents; and
 - Where possible, families are encouraged to park further away from the schools and walk.

- b) Schools already being under pressure and not thriving with increased pupil numbers; and other infrastructure provision;
 - ◁ Fort Royal and Rigby Hall have increased in physical capacity through adaptations to the existing buildings or additional accommodation being provided over the last 3 - 5 years. Wyre Forest school has gained additional space through St Johns Primary School reception and Year 1 pupils relocating to the St Johns school site.

