



Worcestershire County Council

Foxlydiate First School

Background Information and School Specification



Section A - Introduction

where a local authority identifies the need to establish a new school it must, in the first instance, seek proposals to establish an Academy. Worcestershire County Council has identified the need to establish a new First School in Foxlydiate to open in 2027. The school

NB:

free school programme route can be found at: [Opening a free school or maths school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [Setting up a free school -](#)

Figure 1 Map demonstrating the location of the proposed First School

Admissions Arrangements

The school will have a published admission number of 90 places. The overall capacity of the school will be 450 (three forms of entry from Years Reception to 4) plus nursery.

The school will need to cater to local demand, and therefore admissions arrangements will be expected to align with that goal. The Academy Trust will be required to abide by the Codes of Practice on admissions and admissions appeals and participate in the Local -ordinated schemes for admissions and the In-Year Fair Access Protocol.

It is expected that the school oversubscription criteria will ensure that Children and Young People (CYP) living within the local community of the school will have priority for places, therefore it is the preference of the Local Authority that, after children in care and those previously in care, priority will be given to siblings of pupils at the school, children of staff and then subsequent allocations based on distance.

Section C – Vision

Accessibility and Inclusivity

It is expected that the chosen Academy Trust 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. This must include making appropriate reasonable adjustments for pupils with SEND, vulnerable learners and Looked after Children. This must be linked to facilities management, the Inclusivity Policy and practice, and behaviour management. The school must fulfil its duty to have the relevant SEND Information Report, SEND Policy, Accessibility Policy and other

During engagement with parents and the community, ensuring that the school is responsive

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 Trust to, as a minimum, have a School Council which actively encourages participation and engagement in democracy, local and global citizenship and accountability. Further best practice for pupil participation can be found here: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-councils-and-pupil-participation>

Health and Wellbeing

It is expected that the Academy Trust will have a strong approach to ensuring the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff, with consideration of both physical and mental health.

Recent engagement with parent/carers and the community emphasised the importance of the Academy Trust having a strong approach to supporting pupil and staff mental health, reducing stress and anxiety, and ensuring pupils develop the skills to thrive after leaving school. We will expect the chosen Academy Trust to have:

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.

The Trust would have a clear plan and strategy for engaging in ongoing training to ensure Mental health and Wellbeing remained a key priority for Leaders in relation to staff, pupils and community members.

A designated pastoral and mental health lead.

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 prioritised.

An aim to promote active travel journeys to and from school and nursery

The design of the school can also support the health and wellbeing of students and staff, contributing to increased performance and reduced absenteeism. In particular, the integration of green spaces within and around a school improves the mental development

of CYP, increases students' memory, and improves attention span. There is ample opportunity on this site to integrate green infrastructure into school life and we will expect the approved Academy Trust to consider the use of all facilities where possible to improve the health and wellbeing of staff and students.

Section D – Education Plan

Approach to Education

The chosen Academy Trust must have a strong approach to education and be able to evidence:

Section E – Capacity and Capability

It must be demonstrable that the Academy Trust has the resource and experience to successfully provide early years and first school provision in line with this specification. This must include:

Strong evidence of education outcomes across existing school/s.

A demonstrable record of strong financial management across the Trust and individual school/s.

Evidence and proven learning of how the operation and policies of school/s in the

The Academy Trust will be expected to sign and adhere to the Worcestershire Provider Agreement on an annual basis, otherwise funding for the Nursery pupils will not be available.

The funding has been based on the current funding structures in place as at the time of the Academy Trust competition. However, it is anticipated that by the 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.

It is anticipated that the pre-opening funding required to support the set-up costs for the key