

THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE KIDDERMINSTER BASE OF THE BEACON PRIMARY PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

CONSULTATION RESPONSES REPORT

Public Consultation

A public consultation was held between 22nd March and 3rd May 2023. In total the number of responses received were eight (8) through the online survey. Six respondents were staff members, one was a parent carer, one was a representative member from another school.

The Head Teacher met with all existing pupil's parent carers to discuss the proposed change, the Head Teacher documented questions and queries from the parent carers and provided these as consultation responses. These have also been collated as part of the responses.

The 8 online survey respondents did not support the proposal.
70% of parent carers also did not support the proposal.
30% of parent carers did not make comment.

Reasons cited for not supporting the proposal:

The themes of questions or concerns included:

1. Not understanding why the provision was to close when performing well and rated good by Ofsted
2. How the new school will meet the needs of their child
3. Why the staff and head teacher cannot continue to teach their child
4. Will their child stay in the new school or be moved?
5. Their child's outcomes and progress
6. Transport options

Worcester Children First (WCF) respond to the concerns below: -

Why is the Beacon Kidderminster provision closing?

The reasons for the proposal to close the Kidderminster base of The Beacon PRU are because the Lea Street building where the Beacon PRU Kidderminster is situated is no longer required for alternative provision as the new Free School will be able to accommodate primary provision and would require significant financial investment for any further educational use.

A new Free School (Unity Academy) will open from September 2023 and provide education for children who are permanently excluded and provide an outreach and preventative provision to minimise exclusion across Wyre Forest.

The Beacon School main site at Redditch will remain open and continue their good work as considered by Ofsted in 2022 for children who are permanently excluded from Bromsgrove and Redditch areas and work with mainstream schools in the Bromsgrove and Redditch District to provide support, capacity and skills development to prevent children from being excluded.

How will the new school meet the needs of their child?

Unity Academy will offer: -

- A broad and balanced curriculum using the Rivers curriculum;
- Daily Maths and English;
- Reading as a focus for every child;
- High quality teaching in groups of up to 8 children;
- Highly experienced staff to support SEMH needs of children on site; and
- An experienced SENCo and SEN support for all children

Why the staff and head teacher cannot continue to teach their child

The staff working directly with the pupils at Beacon Kidderminster will transfer to The Rivers and it is then up to the management of Unity and The Rivers to deploy them as they feel necessary. The Headteacher was not in scope for TUPE (transfer) because they currently lead both Beacon sites at Kidderminster and Redditch and will remain as Headteacher of the Beacon PRU Redditch.

Will their child stay in the new school or be moved

The children currently accessing their education from the Beacon Kidderminster base will either transition to secondary school as normal phase transfer or according to the assessment of need, return to mainstream school before the end of this academic year, according to the child level plan for appropriate education (not dependent on any changes) or transition to the new school (Unity Academy) with a transition plan involving the child, the family, the new school and Beacon school.

Their child's outcomes and progress

An annual analysis of education outcomes is undertaken by Worcestershire Children First, alongside ongoing reviews of Ofsted inspections in order to identify trends in data and progress of schools. Where applicable this informs the identification and signposting of additional support available to schools. Maintained schools are further supported by a School Improvement Advisor.

Transport Options

Children that are eligible and currently accessing school transport will continue to do so.

Consultation Event

A collective decision was taken by senior Worcestershire Children First officers with the Head Teacher and Governors to not hold a public consultation event but offered individual meetings with all existing parent carers and a team meeting with all staff. Other stakeholders were contacted directly with the consultation information and online survey.

Final Decision

Following the public informal consultation, a Report will be submitted to the Cabinet Member with responsibility (CMR) for Education, for a decision whether to formally publish the Public Notice and begin a 4-week representation period. If no objection is received in this period, then the final decision will be made by the Director of Children's Services in accordance with

the agreed delegation. Should objections be received, all representations will be reviewed, and a final decision made by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education.