



Department
for Education

Warwickshire County Council Alternative Provision Free School

**Seeking proposals to establish a
Alternative Provision Free School**

Warwickshire County Council

Sept-Dec 2019

SECTION ONE: OVERVIEW

1. Summary

The Department for Education (DfE) is working collaboratively with selected Local Authorities to establish new schools that fit within the local authorities' strategies for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those requiring alternative provision. This opportunity is intended to identify and meet untapped demand for special and alternative provision free schools as a supplement to LAs' existing resources. If a strong proposal is received by a trust that both the Local Authority and the Secretary of State wish to take forward, DfE will provide capital funding and start-up grants subject to value for money assessments.

This document sets out the key information regarding the schools that Warwickshire County Council will be establishing alongside DfE. Trusts should use the information within this document, alongside the engagement events, to determine whether they would like to apply to open the school, and to base their application on.

2. Key dates

24 July 2018	Special and AP free schools wave is launched – the guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools is published.
	Announcement of successful LA bids. Competitions in successful areas subsequently open.
	Deadline for proposers to submit applications in successful areas.
	Warwickshire County Council and DfE to evaluate submitted applications and interview trusts
	Approved applications announced.

3. Contact details and further information

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss your application, please contact:

Name: Hayley Good

Job title: Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Education and Early Years

Email: Hayleygood@warwickshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01926 743013

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss the site, please contact:

Name: Hayley Good

Job title: Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Education and Early Years

Email: Hayleygood@warwickshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01926 743013

Please find below the contact details of the Regional Schools Commissioner:
[Include RSC details for that region]

RSC: Andrew Warren

RSC's office: West Midlands

Email: Andrew.Warren@education.gsi.gov.uk

4. Warwickshire County Council Context and Planning

Warwickshire County Council has no Pupil Referral Units (PRU) for either primary or secondary school aged students. Currently WCC schools work very positively together to avoid permanent exclusions by firstly engaging in the managed move process, which is underpinned by an agreed managed move protocol. However when the managed move process has been exhausted and any student requires a more bespoke provision either as 6 day provision, short stay, part time (PT) or full time (FT), this is commissioned from private alternative provision.

In 2017/18 across WCC (North, Central, East and South) there was a need of 227 FTE AP places. Out of these 227 FTE places 77 of these places were needed to support permanently excluded students. The remaining 150 FTE places required were to support students referred directly from schools who remained on the schools rolls. The schools commission the FTE AP places by paying a top up from their own school budgets, with the schools being supported with these AP costs from the WCC ABP funding pot i.e. the AP is jointly commissioned.

Commissioning Schools : The following schools will be the feeder schools and have committed to commissioning a total of 86 FTE places from the Free school.

Ash Green School, Ash Lawns School, Aylesford School, Avon Valley School, Bilton School, Champion School, Etone Academy, George Elliot School, Harris School, Hartshill School, Higham Lane School, Henley in Arden, Kingsbury School, Kineton School, Kings Edwards VI Grammar School, Nicholas Chamberlaine School, North Leamington Academy, Nuneaton Academy, Myton School, Polesworth School, Queen Elizabeth School, Rugby Free School, Shipston School, Southam Academy, Stratford Grammar School, Stratford Upon Avon School, The Coleshill School and Trinity School **(See letters of support attached to this submission).**

In 2018 all the funding for the ABP partnerships was recentralised into the local authority and the Local Authority will be releasing all the required funding to cover the place funding from the ABP DSG funding (£600K) and the schools will commission the top up as per their letters of support (up to £890K).

Gap in AP provision in Warwickshire.

There are two registered providers who have combined PANs of 38 FTE placements. The remaining provision available is from unregistered providers who can only provide part time provision that when combined only offers 60 FTE placements (total FTE available 98 FTE). However these providers also commission places to other Local Authorities (e.g. Coventry, Birmingham and Leicestershire). This results in fewer places being available for Warwickshire students. In total the actual number of FTE places available for Warwickshire students is approximately 70 FTE.

This means that we have had a deficit of approximately 150 FTE places in WCC. The provision does not meet the demand preventing us from ensuring that all the students who need AP get their full entitlement.

Transition

When young people are permanently excluded from secondary schools, WCC ABP co-ordinators work with the schools to access 6 day provision from the existing AP available. This provision is not always available when we need it on day 6. Where providers are full we have to ask those schools with learning support units to support day 6 provision. This in turn places the schools under additional pressure and when it comes to re-admitting students who have been in AP back into schools there can be delays e.g. on average it takes 12 to 18 months to get permanently excluded students back into schools from the AP world.

The profile of the students who will be referred will be in-line with Warwickshire local authority Fair Access Protocol i.e.

- Students not on any school roll who fall into the category of “Hard to Place” as outlined in the Fair Access Protocol.
- Students on roll at a school who are at risk of immediate permanent exclusion.
- Students on roll at a school where all other interventions including managed moves have failed and it is now deemed appropriate that alternative provision is considered.
- Some of these students may be students with additional needs but have not had a statement issued e.g. ASD, SEMH.

The purpose of the placement will meet the needs of 11-16 year old students that

a) Provide short stay programmes (6-12 weeks) for students who may have been permanently excluded and are identified a new school place and following some re-orientation programmes are supported from the Free School to re-integrate back into mainstream schools. We would expect that the Free School provide outreach re-integration support for the students returning back into schools.

b) We also recognise that there may be some students for whom the mainstream curriculum model is not engaging them and a part time programme of vocational options (1 or 2 days a week, this is where some other AP provision can be commissioned to widen the curriculum offer). This will enable students to remain engaged in their mainstream education and prevent permanent exclusions.

c) Likewise we also recognise that there may be other students who are able to access GCSE's however a smaller setting is required to engage them. These students would access full time provision at the Free School.

Based on IDACI, 28% of children attending schools in Nuneaton and Bedworth district live in the top 30% most deprived areas nationally. This is closely followed by those attending schools in North Warwickshire where 21% live in the top 30% most deprived areas. Locally held data identifies Nuneaton and Bedworth as an exclusions hot spot. By having the AP free school (North) based in Nuneaton this will make this provision easily accessible for a large number of the WCC students who require AP. All others will be provided with transport to access the provision.

The AP Free School will add a new layer to the continuum of provision that will serve the whole of WCC working in partnership with the existing AP providers to build capacity to meet the need that is not able to be met by the existing provision across the county. Current AP providers provide access to 70 FTE and the Free School will add a further 60 FTE= total of 130 FTE. This still leaves a gap of 97 FTE places however this AP Free School will help take the pressure off the current system. We plan to put another proposal in for a second AP Free School when the next window opens to address the shortfall. Other services working with the school are social care and early help, educational psychologist, YOT, Warwickshire Attendance Service, Compass and the police and RISE and school health, SENDAR where appropriate. All these are part of the ABP leads group.

SECTION TWO: THE SCHOOL

The tables below list key details of the school proposed. Your application must be for a school that has these key characteristics. Please note you only need to complete the relevant table depending on the type of school.

Type of school	Alternative Provision
Purpose(s) of placement (e.g. reintegration/long term provision) and needs of children (please include local context and needs of pupils within expected cohort)	<p>The school will provide provision for 11-16 year olds. This will include provision that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide short stay (max 6-12 week placements) provision for permanently excluded students or hard to place students who need to be supported whilst they await a school place. b) Part time provision providing a hybrid of mainstream and alternative provision/ vocational options for those students who cannot cope in mainstream full time but can access the core. <p>Full time provision for those students who do not meet the assessment criteria to access an EHCP but who require a smaller setting to get their education with access to GCSE and Vocational qualification, employability skills and personal development and therapeutic programmes that address their behaviour and SEMH needs.</p>
How many places have been commissioned by the local authority(ies) and how many by other commissioning models? (Please provide a full breakdown of places)	<p>Total =120</p> <p>North area= 60 places</p>
Per-pupil revenue funding the local authority/other commissioners would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain and detail the rates per pupil, including estimates for how many of the cohort will be in each band)	<p style="text-align: center;">Base funding = £10,000 Top up funding of £10,000</p>
Age range	11-16
Gender (Boys/Girls/Co-educational)	Co-educational
Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity this should include 16-19 places but not include nursery)	Total =60 FTE

Type of placements offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	Full time, Short Stay, Part time.
Number of nursery places, if applicable	NA
Number of 16-19 places, if applicable (please detail should the funding differ for 16-19 places)	NA
Any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)	The AP Free school will be a hub of best practice and be able to offer as a traded service teacher training re SEMH and behaviour management. As part of the Free school funded offer, outreach support for students who need to be re-integrating back into mainstream schools from short stay programmes. Likewise this outreach support will monitor those students who are on part time provision whilst they are in mainstream schools.

The table below details the number of places that the local authority proposes for each year group at the point of opening until the school is full.

	Year of opening	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
Nursery							
Reception							
Key stage 1 (Y1-2)							
Key stage 2 (Y3-6)							
Key stage 3 (Y7-9)	2019	10	10	10	10	10	10
Key stage 4 (Y10-11)	2019	35	50	50	50	50	50
16-19: commissioner referred							
Totals	0	45	60	60	60	60	60

SECTION THREE: RATIONALE AND CONTEXT FOR THE SCHOOL

This section describes the rationale and the context in which the new school will operate.

3A. Please include a brief description of the existing provision in your area, future expected growth in pupil numbers and how you expect places to be filled.

3B Please also include details as to how these proposed new arrangements are

The gap in AP provision in Warwickshire

There are two registered providers in the whole of WCC who have combined PANs of 38 FTE placements. The remaining provision available is from unregistered providers who can only provide part time provision that when combined only offers 60 FTE placements in total (total FTE available 98 FTE for the whole of WCC). However these providers also commission places to other Local Authorities (e.g. Coventry, Birmingham and Leicestershire). This results in fewer places being available for Warwickshire students. In total the actual number of FTE places available for Warwickshire students is approximately 70 FTE in total.

This means that we have had a deficit of approximately 150 FTE places in WCC. The provision does not meet the demand preventing us from ensuring that all the students who need AP get their full entitlement.

Students are not always prepared for returning to mainstream schools reducing the success of reintegration. These providers don't have the capacity to support schools with outreach support and with preventative programmes and training. The average cost for the alternative provision is approximately £25,000 per placement. Without the new school we would have to continue utilising our current provision, work with the providers to become registered. The situation is fragile with private providers and this is not sustainable and this will still not meet the demand.

The latest 2016 based subnational population projections suggest Warwickshire's 0-18 population will increase by nearly 5,000 young people or 4% between the 2016 base year and 2026. The largest expected growth will be seen in the Secondary school age ranges (ages 12-18), which will see an increase of 13% by 2026 (up from just over 43,000 to 48,695 children). Student growth figures for North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth show an average growth of 11% by the year 2024/25. The population of SEN students has grown by 42% over the past 8 years across WCC.

Permanent exclusions over the past 5 years have been consistently above our statistical neighbours for primary and secondary and rising e.g. 2014/15 = 64, (Statistical Neighbour 43), 2015/16=75, (Statistical Neighbour 51), 2016/17=77, (Statistical Neighbour 64) and 2017/18=104 (Statistical neighbour data not available). In 2017/18 across WCC (North, Central, East and South) there was a need of 227 FTE AP places. Out of these 227 FTE places 77 of these places were needed to support permanently excluded students from secondary schools. The remaining 150 FTE places required were to support students referred directly from schools who remained on the schools rolls. Without the AP Free School creating a revolving door model that supports students back into mainstream, by 2024/5 we would require AP placements for this area alone to be 357 students taking the growth figures above as our indicators. Currently we have 96 students from mainstream schools receiving home tuition as a result of illness and a further 63 on the SEND list. In 2018/19 - 453 EHE students across WCC, 291 = 64% are KS3/4.

likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special educational needs, and the outcomes for pupils, across the local authority and how you expect trusts to support this.

All referrals into the Free School will happen via the Area Behaviour Partnership behaviour leads meetings that take place every 5/6 weeks. All referrals will be scrutinised to ensure appropriateness of referrals into the AP Free School. If it is agreed that a placement at the Free School is appropriate an exit strategy will be identified at this point including identifying a new school placement. This panel is a multiagency panel with social services/early help, educational psychologist, youth offending, schools and local authority who will triangulate to support all admissions into the Free School.

This model ensures that a partnership approach which has collective accountability at the centre of it, as well as appropriate professional challenge to ensure all partners are being ethically inclusive. This will also allow WCC to monitor the flow of students into and out of the Free School ensuring where appropriate a timely return to a mainstream school.

We want students to be accessing GCSE qualifications so they do not fall behind their mainstream counterparts whilst at the Free School. Students will leave with the same academic currency as they would if they were attending any mainstream school. We would expect 50% of the cohort to be on short stay programmes and be re-integrated back into mainstream education, either full time or a hybrid of mainstream and part time at the Free School.

We would expect that at any one time there would be approximately 10 students being supported back into mainstream schools. The Free School colleagues will be able to support mainstream schools to help them meet the needs of the students in the mainstream setting and if necessary provide coaching and mentoring to upskill staff.

Ideally if the AP Free School is part of a teaching school we would also see the Free school providing work experience for mainstream colleagues to learn within the AP setting e.g. have WOW- "Watch Others Work" open day for mainstream colleagues and vice versa. This can be done as a traded service from the Free School.

The AP Free School will also provide the support to any full time student when they progress onto P16 colleges, sixth form or employment and training. The exit strategy and support plan for these students would require ongoing monitoring and visits to those free school students who progress onto P16 for the first year of their P16 provision, to ensure they do not become NEET.

Expected KPI's and students outcomes

- The school to be judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted within the third year of opening.
- All students to be baselined on entry and a realistic exit plan set out.
- Pupils on the roll at the Free School receive full time education suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude i.e. 25 hours education per week.
- 100% pupils receive full time education on the 6th day of permanent exclusion.
- 90% of pupils make expected progress working at aggregated expectations at all key stages from baseline assessments taken at admission particularly in English and Maths.
- Attendance of all students to be at or making rapid progress towards a minimum of 95%.
- 100% FT students to have achieved at least Grade 3+ (L1 Functional Skills) English and Mathematics by the end of Year 11.
- 30% of students achieving Grade 4+ (L2 Functional Skills) in English and Maths to be well above the national average for AP.
- All FT students to have access to at least 5 GCSE equivalents including English and Maths.
- All FT students achieve at least one vocational qualification.
- Baseline assessments will evidence improvement in student's behaviour and SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) at completion of service intervention.
- 90% of feedback from parents/carers and children and staff in schools is good or better.
- Schools are provided with educational and behavioural progress measures for students reintegrating back into mainstream and supported for a limited time during transition, significantly reducing risks of further exclusion and sustaining mainstream placements. KPI=85% of students receive zero fixed term exclusions and 95% of students receive zero permanent exclusion in the subsequent twelve months post interventions.
- 100% of students have access to impartial CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) .
- 100% FT students have a September guarantee.
- 100% FT students progress from Year 11 onto further education, employment or training and remain in this provision.

SECTION FOUR: THE PROPOSED LOCATION AND SITE

This section describes the provisional site.

Full address and full postcode	St David's Way, Bermuda park, Nuneaton, CV10 7SG
Size of site	Gross External Area: 3235 m2 Gross Internal Area: 3031 m2 Site Area: 0.8158 ha
Further details on site (for example, current use/your reasons for choosing it/further developments (e.g. housing) planned for area	<p>1200m2 minimum building area, ideally located within a total site of 0.5 hectares to allow for the provision of outside recreation space and/or sports provision.</p> <p>Quest Academy is currently occupying the former Midlands Studio Collage buildings in Bermuda Park Nuneaton. Quest Academy is due to move to Rugby following completion of their permanent site, the DfE are delivering this project as part of a previously approved free school. Following this move this building will be vacant having previously housed two education facilities.</p> <p>Existing buildings have been adapted for education use. The site is in a relatively central location in relation to the need</p>