

## **Warwickshire County Council**

### **A Proposed New All-Through Free School in Warwick District**

### **Information for Academy Proposers December 2021**

Deadline for Applications: 5pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

This document references and should be read in conjunction with 'The free school presumption: Departmental advice for local authorities and new school proposers (November 2019)'

## Section A - Introduction

Under section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (the 'free school presumption') where a local authority identifies the need to establish a new school it must, in the first instance, seek proposals to establish an academy.

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has identified the need to establish a new All-Through School (4 to 16) in the South of Leamington/Warwick area with the secondary phase of the school to open in September 2023 (subject to works programme review). The authority is seeking proposals from appropriate sponsors to open this new school. Proposers should complete the accompanying Free School Presumption application form and return it to [schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk) by 5pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## Background/Context

Warwickshire is entering a period of significant growth, with large scale housing development proposed across the county over the next 15 years and beyond. As development progresses across the county there will be the need for the delivery of new provision during the next 5 years and effective planning for further new provision beyond that period.

There are approximately 125,200 children and young people aged 0-18 living in Warwickshire, this figure represents just over 1 in five residents (21%), slightly lower than the figure for England (22%). There are close to 87,000 pupils being educated in 247 state-funded schools in Warwickshire, of which 36 are mainstream secondary schools, 194 are mainstream primary schools, one is an all-through mainstream school, 10 are special schools and six are nursery schools. The current picture indicates that 87% of schools in Warwickshire are rated by Ofsted as good or better which means 88% of pupils in Warwickshire are being educated in a good or outstanding school. This compares favourably to a national figure of 85% of pupils with 87% of schools in England rated good or better by Ofsted.

The [Warwickshire Education Strategy](#) (2018-2023) sets out an overarching vision for education in Warwickshire. The main aim of the strategy is to improve educational outcomes, and therefore the life chances, of learners of all ages in Warwickshire.

## Evidence of need

The new school will be located on the new Oakley Grove housing development. This development is part of the larger 4,500 home urban extension that is currently building out to the South of Leamington/ Warwick. The school will be required to provide education to pupils moving into the area as a result of this urban extension. The impact of all planned housing will not be met solely by expanding existing schools in in the area, and there is a need to ensure that pupil places are available as the new housing becomes occupied.

The new school will be located within the Warwick and Leamington Secondary Planning Area and the South Leamington Primary Planning Area, the latest pupil forecasts for these areas are shown below and demonstrate the need for the new provision.

### Warwick and Leamington Secondary Planning Area – Forecasts September 2021

Planning Area	Academic Year	Year 7 Capacity -PAN	Year 7 Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Capacity	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
Warwick and Leamington	2021/22	1081	1080	0%	5405	4996	8%
	2022/23	1081	1145	-6%	5405	5262	3%
	2023/24	1261	1266	0%	5465	5633	-3%
	2024/25	1261	1214	4%	5675	5890	-4%
	2025/26	1261	1227	3%	5885	6057	-3%
	2026/27	1261	1340	-6%	6095	6265	-3%
	2027/28	1261	1272	-1%	6305	6340	-1%

*Forecast capacity includes new 6FE provision from September 2023*

### South Leamington Primary Planning Area – Forecast September 2021

Planning Area	Academic Year	Reception Capacity - PAN	Reception Forecast Pupil Numbers	Available Capacity (4% target)	Total Capacity	Total Forecast Number On Roll	Available Capacity (4% target)
South Leamington	2021/22	478	457	4%	3136	3244	-3%
	2022/23	478	456	5%	3181	3360	-6%
	2023/24	538	528	2%	3286	3517	-7%
	2024/25	538	515	4%	3391	3691	-9%
	2025/26	538	540	0%	3496	3860	-10%

*Forecast capacity includes new 2FE primary provision from September 2023*

### Profile of the Area

Within 3 miles of the Oakley Grove development, there are currently:

- 3 Secondary Schools
- 1 All-through School
- 23 Primary Schools
- 2 LA-maintained Nursery Schools

One of the Secondary Schools operates a Resource Provision for SEND pupils, as does one of the Primary Schools.

### Free School Meals

Both Warwickshire and Warwick District have a lower than average percentage of pupils who are eligible for or claiming free school meals (FSM) compared to national statistics.

Area	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	% known to be eligible for free school meals
England	-	20.8%
Warwickshire	14451	16.7%
Warwick District	2427	13.1%

January Census 2021

## Outcomes in Warwickshire

The tables below show the overall attainment and progress scores at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 in 2019 for all Warwickshire schools and Warwick District schools.

### Key Stage 2 2019 Results

Area	% Achieving expected standard RWM	Progress score and description		
		Reading	Writing	Maths
England	65%	0.0	0.0	0.0
Warwickshire	66%	-0.1 (Average)	0.0 (Average)	-0.4 (Below Average)
Warwick District	68%	0.9 (Average)	0.2 (Average)	0.2 (Average)

66% of pupils in Warwickshire had met the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 2 in 2019, just above the national average for state funded schools in England of 65%. Warwick District was the highest performing of the five districts and boroughs with 68% of pupils at the end of key stage 2 in Warwick District schools achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths. In terms of progress, Warwickshire, on average, do about as well at key stage 2 as those with similar prior attainment nationally.

### Key Stage 4 2019 Results

Area	Attainment 8 Score	Progress 8 Score	Grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs
England	46.5	-0.03	43%
Warwickshire	49.8	0.00	50%
Warwick District	51.1	0.27	52%

At Key Stage 4 Warwickshire students perform strongly in their GCSE and equivalent qualifications and above national comparator results.

Across the headline Key Stage measures, Warwickshire's pupils generally perform above the national average. However, the gaps between education outcomes for disadvantaged cohorts and their peers in Warwickshire are larger than national, and outcomes are lower than national for these groups. Therefore, in Warwickshire it is a priority that disadvantaged pupils continue to be given the extra support needed to achieve their potential.

## Warwickshire vision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

In January 2021 there were 14,520 children with special education needs attending a school in Warwickshire, making up 16% of the school population. Of these, 3,353 (3.6%) had an EHCP and 11,167 (12%) were receiving lower level SEN support in school

In Warwickshire, all children and young people have the right to lead a fulfilling life and be part of their community. Every child and young person have a right to have their health, social care and education needs met within their local community. Every child has the right

to attend a good local school that is appropriate for their level of need or disability, usually a mainstream school.

Every early years setting, state-funded school, further educational college and training provider will;

- Make good provision (as determined by Ofsted) for children and young people with SEND;
- ensure all pupils make good progress in their education and development;
- ensure that they transition smoothly into the next stage of their education and;
- as appropriate, they are helped to secure independent living and opportunities for employment.

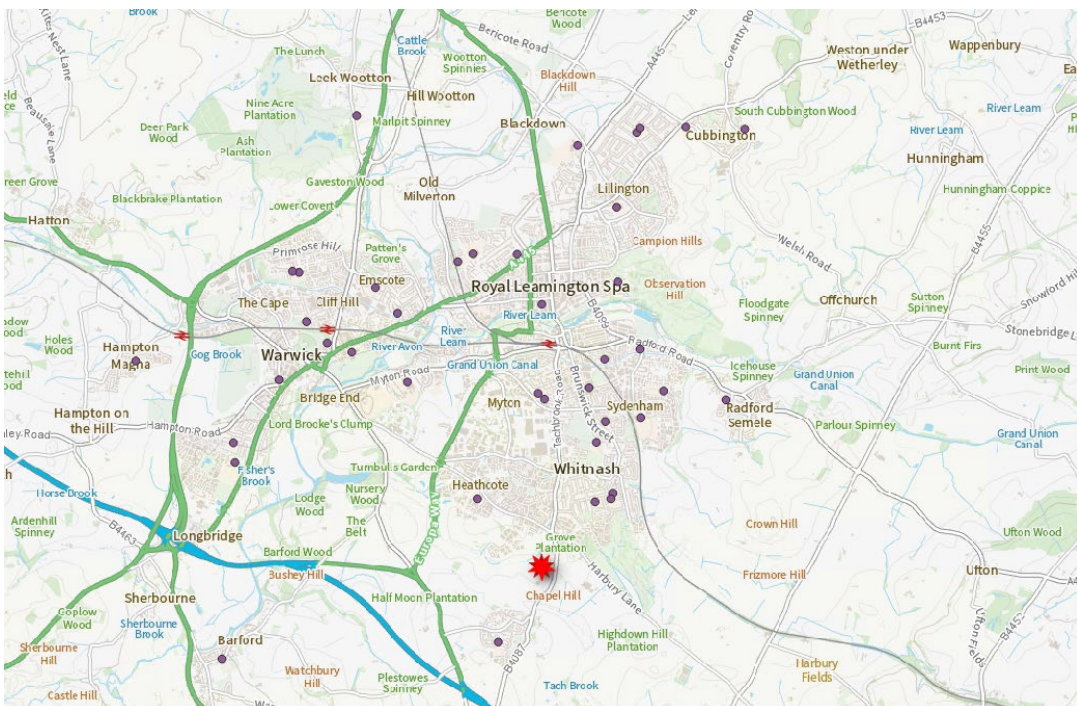
The [Warwickshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy](#) sets out the vision for provision for SEND locally, across education, health and social care. The strategy has inclusion at its heart and sets out how Warwickshire plans to address imbalances and effect change across the SEND system. The strategy identifies six priorities:

- Promoting inclusion
- Getting it Right for Pupils with High Needs (school age)
- Improving Health and Social Care for SEND pupils
- Preparation for adulthood
- Transport
- Workforce development

## Section B - The School

### Site Location

The site secured to construct the new all-through school is located off Harbury Lane and Oakley Wood Road, Leamington Spa, with an approximate postcode of CV33 9QE





## An indicative masterplan of school site



Plan by Corstophine + Wright Architects

## About the school

<b>Opening date</b>	<p>Secondary Phase: September 2023 (subject to works programme review). The school build has an estimated completion date of August 2024. Options for alternative accommodation until the new build is complete are currently being reviewed.</p> <p>Primary Phase – Opening date to be confirmed</p>
<b>Pupil capacity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years provision</li> <li>• 2 FE (420 place) Primary School</li> <li>• 6 FE (900 place) Secondary School</li> <li>• Specially Resourced Provision within both the Secondary and Primary phases of the school.</li> </ul>
<b>Planned initial PANs, number of forms of entry on opening and expected rate of growth</b>	<p>It is expected the secondary phase of the school will open initially for Year 7 with an anticipated PAN of 180, with the school growing year on year in line with the demand for school places.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the primary phase will open with a PAN of 30 from Reception. Expansion to 2FE will be in line with the demand for school places.</p>
<b>Proposed admission arrangements,</b>	<p>Admission arrangements will be determined by the school, in accordance with the School Admissions Code. The school's priority area will be determined as part of their admissions arrangements and</p>

<b>including catchment area if applicable</b>	<p>is likely to encompass the new housing development sites in the surrounding area.</p> <p>Admission to both the primary and secondary resourced provision will be through the WCC High Needs Provision Panel.</p>
<b>Type of school</b>	Mainstream Free School
<b>Phase of education and age range</b>	<p>Primary: 4-11 years</p> <p>Secondary: 11-16 years</p>
<b>Gender (boys/girls/mixed)</b>	Mixed
<b>Nursery provision</b>	<p>Early years provision, 0-4 full day care, will be delivered as part of the development of the school site. It is not proposed for this provision to form part of the free school bid and will be subject to a separate tender process. The successful Academy provider would be invited to participate in this process alongside and other interested providers if they so wish. Admission to the nursery provision may be from a wider area than the catchment area of the school.</p>
<b>Sixth form provision</b>	<p>Not included at this stage. There is scope to provide sixth form accommodation on the site should demand in the local area require further sixth form provision in addition to that provided by other local schools.</p>
<b>SEND provision</b>	<p>WCC is ambitious in its plans for meeting the needs of children with SEND across a wide range of settings including mainstream schools, specially resourced provisions (SRP), Alternative Provision and Special Schools. The Local Authority is interested in schools and trusts who demonstrate a commitment to meeting the educational, social and emotional needs of children with SEND and a willingness to work in partnership with the LA, local schools and stakeholders.</p> <p>The new school will include an integrated SRP within both the Primary (8-14 places) and Secondary (14-20 places) dependent on identified local area need. The SRPs will cater primarily for learners with social and emotional mental health (SEMH) or communication and interaction (C&amp;I) needs with an emphasis on integration into mainstream classes together with the provision of specialist and targeted support for each learner.</p>

	<p>The SRP should be led by a specialist SEND lead teacher. This means they have or are studying to a postgraduate degree level qualification in the specialism of the SRP. The support staff working as part of the SRP will also have enhanced and specialist levels of training. The aim of SRP is to ensure pupils make good progress in their learning, communication, and social skills; to reduce any anxieties and inappropriate behaviour which act as a barrier to learning.</p>
<b>Out of hours and 'wrap around' provision</b>	<p>To provide sufficient support for working parents, out of hours provision is a key priority for Warwickshire County Council. Whilst there will not be dedicated accommodation provided for these facilities, it would be anticipated that there will be the potential for these to be provided within the main school building and we would expect the school to secure opportunities for before-school and after-school provision where practical to do so.</p> <p>Warwickshire County Council wishes to make best use of all assets. Therefore, it is expected that where possible, and where it is appropriate to do so, use of the site will be available for the benefit of the wider community.</p>
<b>Community use / shared facilities</b>	<p>As part of the outline planning application, it has been established that the new school will need to provide community use of the sports provision and car parking for the adjacent country park outside of school hours.</p> <p>It is envisioned a third-party leisure operator will be commissioned by the District Council to manage the sport facilities outside of school hours. As a result, providing the appropriate funding can be secured, certain elements of the sports provision have been enhanced in the current designs to better meet the needs of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community use of indoor and outdoor sports facilities on the school site outside of core school hours (including weekdays, weekends and school holidays)</li> <li>• Community use of onsite school parking for the sports facilities outside of core school hours</li> </ul> <p>A community use agreement will exist between the school and WDC confirming the exact arrangements.</p>
<b>Transport arrangements</b>	<p>School transport is covered by the WCC Home to School Transport Policy  <a href="https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1990003847-2514">https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1990003847-2514</a></p> <p>Prior to the development being brought into use, a Travel Plan must have been submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority in consultation with the Highway Authority and this must include the appointment of a travel co-ordinator. The Travel Plan</p>



	must be implemented and the development must thereafter be carried out and operated in accordance with the Travel Plan.
<b>Character/Ethos of school</b>	It is important that the ethos of the school recognises diversity and celebrates inclusion – we are looking for schools with the highest aspirations for its pupils so that even more children in Warwickshire are happy, healthy and achieving.
<b>Details of the site/ building, including details of ownership]</b>	<p>The site for the school of has been secured through a Section 106 agreement and the required land transfer to WCC is currently being progressed.</p> <p>Separate parking area for general public use and access to the adjacent country park will form part of the masterplan for the school site.</p> <p>Outline planning permission for the school site was granted under application number W/19/1030 on 1 June 2020.</p> <p>To meet the opening date of September 2023, the school planning, design and tendering for the build is already underway. Under the free school presumption route, it is expected that the design and build costs will be met by WCC. Capital funding has been approved by Elected Members to this effect.</p> <p>Access road to the school - The local authority is seeking to get the road adopted as a highway but if this is not achieved it will fall within the red line of the school site and remain the responsibility of the Trust</p>

## Section C - Vision

Applicants should take account of the relevant criteria in Section C - Annex C of the free school presumption guidance.

As a minimum, please ensure you include the following:

- A strong educational vision and a curriculum delivery based on high standards of attainment for each key stage
- Plans for appropriate engagement with the local community and parents during the preopening period and any on-going engagement
- A commitment to excellent outcomes and high quality of teaching and learning
- Excellent support facilities to meet the needs of all children, including looked after children, those with Special Educational Needs, etc
- Evidence of how the school will work in partnership with the LA to ensure that, wherever possible and appropriate, children with SEND will be supported to access their local mainstream school and achieve good outcomes
- Information on how the personal, social and emotional wellbeing of children will be supported and how the voice of children will help shape the future of the school
- Evidence of success in removing barriers for disadvantaged learners
- A commitment to working collaboratively with all other local schools and ongoing engagement with stakeholders across the locality
- How children and young people will be supported to make a successful transition to post 16 learning
- How alternatives to exclusion will be developed and how regular school attendance will be promoted
- A vision for how the school will make a positive contribution to education across the locality
- A strong focus on ensuring an inclusive learning environment for all children, their families and carers

## Section D - Education Plan

Applicants should take account of the relevant criteria in Section D - Annex C of the free school presumption guidance.

As a minimum please ensure you include the following:

- An ambitious, broad and balanced, deliverable curriculum plan which is consistent with the vision and pupil intake. This could include a curriculum table and pupil build up chart
- Strategies for measuring pupil performance effectively and setting challenging targets
- A staffing structure that will deliver the planned curriculum within the expected income levels; with a focus on outstanding teaching (including strategies for effective performance management). This could also include an organogram and staff build up chart
- The needs of all children are fully provided for and how the school will be fully inclusive
- Details of enrichment and extended services, for example, breakfast clubs, sports clubs, homework clubs and music/art clubs
- The school's approach to: PHSE; the Prevent Duty; safeguarding and welfare; and promoting fundamental British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs)

## Section E - Capacity and Capability

Applicants should take account of the relevant criteria in Annex C of the free school presumption guidance.

As a minimum please ensure you include the following:

- The resources you would draw on and/or deploy to support the development of the new free school by the opening date
- Clear evidence that you have the range of skills and abilities necessary to set up and then run a school effectively, including: managing school finances; leadership; project management; marketing; human resources; safeguarding; and health and safety
- How the school would be organised and what the governance arrangements would look like, including a diagram of the proposed structures
- A thorough explanation of the training, skills, knowledge and expertise of staff so that children with SEND are able to access a broad curriculum and their holistic needs are met through the Resourced Provision and otherwise.
- **Please provide a financial plan for the pre and post opening periods of the school**

## Section F - Funding and Costs

### Ownership of the school land

Ownership of the school land is currently with the housing developer. The site is in the process of being transferred to Warwickshire County Council under the terms of the Section 106 agreement.

The County Council will provide the site and buildings on a 125 year lease to the Academy Trust (excluding the nursery accommodation).

### Capital Costs

The capital cost to build the school will be met by Warwickshire County Council through a combination of developer funding contributions and Basic Need Funding.

The capital building scheme has already been designed and developed, with a construction budget of £49.5 million.

### Revenue funding

Local authorities are also required to meet the revenue costs of the new provision. Warwickshire County Council will meet pre and post opening costs associated with establishing the new school, in line with the growth criteria agreed by Warwickshire Schools Forum. All proposed growth funding figures within this document are based upon the current criteria agreed by the local Schools Forum. Should there be any changes to this in the future prior to the signing of a funding agreement these figures will need to be revised. As part of the available start-up costs the DfE currently provides £25,000 for legal expenses to the successful sponsor. Further details of the pre-opening revenue funding is provided below, followed by details of post-opening revenue.

#### 1. Pre-Opening Funding (Project Development Grant)

The pre-opening funding is intended to cover revenue costs up to the opening of the school. This can include project management, staff recruitment, salary costs and office and administration costs. The grant is paid in three instalments during the year prior to opening.

The current pre-opening funding grant follows a similar funding level to the project development grant given to new schools opened through the Central Government Free School Programme.

The new free school via the LA presumption route will be paid a pre-opening grant £275,000 (£175,000 if the trust is opening more than one school in an academic year).

An ICT grant will also be provided to fund the ICT equipment and expenditure not covered by the Capital Build.

The Trust will need to follow the conditions as part of the receipt of the Project Development Grant.

## 2. Post-Opening Funding

There are two elements to the post-opening grant: non-staffing resources paid on a per pupil basis and a leadership grant.

The Resources element: Paid each year that the school builds up to capacity for each new pupil expected to be on roll. It is paid at the following rates:

- £250 for each new mainstream pupil in the primary phase (R to 6)
- £500 for each new mainstream pupil in the secondary phase (7 to 11)

The Leadership element: Paid annually based on the number of year groups that the school will ultimately have that do not yet have pupils. The amount paid to mainstream schools depends on how many year groups are empty.

Table 1: Leadership element of post opening grant

Number of empty year groups						
6+	5	4	3	2	1	Max
£125,000	£93,500	£62,500	£54,000	£40,500	£27,000	£402,500

\*leadership element not affected by school size.

Table 2: Total Funding\*

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Max. Total
All Through 11-16 (2FE primary & 6 FE Secondary)	£230,000	£230,000	£230,000	£132,500	£105,000	£15,000	£15,000	£957,500

\*Maximum funding assuming school growing 1 year group at a time

Pupil places in the specialist resourced provisions (SRP) are funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block at a rate of £10,000 place funding per pupil plus top up funding of £8,415, so that a pupil's additional learning needs can be met. A service level agreement between WCC and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.

## Section G - Impact and Equalities Assessments

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 would impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

Pupil forecasts demonstrate that as a result of large scale housing development in South of Warwick/Leamington area additional primary and secondary provision will be required over the next 5 years and continue to be part of the provision of education in the area in the short, medium and long term. As a result, the addition of this school to the family of Warwickshire schools is unlikely to impact adversely on mainstream schools in the area.

The proposal would have a positive impact on promoting choice and diversity for local families who are applying for a school place. We are looking for sponsors that will provide excellent support facilities to meet the needs of all children, including Looked After Children, those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, those with pupil premium funding and any other disadvantaged group. We also want a sponsor that has a drive for excellent outcomes in attendance, attainment and achievement for all children and a clear commitment to closing the gaps between pupil groups, both within the school and against their national counterparts.

## SECTION H - Application Process

Academy proposers wishing to express an interest in the new specialist school should do so by completing the application form available online. Only applications received by the published deadline of 5pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 will be considered for evaluation.

Proposers must ensure that they are on the DfE's approved sponsor list. Any proposers submitting bids, who are not on the approved list, must contact the DfE before submitting an application. New proposers will need to be assessed by the department through the normal sponsor approval route. See the [department's sponsor approval process](#) for more information.

The following indicative timetable sets out the process to be followed which would lead to recommendations on the proposed sponsors being made to the Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands:

Process	Timescale
Presumption Competition	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2021– Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 (5pm)
Virtual Engagement Event	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 PM

Initial assessment of applications and shortlisting	w/c 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Shortlisted applicants for interview notified	w/c 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
Interview/presentation of shortlisted proposers	w/c 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022
Submit assessments and recommendation to DfE	June 2022
Notification of successful sponsor received from RSC	Estimated July 2022
Warwickshire County Council notify unsuccessful bidders	Estimated July 2022

All applications received will be evaluated against the criteria set out in this specification and the key criteria set out by the DfE [here](#).

Each criterion will be scored using the following 4-point scale:

0 = The evidence and argument contained in the application is 'inadequate'.

1 = The evidence and argument contained in the application is 'adequate'.

2 = The evidence and argument contained in the application is 'good'.

3 = The evidence and argument contained in the application is 'excellent'

Each section and criterion will be scored equally, no weighting applies.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview, with a panel arranged by Warwickshire County Council.

After the panel interview, Warwickshire County Council will send details of its preferred applicant, along with details of all bids, to the DfE for consideration.

The Regional School Commissioner (RSC) for the West Midlands, on behalf of the Secretary of State, will 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.

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



Bern Timings - Education Capital, Sufficiency, and Admissions Lead Commissioner  
[berntimings@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:berntimings@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Or

Emma Basden-Smith - Education Capital, Sufficiency, and Home to School Transport Lead Commissioner  
[emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk)

It is the proposer's responsibility to monitor <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/open-competitions> for any further or updated information which is released after initial publication of this specification.

**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: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/opening-a-free-school>