



Hill Avenue Academy

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Executive Headteacher: Mr E Hateley

Head of School: Miss H Kahlon



Dear parents/carers,

21/10/20

Hill Avenue Academy Expansion

Thank you for your recent questionnaire feedback on the expansion of Hill Avenue from 1.5 classes to 2 classes in each year group. Your feedback is always welcome and considered. The proposed expansion of our school is something we have considered very carefully with our Trust as well as representatives from the City of Wolverhampton Local Authority. We currently have a mixed age group class in each year group and it is our proposal to have an additional class in each age group. This would mean the school increasing from a 1.5 form entry school to a two form entry school. This increase is positive for the future of our school, community and city. Our core offer to children is at the heart of all we do.

City Wide Demand

The main challenge that the City of Wolverhampton faces in relation to the organisation of school provision is ensuring that sufficient high-quality school places are available to meet the needs of school communities across the City. The latest birth data shows there been an 11% increase in births between September 2005 and August 2018 with a 7% increase between September 2005 and August 2019 (Source: PCT). Those children born between September 2017 and August 2018 will be in the Reception cohort for September 2022. To cater for demand, 2,760 additional primary school places have been commissioned by the Local Authority between 2012 and 2021.

Popularity of Hill Avenue Academy

Hill Avenue Academy has become more popular over recent years. The number of 1st preferences have increased by 175% between 2017 and 2020. The number of overall preferences for the school has exceeded the number of places on offer in the last 3 years (with a 158% increase). The number of preferences and allocations plus the number on roll as at the Autumn School Census for academic years 2017-18 to 2020-21 and confirms the increasing popularity of the Academy.

Proposal from Manor Multi Academy Trust

Manor Multi Academy Trust have met with the Local Authority in regards to the expansion of Hill Avenue Academy. The proposal from the Trust was for a permanent expansion from 1.5 forms of entry to 2 forms of entry. The Local Authority agreed that there was demand in the local area and that the expansion of the school would be included in the Council's Primary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022 (PSEP 2021 and 2022). It was agreed that the proposed expansion would be effective from September 2022. The proposal is in line with the Council's Strategic document 'The Vision for School Organisation in Wolverhampton 2018-2020', whereby it states that "When an opportunity or need arises consultation will be conducted with Headteachers and Governors to consider increasing or reducing admission limits in schools with existing 45 or 75

admission limits". It is recognised that although vertical grouping works successfully in many schools across the City, the use of this structure can increase the complexity of planning and delivering the curriculum. The proposal to increase the school to 2 full forms of entry will be beneficial in this respect.

The Local Authority's PSEP 2021 and 2022 comprises of the expansion of five schools across the City using a combination of permanent expansion and bulge classes: this will provide a maximum of 270 additional primary school places. The overall number of Reception places available across the City would increase by 30 in September 2022.

A Feasibility Assessment has been conducted by Manor Multi-Academy Trust with engagement from representatives of School Organisation from the Local Authorities Education Department, and it has been agreed that additional accommodation to provide teaching space and some internal remodelling of the existing accommodation is required to cater for the permanent increase in places. This will enable the Academy to adhere to Infant Class size regulations in Key Stage 1 and help the Council in meeting basic need in providing additional school places.

Capital funding will be provided by the City of Wolverhampton Council to ensure that sufficient accommodation is available to cater for the proposed expansion.

Summary

- Proposed expansion for September 2022
- Feasibility arrangements
- Stakeholders consultations
- Application agreed at National level

Kind regards,

Mr E. Hateley B.Ed (Hons), L.L.E.

Executive Headteacher