

Proposal

Peterborough City Council (PCC) is consulting regarding changing the designation of Marshfields from Moderate Learning Difficulties to Learning Difficulties.

Local Authority Details

Peterborough City Council, Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

School details

Marshfields is a 9 to 19 community special school with 175 places for children and young people, all of whom have Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans. The school was judged Good by Ofsted when inspected in October 2016.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

The recent review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision across Peterborough identified that there was a mismatch between the overall SEND pupil profile in Peterborough and the range of provision available across mainstream schools, specialist hubs and special schools.

The SEND census data (see table 1) from the previous five years shows that the number of children with an EHC Plan in Peterborough has risen steadily. A high number of these children will be able to successfully access education provision in mainstream schools; however those with more severe needs will require a special school place.

Number of Peterborough resident children with an EHC Plan					
Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Number of children	1174	1200	1204	1251	1287

Therefore PCC and Marshfields have been working together to look at whether the current 'Moderate Learning Difficulties' designation of the school is suitable and whether a different designation would more suitably reflect the cohorts of pupils that the school serves in the future.

This consultation is looking at changing the designation of the school from Moderate Learning Difficulties to Learning Difficulties. Many children with Moderate Learning Difficulties are able to access their education in mainstream provision. Making this change will ensure that Marshfields is only offering places to those who need a special school place to access their education successfully.

The underpinning rationale for this proposed change is that:

- redesignation would more accurately reflect the forecast cohort of pupils attending the school.
- ensuring that special school placements appropriately match the level of students' needs will ensure there is sufficient capacity in these schools

The Governing Body is supportive of the proposal to redesignate Marshfields as a school for pupils with Learning Difficulties.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

To support the Local Authority (LA) in ensuring that high needs SEND places are available across the city.

To recognise the increased health needs of students on roll at the school.

To ensure parents have a choice in where to educate their child.

The effect on other educational institutions within the local area

Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties, where right for the child, would be educated in their local mainstream school.

The redesignation will ensure sufficient special school places across other special schools in the city.

Project costs and indications of how these will be met

It is not anticipated that there will be any project costs involved with this proposed change.

Other considerations

Pupil transition: The redesignation of the school will not impact on the pupils currently at the school. Admissions will continue to be made through Peterborough's SEND panel process.

Staffing, HR and training: It is not anticipated that the change in designation of the school will have an impact on the staffing structure or staffing requirements. Training and development needs will form part of the school's ongoing workforce development planning.

Implementation plan

As part of the LA's decision making process a consultation on the proposed changes will run for a period of 4 weeks from Tuesday 10th November to Tuesday 8th December 2020 and will seek the views of all interested parties. The LA will give careful consideration to all comments received during the consultation before reaching a decision on whether or not to proceed with the designation change. If the change is agreed it is proposed that it would come into effect from September 2021.

How can you ask questions, or get more information or comment on the proposal?

If you have any questions, would like more information or wish to make a comment on this proposal please attend the consultation event (see details below) or email Rachael.pinion@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and include the words 'Marshfields Designation Consultation' in the subject line.

Join Zoom Meeting on Tuesday 24th November at 7pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/91738906565>

Meeting ID: 917 3890 6565

Passcode: 684563