



Department
for Education

Leicestershire Local Authority Special Free School

**Seeking proposals to establish a
Special Free School**

Leicestershire Local Authority

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 school that Leicestershire Local Authority 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.
XXX 2019	Announcement of successful LA bids. Competitions in successful areas subsequently open.
XXX 2019	Deadline for proposers to submit applications in successful areas.
XXX 2019	Leicestershire LA and DfE to evaluate submitted applications and interview trusts
XXX 2019	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: David.Atterbury@leics.gov.uk
Job title: *Head of Service - Education Sufficiency*
Email: David.Atterbury@leics.gov.uk
Tel: 0116 305 7729

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

Name: David Atterbury
Job title: *Head of Service - Education Sufficiency*
Email: David.Atterbury@leics.gov.uk
Tel: 0116 305 7729

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

RSC: Jonathan Edwards

RSC's office: Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner, East Midlands and Humber, 6th Floor, St Paul's Place, Sheffield, S1 2FJ

Email: EMH.RSC@education.gov.uk

4. Leicestershire Context and Planning

This is a solo bid by Leicestershire Local Authority. We have consulted with our neighbouring Local Authorities who have expressed no objections to us submitting this bid and have no wish to formally commission any places at this time due to their own provisions development plans.

Leicestershire is a large rural county in the East Midlands. Currently over 4000 (2.9%) of pupils have an EHCP, which is just over the national average at this time and have seen this rise from being in line with it for a number of years. EHCP numbers are increasing annually, particularly so for children and young people having SEMH needs. Leicestershire is experiencing a substantial growth in demand for SEMH places which reflects the trend on a national level.

Projections based on population growth and expected housing developments show that trends will continue to increase. Whilst our most pressing need is for SEMH provision this is part of a longer term SEND Strategy which will see the delivery of further Special Schools and Resource bases in mainstream schools, this will include a focus on Communication and Interaction which is the other major area of emerging demand, and further SEMH provision.

It is particular concern to the LA that a large proportion of our pupils (345/7.9% overall) with an EHCP are placed in high cost provision, more than our statistical neighbours, and this is placing unprecedented pressure on our available High Needs Block funding. The County Council published a new [strategy](#) for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in the spring of 2018. The strategy sets out our vision and priorities for developing support and provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.

Currently our High Needs budget is projected to overspend by £4m. Overall the High Needs Block deficit for 2018/19, including additional DfE funding in December 2018, is forecast at £2.5m. The long term trajectory is a cumulative deficit of £47.4m in 2022/13 if no actions are taken. We have performed demand calculations and project an increase in specialist places of 22% by 2022/23, if we do not expand and develop our current provision we would require significant number of ISP additional placements, an increase of 22%. We spent £19.5m on Independent Special Provision placements in 2017/18. Of the 345 children at ISP, currently 165 have SEMH as a primary need.

In terms of SEMH, we have set out an ambitious pathway to expand existing quality provision and set up a large number of new bases attached to mainstream schools as well as building two other new SEMH Special schools. (This bid is for one of the 2 schools, the other will be in south Leicestershire) We want to ensure that more local provision is developed and reduce dependence on high cost placements.

This school will be key in developing provision for pupils with SEMH in Leicestershire and will be at the top of our continuum of support. The new provisions will all take admissions via the LA's Special Educational Needs and Assessment service (SENA) in line with the

consultation process outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 2014. There are no other Special Schools for SEMH in the locality, this school would cover the North of the county and be complimented by the second school planned to cover the South. All Special Schools in Leicestershire (supporting different types of needs to the proposed school) are currently rated Outstanding or Good. The headteachers of these schools have a strong working relationship with the Local Authority and each other and meet regularly.

Transition to and from the school are supported by SENA.

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	Special Free School
Area of SEN provided for (please detail designation alongside additional information known about the cohort's needs and abilities)	for pupils with SEMH
Which local authorities are committed to commissioning places?	Leicestershire Local Authority
How many places have been commissioned and by which local authority?	50 – by Leicestershire

<p>Per-pupil revenue funding the local authority 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>	<p>Leicestershire’s approach to funding special schools is based upon £10,000 place funding plus top up funding that reflects the needs of individual pupils and related education provision.</p> <p>Top-up funding is allocated in bands, pupils are allocated to bands. Banding is allocated based on the child’s or young person’s needs (as outlined in the EHCP) and the provision that will be required to meet those needs. A Banding moderation process is undertaken by peers to ensure consistency of funding between schools.</p> <p>The range of bands, and the average top up funding rate, that will apply to the new school are:</p> <p>Band 7 - £7,000 Band 7A – 8,800 Band 9 - £16,000 Band 10 - £20,000</p> <p>We expect about 80% of pupils to be at band 9 with 10% below this and up to 10% above it</p> <p>The banding rates are determined annually.</p>
<p>Age range</p>	<p>7 - 16</p>
<p>Gender (Boys/Girls/Co-educational)</p>	<p>Co - educational</p>
<p>Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity – this should include 16-19 places but not nursery)</p>	<p>50</p>
<p>Type of placements offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)</p>	<p>Full time</p>
<p>Number of nursery places, if applicable</p>	<p>As this is a Special School, places are allocated through the EHCP so there will not be key feeder schools. However, we would expect to see strong links with our Primary Short Stay School (Oakfield) and planned Enhanced Resource bases (not yet open) located in our mainstream schools.</p>
<p>Number of 16-19 places, if applicable</p>	<p>We have recently published our <u>‘preparing for adulthood strategy’</u> which demonstrates our guidance for professionals. The Special Needs Assessment Team have a post 16 department who attend annual reviews and work with individual pupils and families to plan each transition to the most appropriate provider or to create individual packages with providers.</p>

<p>Any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)</p>	<p>The Special School will operate on a hub and spoke model working very closely with 5 SEMH resource bases in mainstream schools in the North of Leicestershire being developed by the Local Authority. Outreach work is seen as paramount to the success of this model. The funding to support outreach will be in line with arrangements with existing Special Schools and subject to review. The outreach model will extend to reach all Leicestershire maintained schools and academies within the locality. This forms a key part of the Leicestershire strategy for SEND provision (https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability/about-the-local-offer/what-is-the-local-offer). Currently all Leicestershire Area Based Special Schools provide outreach support, this school will follow the same outreach model and support other outreach functions. Our outreach work will include the following aspects of provision; developing a coherent partnership offer amongst all schools, offering a range of support for individual schools/pupils aimed at achieving re-engagement with teaching and learning, increased aspirations and improved outcomes within a mainstream setting. An important part of our work will be offering specialist advice and support, sharing expertise amongst schools, providing training and signposting for staff so as to strengthen schools skills experience and confidence, and monitoring and tracking data for all pupils.</p>
--	---

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reception	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Key stage 1 (Y1-2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Key stage 2 (Y3-6)	10	15	15	15	15	15	15
Key stage 3 (Y7-9)	10	15	15	15	15	15	15
Key stage 4 (Y10-11)	5	20	20	20	20	20	20
16-19: commissioner referred							
Totals	25	50	50	50	50	50	50

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.

Leicestershire is a large rural county in the East Midlands. Currently over 4000 (2.9%) of pupils have an EHC Plan and the number is increasing annually, particularly so for children and young people having SEMH needs. Our current provision is described below:

Specialist Nurseries: We have two specialist nurseries.

Mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools: All mainstream schools provide a 'core' offer of support and to include children with additional needs.

Leicestershire Special Schools: There are five area special schools in Leicestershire, all of which are either good or outstanding. They support pupils with significant learning difficulties and other complex needs from age 2 or 3 up to 19. Our 6th Special School supports for pupils aged 11 to 19 years with moderate learning difficulties and with a specialist provision for secondary aged pupils with higher functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In addition to the above Oakfield short stay school (PRU) offers support for primary age children with complex social, emotional and mental health needs, this includes: dual placements for children at risk from exclusion, referrals for behaviour support, managing reintegration into mainstream school and the outreach support offer.

We also have five Secondary Behaviour Partnerships (SEIPs). The partnerships offer support, advice and outreach as well as facilitating alternative education for young people at risk of exclusion.

There are also a large number of Units and Resource Bases in mainstream schools: These help the LA to meet a variety of SEND needs including primary and secondary provision for speech and language, autism, moderate learning difficulties and hearing impairments.

The number of EHC plans maintained by Leicestershire Local Authority has gradually increased over time, with the biggest increase in the number of children and young people seen in 2017. In 2014/15 there were 2770 Statements/EHC plan, which rose to 3,703 in 2017/18 and currently stands at over 4000 statutory plans. Of these pupils, 341 (17/18 cohort) pupils attended High Cost Specialist Provision in

17/18. Of the 341 pupils, 119 pupils have ASD as a primary need and 165 have SEMH as a Primary need.

We do not currently have a Special School for SEMH or for ASD. Our existing Special Schools meet the need of learners with other Primary Area of Need including delayed learning and are all full to capacity. (We do plan to expand our Special Schools)

Part of the High Needs Block Strategy has been to make projections of our future needs based on current trends – in addition to this we know there are large scale plans for new housing developments of around 30,000 homes which will also increase demands. The Strategy is aimed at developing provision, support and advice around inclusion, and a review of our current systems and processes. This projection shows that we will need an additional 585 Specialist educational places, of these 241 would need to be additional and expensive ISP placements.

The proposed Special Free School would admit pupils who have an EHCP; as such the admissions would be arranged by SENA using the consultation process outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

The new school will be a key provider in or support for pupils with SEMH, We want to create a Provision that can meet the needs of learners across the authority by building 2 Special Schools for SEMH one in the north and one in the south, added to this we plan to open new enhanced resource provisions attached to mainstream schools to compliment the free school offer. We want the two Special Schools to be able to offer outreach to mainstream schools, working on a 'hub and spokes' model so as to share knowledge, expertise and best practice, thus ensuring support and provision for pupils across the graduated response.

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

Working in consultation with multi-agency partners across Leicestershire County Council is excited to develop a new SEMH School for 7 -16 year old children and young people. We do not currently have a Special School for SEMH needs. We plan to build 2 50 place SEMH special schools. One in the North, and one in the South. This will be one of the two schools.

In addition to the two new SEHM Special Schools we plan to set up and open up to ten SEMH bases attached to mainstream schools to fully develop our graduated provision offer from support and guidance to mainstream schools, through bases

attached to mainstream schools up to a Specialist School Provision. There are also projects to increase provision for pupils with ASD being conducted.

The accelerated progress and aspirational outcomes for all our children and young people is key in achieving our goal of outstanding educational provision across the county. In Leicestershire our existing 6 Special Schools are rated as Good or Outstanding, the Heads are part of a supportive network with the shared ambition of all our CYP having the best life chances and making the best possible levels of attainment. We would expect this school to become a part of our Special School Network.

The new free school is to create a specialised school like no other in Leicestershire that will offer each child or young person a personalised programme that focuses on their individual needs and achieving accelerated progress. The school will provide a safe and productive environment with opportunities for pupils to develop their full potential in an academic and social setting that enables pupils to take responsibility for the management of their behaviour. Children and young people's needs change over time so a flexible approach to the learning programme will be needed. The provider will be expected to explore the possibilities of links to mainstream provision and engage with partners ensuring the educational offer gives pupils access to a wide and varied curriculum which stretches and challenges them to reach their potential. The School should have the following characteristics:

- *Specialist education provision that focuses on re-establishing CYP's engagement in education and the resilience to sustain that engagement by:
- *Overcoming, or creating strategies to cope with, SEMH issues that are barriers to engagement
- *Beginning the process of educational "catch up" required enabling a CYP to take their place back in the school system
- *Enabling CYP to overcome fears and prejudices about the educational institutions they have previously experienced and return to
- *Therapeutic provision – with very high level of specialist expertise
- *Links to and knowledge about : Mental Health Initiatives in the county with cross over of staff and direct routes into CAMHS, Early Help and Social Care – family intervention , National and local Knife Crime and other Youth Offending Initiatives, Drug Use Prevention and Treatment teams in the NHS and third sector
- *Partnership arrangements and an Outreach offer
- *Building stronger links with families, communities, further education and employers . Encouraging pupils with SEMH to take their place in society
- *Subject to the LA as the Admissions Authority.

The SEND Board which includes membership from: Children's Services Education, Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) and the Parent Carer

Forum all support the new free school and are committed to the delivery of existing services and the development of ensuring on-going sustainability. The new provider will work with the LA and the CCG's to ensure there is an agreed and deliverable core offer for the new SEMH free school. We expect the successful provider to work with these partners to inform the future shape of the services required to further enhance the offer.

Progress against the key actions and the impact of the SEND Strategy will be reported back to the SEND Board

In addition at pupil level we would expect the following KPIs to be measured.

Key Performance Indicators:

For all pupils:

- To make 'Good' progress in every subject and this is assessed three times a year with a report sent to parents each time.
- To transition to education, employment or training at the time of leaving the school
- To gain an agreed level of qualifications (Subject to their EHCP).
- To attend full time, with a minimum 90% target attendance
- To be involved in setting their own targets, to feel understood and listened to
- To have opportunities to learn in the community

For some pupils to also:

- Make progress with EHCP outcomes and enable them to move down the continuum of support to an Enhanced Resource Provision or Mainstream
- Achieve their ECHP outcomes enabling them to have their ECHP ceased.

The success of the above will be measured through data and performance tracking as part of our regular monitoring processes for each pupil.

SECTION FOUR: THE PROPOSED LOCATION AND SITE

This section describes the provisional site.

Full address and full postcode	Iveshead School, Forest Street, Shepshed, Loughborough, - LE12 9DB
Size of site	Iveshead Campus is 202,328m ² (20.23 hectares)
Further details on site (for example, current use/your reasons for choosing it/further developments (e.g. housing) planned for area	<p>Our strategy is to have two schools, one serving the north and one in the south. Our priority for this bid is for the northern area which also has a large number of pupils with an EHCP with SEMH as PAN and reflects the greatest area in housing growth. This will be developed in parallel with a SEMH school in the south by the LA. We have considered levels of deprivation in selecting a location. It is our preference therefore to locate the school within the Charnwood district, specifically on the Iveshead School campus in Shepshed. This is a large campus containing a 11- 18 secondary school, a 4 - 11 primary school, and a Specialist ASD unit, a nursery and children’s centre. The school is well located to main access routes in a growing town close to Loughborough. As a maintained school the site is readily accessible to the local authority and free of restrictions. Whilst it is envisaged that the SEMH school will be a new build, there is potential for some of the existing buildings to be repurposed to achieve a more cost effective solution.</p>