

RELOCATION OF OAKFIELD SHORT STAY SCHOOL TO BARWELL NEWLANDS SITE

BRIEFING NOTE FOR CIRCULATION - FEBRUARY 2020

Background

Newlands Primary School was originally a 280 place Primary School located on Moore Road, Barwell.

After consultation with local schools it was agreed to relocate and expand the Newlands Primary School from Moore Road to the Heathfield High School Site on Belle Vue Road. The move would help provide an additional 140 primary places for the area to meet demand arising from increased births and new housing particularly the planned Barwell Sustainable Urban Expansion when this is built.

The Newlands school requires 12 classrooms to operate as a 420 place school. The school currently has 281 pupils on roll requiring 4x Key Stage 1 classrooms and 5x Key Stage 2 classrooms, leaving 3 classrooms currently unoccupied. The Local Authority has supported the school in utilising 1 of the spare classrooms to become a nursery and have reached agreement with governors to utilise the remaining 2 classrooms as a temporary base for the Oakfield Short Stay School.

Proposal

The intention is to redevelop the current Oakfield school site in Blaby as a new school for pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs. The new school will open in September 2020 and therefore requires the relocation of current Oakfield pupils to new locations to be developed in the north and south of the County. The north location will be on the Shepshed Iveshead campus and the south will be at Barwell Newlands.

Timescales

It is proposed that the move of Oakfield to the Newlands site will be achieved in two stages:

The first stage will be temporary relocation to the two spare classrooms in the Newlands building, this is planned for Easter 2020.

The second stage will be a permanent move to a purpose made facility located alongside the Newlands School, this is expected to happen in September 2022.

What type of pupils will attend the new provision

The new provision will accommodate a maximum of 15 pupils expected to be drawn from the south Leicestershire area. Pupils will vary in age from 4 to 11 years.

Pupils attending The Oakfield provision will typically comprise vulnerable children having social, emotional and mental health needs such they may struggle to cope in a normal large classroom environment. Such pupils when given the opportunity to learn in a specialist environment for a short period of time, will then be able to transfer back to their home schools. Pupils may have associated needs related to Autism, ADHD, or other communication and interaction needs.

Pupils at Oakfield would not present a risk to other pupils or staff within the Newlands School, and are not disruptive to the learning of other pupils.

How will the new provision work

Pupils will be taught within the dedicated two classrooms, in a distinctly sperate and secure part of the school accessed directly from the front car park . They will be separate to and have no direct access to the main classes at Newlands. On occasion, pupils may access other classes with supervision, if the lesson is appropriate. There is a high level of staffing to pupil ratio, pupils are supervised at all times during the school day. There are no initial current plans to attend school events, as Oakfield would host their own.

Pupils are transported to and from school and the Oakfield school times differ which should mean there is no impact within the local community. Pupils are escorted on the minibuses by Oakfield staff.