



Statutory proposal for making prescribed alterations at Oxley Park Academy

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of [Making significant changes to an academy Non-statutory guidance on collaborative school place planning and making organisational changes to academies](#), August 2025, that **Oxley Park Academy Trust** proposes to develop a 16 place SEND specialist unit at the Shenley Wood campus.

Proposer: Oxley Park Academy Trust, Redgrave Drive, Oxley Park, MK4 4TA

Evidence of demand

The number of children in Milton Keynes with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or requiring SEND support has grown significantly. Between 2015/16 and 2024/25, EHCPs increased by over 900, almost doubling. Alongside rising numbers, the complexity of needs is also increasing. While many children can be supported in mainstream schools through inclusive practices, some require specialist provision, placing pressure on both mainstream and specialist settings.

To address this, the council formed the Specialist Provision Place Planning Group. This group includes headteachers (across all phases), senior MKCC officers, and PACA representatives. Their aim is to plan strategically to meet statutory duties and identify future SEND provision needs.

Projections suggest a further increase of around 490 EHCPs by 2030, especially in communication and interaction needs. While inclusive practice is being promoted, the need for more specialist places is expected to rise.

Phase one of the programme, completed in 2024/25, created over 125 new places via SEND Units and expanding special schools. Building on this success, phase two launched a new expression of interest process in Spring 2024/25. 18 proposals have been considered appropriate at this time to progress to formal consultation.

Expanding SEND units locally helps children access suitable provision closer to home, reducing travel and supporting integration with peers. Units offer bespoke curricula with opportunities for mainstream

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inclusion. All participating schools are rated 'Good' by Ofsted and have the expertise to deliver high-quality SEND support.

This work directly supports the Milton Keynes Local Area SEND Strategy 2025–2028, which is built around three core principles: That children with SEND in Milton Keynes **Thrive, Belong**, and are **At the Heart of our plans**. The expansion of specialist places aligns with the 'Belong' principle—ensuring children and young people with SEND are included in their communities and have access to education close to home. It also contributes to the strategy's wider goals of improving independence, inclusion, and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Oxley Park Academy has been initially approved by Milton Keynes Council for a 16 place unit, to begin accepting children from September 2026.

Objectives

- **Improves outcomes for children:** Ensure children have access to provision in Milton Keynes to meet their assessed needs.
- **Meets growing demand:** Supports delivery of new specialist places across a range of settings, directly addressing projected growth in EHCPs and complexity of need.
- **Strengthens inclusive education:** Continues to embed specialist provision within mainstream schools, promoting inclusive practice and enabling more children to remain in their communities strengthening the SEND offer across the city.
- **Reduces long-term costs:** By increasing capacity in Milton Keynes, the council can reduce reliance on high-cost independent / out-of-area placements and associated travel support (general fund), supporting a sustainable High Needs Budget and ensuring holistic value for money.
- **Investment in local services:** Investment in the school infrastructure.
- **Community/peer links:** Supports children to maintain community ties, networks and services and relationships with peers.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

Admissions for children with an EHCP are coordinated by the SEND team who place children according to their type of need and age. Capacity pressures in existing establishments, and pupil projections indicate that there is a clear need to increase the number of places in Milton Keynes to meet future

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demand. As such these proposals will not have a negative impact on other educational establishments locally but instead will positively benefit the entire local system by ensuring that children are able to be placed within Milton Keynes in provision that best meets their needs, strengthening the SEND offer across the city.

Admission arrangements

There will be no change to the admission arrangements and the published admission number (PAN). Children admitted to the unit provision are not included within the school's PAN.

All admissions for children with an EHCP to the SEND units and special schools are coordinated by the SEND team at Milton Keynes City Council.

Project costs and how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The total costs for any changes required to adapt existing accommodation to ensure it is fit for purpose, have been initially explored and any required costs are to be funded through a combination of developer contributions and existing High Needs Provision Capital Allocations from Milton Keynes Council.

Project costs will continue to be reviewed as the project progress to ensure continued financial viability and value for money.

Ensuring sufficient places for children with SEND means that as many children as possible are placed in provision within Milton Keynes thus reducing costs to the High Needs Block and School Travel Support

(Local General Fund) providing better value for taxpayers' money.

Implementation plan

The representation period for this statutory proposal ends on **21 December 2025**. Following this, the trustee board will consider any comments received and trustee board will make a decision on whether to proceed with the proposal.

If the decision is to implement the proposal, it is expected that additional places will start to become available from September 2026.



Executive Principal

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Associate Principal

Mrs Karen Draper BEd (Hons)

The continued progression of the proposal will be subject to the consultation outcome and any subsequent decisions, finalisation of project costings, funding availability, continued financial viability and planning permissions if required.

How to respond to the statutory proposal

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (**24 November 2025**) any person may support, object or make comments by sending an email to office@oxleyparkacademy.com or in writing to:

Oxley Park Academy Trust

Redgrave Drive

Milton Keynes

MK4 4TA

The closing date for comments is Sunday **21 December 2025**.