

Special Free School: Questions and Answers 1

Date: 01 May 2019

Event Location: Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge

1. Page 7 of school specification - Is there flexibility in the number of children at each Key Stage in-take?

Yes, there is complete flexibility to enable responsive provision that meets the needs of Cornwall's population. These figures were included as an indication only based on information available at the time of writing the bid. We recognise the age profile may be different by the time the school is open and will need to be flexible over time.

2. We recognise that Cornwall Council is aiming for an opening date of September 2021, is there any flexibility in this?

Yes, this is only a provisional date. It is important to state that it is a very optimistic opening date which will be influenced heavily by the suitability, or otherwise, of the identified site. We recognise there are factors out of Local Authority and provider control that can delay the opening date of the new school.

The delivery stage for the build is anticipated to be 18 months after the spring 2020 notification of the successful trust / proposer for the school, resulting in the planned opening date of September 2021. If the opening date is delayed, we would aim for the school to be open at some point in the 2021-2022 academic year.

3. Page 6 of school specification – Where did 65 places come from and is there any room for this to increase?

This figure is the capacity of the building that will be built by the Department for Education. Sixty-five places was informed by analysis of effective special schools for

social, emotional and mental health needs along with information about the numbers of pupils with this level of need and their current educational placements.

4. Will the assessment panel consist of both representatives from Cornwall Council and the Department for Education?

Yes both the Local Authority and the Department for Education will sit on the panel, but ultimate decision and approval of delivery partner lies with the Secretary of State.

5. Is the support offered by the New Schools Network free?

Yes. Any interest parties need to pre-register their interest on the New Schools Network website: <https://www.newschoolsnetwork.org/>

6. Parent Carers Cornwall and joint working has been mentioned. Will there be an opportunity for families and potential providers to liaise?

An event to support parent/carer engagement is a very positive idea, thank you. The Local Authority will liaise with Parent Carers Cornwall to set up an event that will be open to any potential provider to attend.