

# **Statutory proposals for Prescribed Alterations at Keelman's Way School**

## **1. Governing Body Proposals and Contact details**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of the Governing Board of Keelman's Way School, Campbell Park Road, Hebburn, NE31 1QY, to make the following proposals:

1. Keelman's Way School is currently designated to take 167 pupils on roll. However, projections show that demand for places at the school is due to increase significantly from September 2023. It is proposed that the number of pupils the school will take be increased by up to 16, from its current designated 167 to 183 from September 2023. Teaching is not arranged strictly by year group but by the ability of pupils. Numbers in each year group vary according to the needs of each pupil and the adult:pupil ratio of support necessary to meet the needs of each group.
2. To accommodate the increase in pupils it is proposed to establish a satellite site of Keelman's Way School, in an area of the site of the former South Shields School, Nevison Avenue, South Shields, NE34 8BT.

The two proposals are linked, with the increase in capacity contingent on the establishment of the satellite site being approved and implemented. They are therefore related proposals and will be considered together by the decision-maker, South Tyneside Council

### **Contact Details:**

**Name and address of Governing Body publishing the proposal:**  
Keelman's Way School, Campbell Park Road, Hebburn, NE31 1QY

**Name, address and category of school where proposed alterations are to be made:**

Keelman's Way School, Campbell Park Road, Hebburn, NE31 1QY  
is a Maintained Foundation Special School with a Foundation Trust

**Name and address of Local Authority – Decision-maker:**

South Tyneside Council, Town Hall & Civic Offices, Westoe Road, South Shields, NE33 2RL

## **2. Implementation**

The Local Authority is working with the PFI provider to complete the minor works needed at the satellite site. The minor works are on target to meet the date on which the proposed Prescribed Alterations will be implemented: 1 September 2023.

### **3. Objectives of the proposals**

Keelman's Way School is a Foundation Special School with a Foundation Trust and is maintained by South Tyneside Council. The current school building is based at Campbell Park Road, Hebburn, NE31 1QY.

The school has a capacity of 167, aged 2 to 19 on roll. The proposal is to establish the satellite site in an area of the former South Shields School and increase capacity by up to 16 pupils.

As part of the duty to secure appropriate provision, a Joint Strategic Needs and Assets Assessment (JSNAA) of children and young people with SEND was undertaken in 2021 and identified various changes in the demand for places, including an increased demand for places for Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A 2021 Joint Strategic Needs Asset Assessment identified a gap in provision for pupils with Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) across the current spectrum of provision. The demand for places for pupils with Autism has continued to increase since that assessment.

Over the last three years the gap in provision has led to an increase in pupils being placed in provisions out of the borough or in independent provisions, with 66 pupils whose primary needs are either ASD or SEMH receiving their education in Out of Authority placements. Of those 66, a number could have been placed within the Authority had there been sufficient places available for them. The rise in demand for SEND places more generally means also that there are far fewer out of borough places available where needs cannot be met within South Tyneside.

The audit of need, current placements within the Borough, OOA placements and projected future demand for places has highlighted a need to increase available places within a special school setting to meet the increase in demand and align with the changing needs of pupils with SEND.

The proposed increase in numbers and establishment of the satellite site for Keelman's Way School will provide additional places to meet increased demand for the specialist provision needed to meet the complex needs of these pupils.

Keelman's Way School is an Ofsted rated Good School and has the specialist teachers and staff to support the additional pupils and the new satellite site will enable more pupils to benefit from the high quality of provision offered at Keelman's Way School.

The demand for places at the school is projected to increase significantly from September 2023. Whilst there has been some expansion on the current site to accommodate the increased numbers of pupils, the ability to further expand will involve creative solutions longer term. Within the short-term expansion on the current site is very limited.

There were no other suitable sites to consider for the establishment of the satellite site. The area of the former South Shields school requires minor works e.g. additional toilets and has sufficient parking and outdoor space and is therefore the most suitable location for the satellite site.

The establishment of the satellite site at the former South Shields School will address the increase in demand for special school places for pupils with complex and high needs, particularly Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and will enhance the continuum of provision and complement the additional provisions attached to mainstream schools. The additional places and enhanced facilities will meet the needs of some pupils with complex difficulties who would previously have been placed in Out of Authority provisions.

The proposed satellite accommodation will comprise a discrete area within the former South Shields School building and a proportion of the external facilities, relevant to the school's needs.

There will be no change to the existing admissions criteria at Keelman's Way School, with places continuing to be offered in line with an EHCP.

#### **4. How whole school activities will be managed**

Staff will be employed on contracts to facilitate working on both sites, as required to meet the needs of the pupils at the school. Pupils will not move between sites for their general education but pupils at the satellite site will access the specialist facilities at the main site and they will be an integral part of all whole school activities.

#### **5. Governance arrangements**

The new satellite site be governed by the same governing body and the same school leadership team. The governing body and leadership team will be responsible for delivering the provision and for the safeguarding of the pupils.

#### **6. Travel**

The Governing Body has considered the impact of travel within the proposal to establish a satellite site of Keelman's Way School. The school provides for pupils with SEND from across the whole of South Tyneside and a small number from neighbouring authorities.

Parents and carers will continue to be able to apply for support with home to school transport, as set out in the council's transport policy.

The new facility will be situated adjacent to a number of bus routes which will support the possibility of independent travel where appropriate.

## **7. Effect on other educational institutions within the area**

Keelman's Way School provides specialist education for pupils from across South Tyneside, together with a number of pupils from outside the Borough.

The school's current capacity is 167 pupils. A significant increase in demand for places is expected from September 2023. The lack of availability of places results in some pupils remaining in their mainstream school, with support, until a place becomes available. The increased capacity at the Keelman's Way satellite site will reduce the time it takes for pupils to be placed which will reduce the pressure on mainstream schools and academies to support and maintain inappropriate placements within and out of the Local Authority.

The proposed satellite will not replace existing provision but will supplement and improve provision across the borough. The establishment of the satellite site will not have a direct impact on admissions or provision at other schools within the area but will have a positive impact in increasing the capacity of specialist provision for pupils in the Borough. It is anticipated that there will be a reduction in out of Borough placements which will be beneficial.

There will be a minimal impact on those pupils accessing the satellite site of Keelman's Way School from outside the borough, with the site being relocated marginally nearer Sunderland and slightly further from Gateshead borough boundaries.

There will be no impact on the balance of denominational provision as the school does not have a religious character.

## **8. Impact on the Community**

The establishment of the satellite site of Keelman's Way School to an area of the former South Shields School site will not impact on any community use at the main school site. In addition, South Tyneside will benefit from the availability of increased specialist provision for pupils with SEND.

## **9. Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved**

The former South Shields School was built as a PFI project. The local authority has worked with the school and the PFI providers to ensure minor works will be completed by September 2023.

The Local Authority's technical team has estimated the cost of the works to be £60,000. The costs will be met from the Local Authority's SEND capital funding.

The Trust/Governing Body will lease the accommodation from the Council at a peppercorn rent and pay a service charge which will initially comprise a contribution towards the PFI payment, which will cover services and utilities for which funding is included in their revenue budget.

There are currently a significant number of pupils with complex needs who are placed in very expensive Out of Authority (OOA) provision, due to lack of specialist provision within the Borough. Long-term value for money will be achieved by the establishment of the satellite site to give the opportunity for pupils with complex needs to receive their education within the Borough, rather than being placed in expensive OOA facilities.

Financial projections indicate that the school will be able to operate the satellite site, with the increased pupil numbers, without affecting its financial viability.

## **10. Implementation plan**

The satellite site for Keelman's Way School will be established at an area of the former South Shields School site on 1 September 2023.

## **11. Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)**

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, 15 June 2023, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by:

Email: [schoolinfo@keelmanswayschool.co.uk](mailto:schoolinfo@keelmanswayschool.co.uk)

Post: Establishment of Keelman's Way satellite site, Keelman's Way School, Campbell Park Road, Hebburn, NE31 1QY.

**Closing date for responses is 14 July 2023, at midnight.**

We will not be able to consider any responses received after this date.

Signed:

Phillip Johnson, Chair of Governors

Keelman's Way School.

Publication Date: 15 June 2023