


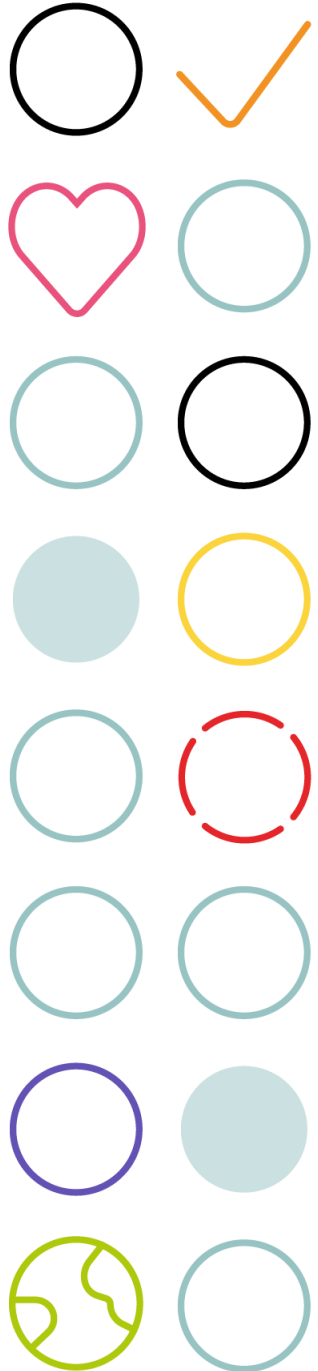
Cheshire West & Chester Council

Free school Presumption Wrexham Road

FAQ

8th May 2024

 Play **your** part towards
a **Stronger Future**



Cheshire West & Chester Council

Introductions

Senior Manager – Carolyn Davis

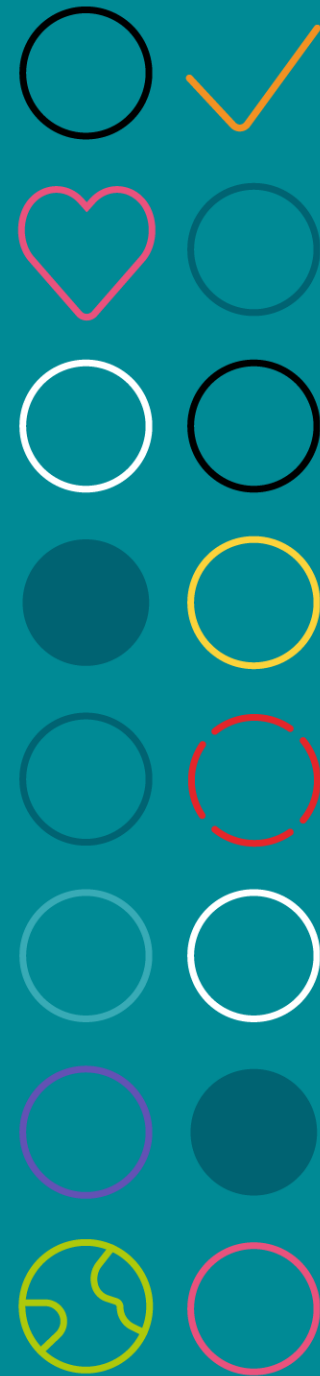
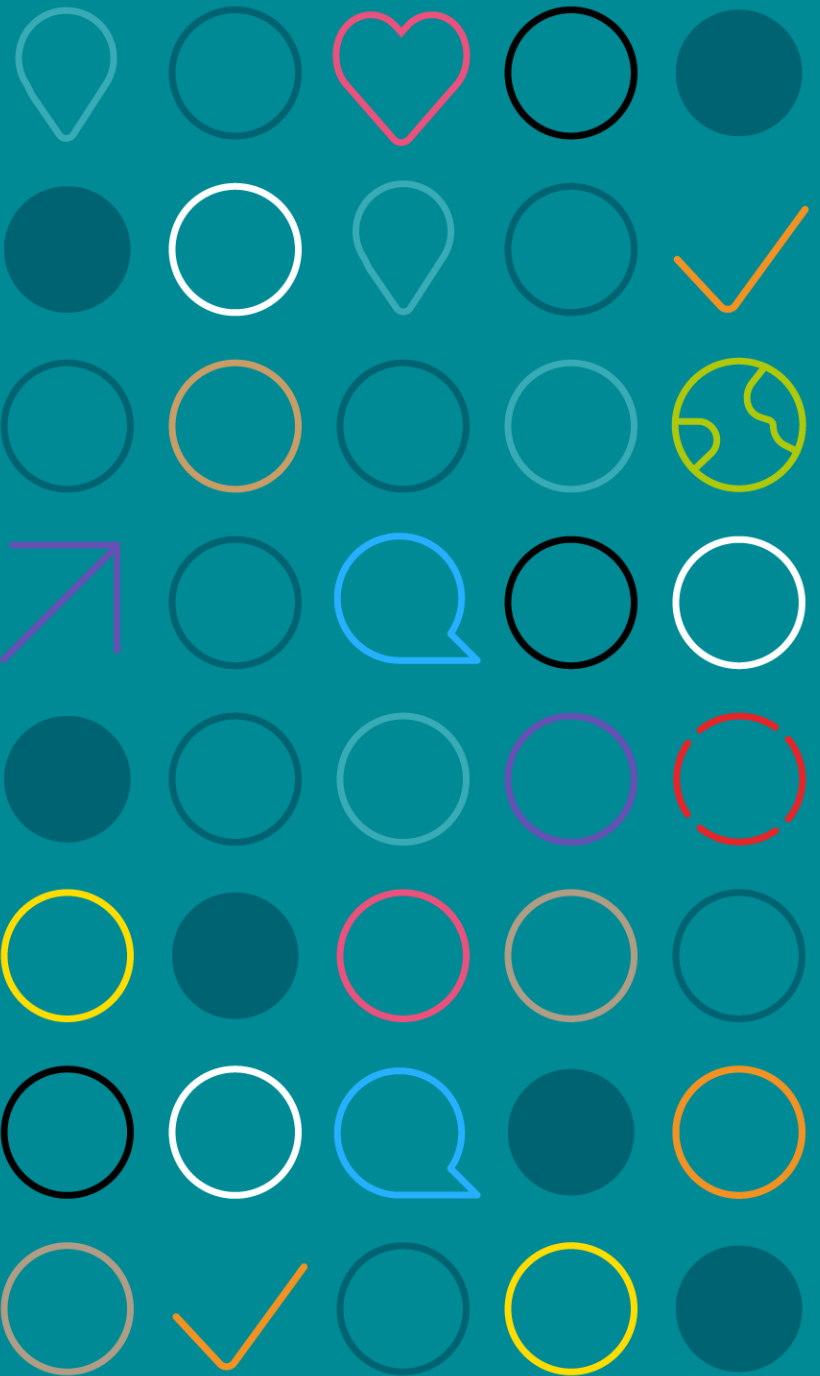
Capital and Development Manager – Janine Smart

School Organisation and Transport Policy Manager –
Vikki Williams

Early Years Manager – Sarah Lister

Early Years Commissioner – Bo White

 Play **your** part towards
a **Stronger Future**





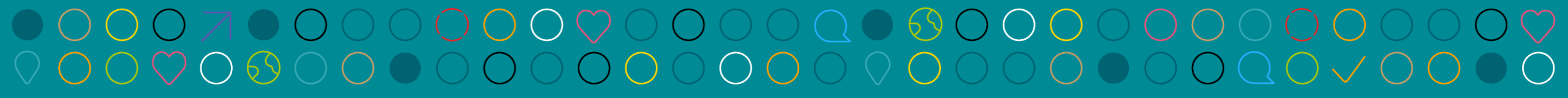
What does the housing development look like?

- Housing development off Wrexham Road Chester
- Planning permissions granted/requested 1,415 houses
- Cheshire West and Chester average child yield estimates;
 - 113 preschool
 - 312 primary age children
 - 258 Secondary age children
 - 113 Post 16
- As @ January 2024; 514 houses completed
- Primary school site located within development
- Primary School site transfer expected by 10th January 2025





Admissions key points

- It is important to safeguard the intake of existing schools and retain working relations.
 - Opening September 2026, at the earliest, for Reception and KS1
 - Open initially with 15 places in Reception, Year 1 and 2. The school will then build up to a capacity of 210 primary places.
 - The nursery will open initially with 13 places and then, as the housing development progresses and demand increases, a capacity of 26.
 - Admission numbers have been based on determined need arising from the development
 - As the housing development progresses and demand increases, the school will grow to a capacity of 315 places
 - The Council will strongly expect the successful Trust/School to take a collaborative approach when determining the admission arrangements, in order to ensure cohesion and sustainability of the local primary school economy and that any proposed arrangements reflect local needs.
- 

Expected number on roll

<u>Admission numbers</u>			
	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28
Reception	15	15	15
Year 1	15	15	15
Year 2	15	15	15
Year 3	-	15	15
Year 4	-	-	15
Year 5	-	-	-
Year 6	-	-	-
	45	60	75

Finance

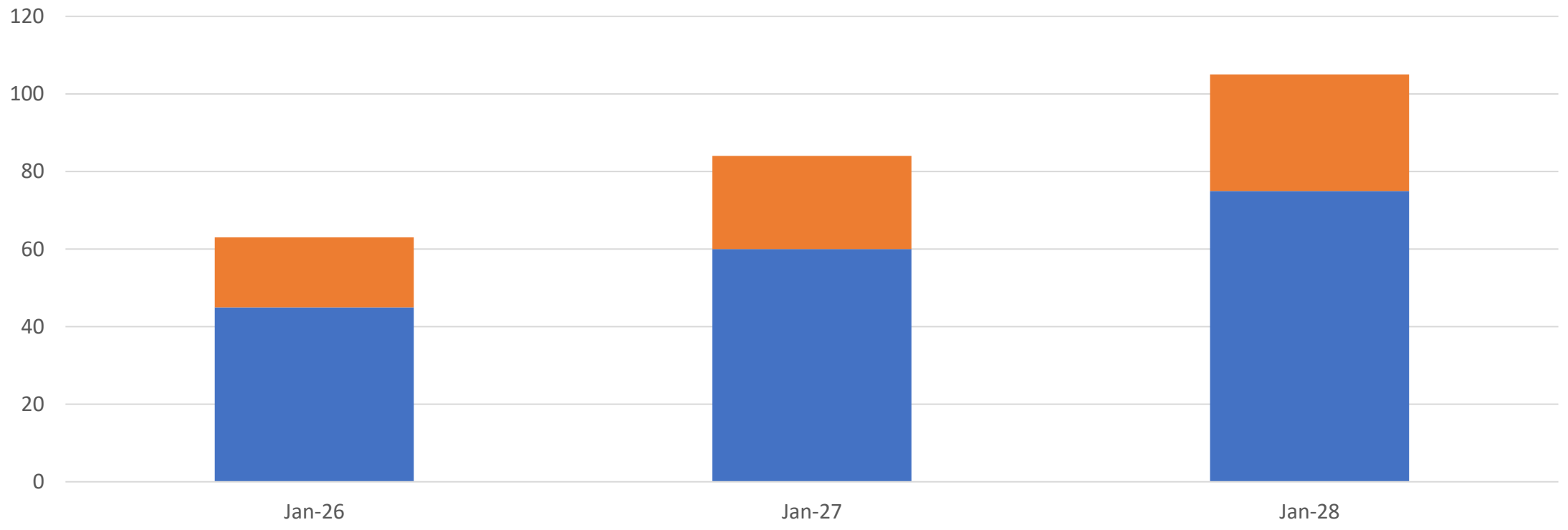
- Funding;
 - A one-off start-up allowance £110,000
 - Resources £7,000 per 30 places, total of £49,000 paid over the first three years, i.e., £17,000 in the year of opening, £16,000 in the 2nd and in the 3rd year of opening.
 - Diseconomies of Scale and Financial Viability in the four years after opening, an amount would be paid annually based on the number of “empty cohorts”

Empty Cohorts	4	3	2	1	Total
1 FE	£36,250	£29,500	£22,500	£15,500	£104,000

- Minimum Viability Number – see next slide

Finance - Minimum Viability Number

Expected number on roll compared to Minimum viability number (funded)

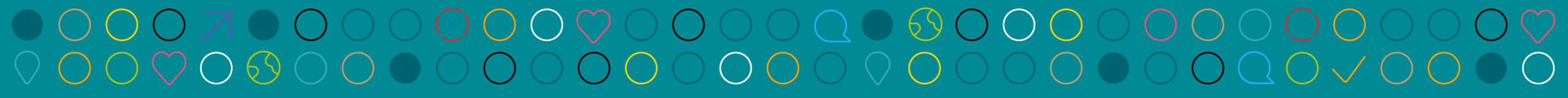


Expected NOR Minimum Viability Number (funded)

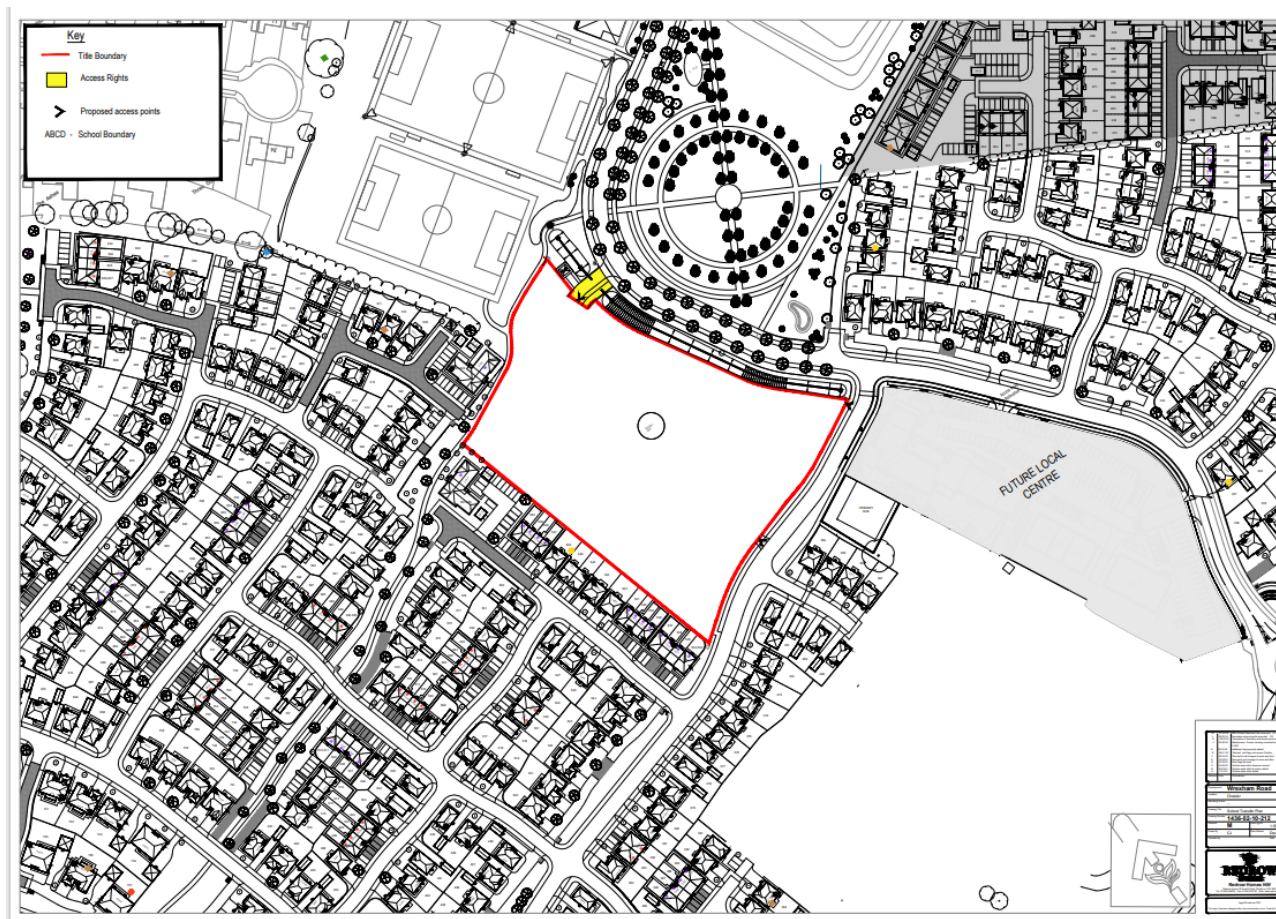




School Building Overview

- There will be minimal input into the design of the build
 - Initially built as 1 FE with ancillary spaces for 1.5FE
 - Design will allow for minimal impact for building growth
 - Will include a nursery space for 26 FTE at the outset
 - Based on DfE Building Bulletin 103
 - End user input from an impartial point of contact
 - Community Use Policy requirement for Trust/school
 - School Travel plan requirement for Trust/School
 - Planning application expected Autumn 2024
- 

School site



Changes to proposed timeline

Free school Presumption Timetable	
Stage 1 - Invitation for Proposals	
Council publish specification: National and local announcements using Department for Education (DfE) and Cheshire West and Chester Council websites	Monday 11 March 2024
Closing date for applications	Monday 20 May 2024
Stage 2 - Assessment	
Council informs DfE of all proposals received	27 May 2024
Council assesses proposals using DfE criteria	June 2024
Assessment panel of shortlisted proposers	September 2024
Recommendation to Cheshire West and Chester Cabinet Member for Children and Families and confirmation of preferred sponsor.	October 2024
Council assessment and preferred sponsor submitted to the Regional Director, for the North-West for consideration and decision	Autumn 2024
Stage 3 - Decision	
The Regional Director for the North-West (for the Secretary of State) will consider the Councils assessments and recommendations and decide which proposer is in the best position to take forward the new school. The RD will inform the Council and the successful proposer of the decision, and the Council will inform unsuccessful proposers.	There is no specified timescale for this part of the process
New school opens (at the earliest)	September 2026



FAQ

Q. How much input/flexibility will there be for the successful Trust to change the designs once the award of the school is made?

A. There will be extremely limited input into the design and layout of the new school for the Trust, due to time and capital cost restrictions.

Q. Where is it referenced within the Model Criteria document about strong track record as outlined in the introduction’?

A. 'Introduction' is to mean the Free School Specification.

Q. Is there a specific financial plan proforma Trusts should complete to outline their financial forecasts?

A. No. Trusts can submit this information in any format they feel sufficiently covers what has been asked for within the School Specification. The departmental finance template is acceptable for this: [A guide to new mainstream free school revenue funding: 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-new-mainstream-free-school-revenue-funding-2023-to-2024)





FAQ

Q. Does the nursery have to be provided by the school or could it be via a private provider?

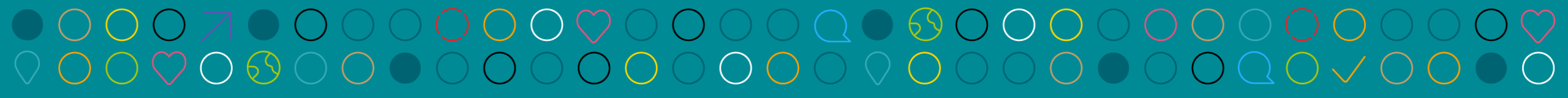
A. There are no restrictions on how nursery provision could be offered. Trusts will need to clearly set out their proposed delivery model. If this is via a private provider, please include the provider details

Q. The Trust would be keen to also offer nursery provision for 2-year-olds – would that be acceptable and how would that work with the funding allocation?

A. The Council would be in support of this based on current sufficiency and sustainability potential for the school and other early years providers in the locality, and to further support parental choice.

Q. Is there any set up funding available for resources within the nursery class i.e. furniture etc?

A. It will be for the Trust to determine how they use the set-up costs. There is no specific funding allocation for the Nursery. The Council will not provide any additional funding to what is already outlined in the specification.





FAQ

Q. Can photographs be included in Trusts applications?

A. Yes, as long as the necessary permissions have been sought.

Q. Will you accept hard copies of an application?

A. Hard copies of applications can be submitted. We also ask for electronic copies so that they can be shared with DfE.

Q. Regarding the information requested under financial matters which asks for details of the financial forecast for the next three years. Is this information for the proposed school, the trust or both?

A. Please provide forecasts for the proposed school. Trusts should be content the information provided allows the Council to fully understand the financial viability and take into account the financial capacity of the Trust for the project.





Any further questions?

This presentation and all Q&A's will be published on the Council's webpages.

