

Proposal to expand Dorin Park School at Upton High – Have your say

Cheshire West and Chester Council and Dorin Park School and SEN specialist College is proposing to permanently expand the school, via satellite expansion at Upton-By-Chester High School (CH2 1NN). Dorin Park School and SEN specialist College, Wealstone Lane, Upton, Chester, Cheshire, CH2 1HD. We've looked at the growing number of children needing specialist education, and this expansion helps us meet that demand.

Publication Date: 12 May 2025

The Proposal

- Site: Upton-by-Chester High School
- Pupils: Key Stage 3 and 4 (ages 11–16)
- Total places: 16 (8 current, 8 new)
- Needs: Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
- Start date: 1 September 2025

Background

The Council is currently implementing recommendations from a review of its Special Educational Needs and Disability system and has just approved a significant increase in school places for children and young people with additional needs.

They have looked at the levels of current and future demand for school places and have mapped it against the current provision. They know that there has been an increase both locally and nationally for specialist placements for children and young people.

The Council wishes to ensure that future provision is targeted at re-balancing its continuum of SEND provision.

Consultation

The Governing Body of Dorin Park School and SEN Specialist College and The Council propose to permanently increase the number of school places to enable the increase in school places, established on a temporary basis in September 2024, to be made permanent.

Dorin Park School is currently running a temporary satellite site at Upton-By-Chester High school from September 2024, offering 8 places for Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) for Key Stage 3 (KS3) pupils.

The proposal is to expand this current offer by a further 8 places bringing the proposal to a total of 16 places for MLD for Key Stage3 and KS4 pupils and to make the provision permanent.

The proposal will allow opportunities for the pupils at the satellite site to access and engage with the mainstream offer. The proposal will fulfil a shortfall of MLD places in the locality.

In order to continue to provide SEN provosion for our local community, and the school having successfully implemented this increase on a temporary basis, the Council and the school now propose to hold an informal stage of consultation, which will run from **12 May 2025 – 16 June 2025**.

Any person or organisation may submit comments to the Council on the proposal and these must be taken into account by the the Council's Director of Children and Families, on whether to proceed with the proposal. If agreed by the Director, a public 'Notice' will be published in a local newspaper, and published on the Council's website. This begins a four-week period of 'Representations' when anyone may make a comment or an objection to the proposal. Following a four-week period of representations and having considered all responses, the Cabinet Member for Children and Families will then take a final decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal.

You can share your views on this proposal until midnight on 16 June 2025. Your feedback will help the Council decide whether to go ahead with the changes.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

The proposal is in response to the increasing number of children and young people who require an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) with identified provision requiring a specialist setting.

The proposal will enable the school to provide an additional 16 SEN School places for children with MLD.

The proposal to create additional provision for pupils aged 11 – 16 at Upton-By-Chester will create increased capacity for children who require specialist curriculum, as well as providing an opportunity to learn alongside pupils at Upton High, where appropriate.

As the temporary provision has proved successful, the School's Governing Body now wish to formally increase the number of school places provided by the school can be permanently established.

The Council's SEN manager has advised these places will be necessary to enable the Council to continue to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of SEN School places for children within the Borough.

Ofsted has found the Dorin Park School's provision to be 'Good'.

Ofsted has found the Upton-By-Chester High School's provision to be 'Good'.

The effect on other pre-school provision within the area

The proposal is not expected to impact other school provision in the area.

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

Paper copies of the proposal may be requested directly from the school.

A digital copy of the proposal can be found here: [Dorin Park School and SEN specialist College - Increase the number of school places via Satellite site consultation | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Alternatively digital copies may be requested by emailing:

schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Any person may provide their views on the proposal, either by:

- Sending a response by postal letter to School Organisation, The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BA
- Email to schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Completing the Smart Survey here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Dorin_Park/

All responses received will be shared with the Council's Director of Children and Families. Full details of how the Council manage the information provided by respondents can be found at: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/system-pages/privacy-notices/consultations-privacy-notice.aspx>

The final date to provide feedback on the proposal is midnight 16 June 2025