

# **Dorin Park School expansion**

**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: 9 July 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, 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, the school having successfully implemented this increase on a temporary basis, and following a period of informal consultation, the Council and the school are now proceeding to the formal stage of Notice and Representation, which will run from 9 July 2025 – 6 August 2025.

### **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 and the Council now wish to formally increase the number of school places provided on a permanent basis.

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 school provision within the area**

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

### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

If approved by the decision-maker (and subject to there being no appeal by Chester or Shrewsbury Dioceses to the Schools Adjudicator) the Council and the Governing Body wish to implement the proposal immediately after a decision has been made.

**The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments**

A public notice will be published on the Cheshire West and Chester Council website on 9 July 2025

[Dorin Park School and SEN specialist College - Increase the number of school places via Satellite site consultation | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

A public notice announcing the start of a period of public representations is to be published in the Chester Standard Newspaper on 10 July 2025

Within four weeks from the date of publication (9 July), any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal;

- By sending a response to the Senior Manager, Education Infrastructure, Cheshire West and Chester Council, The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE
- By email to [schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

All responses received will be shared with the decision-maker, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. Full details of how we 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 for receipt of representations is Midnight 6 August 2025.**

## Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in audio, Braille, large print or other formats. If you would like information in another format or language, including British Sign Language, please email us at: **[equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)**

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如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

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You can also telephone: **0300 123 8 123**

or textphone: **18001 0300 123 8 123**

website: **[www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)**