



Public Consultation

Proposed increase in the number of students attending Mabel Prichard School, Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys, Oxford

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views from interested parties on the proposal to increase student numbers on Mabel Prichard School's site at Cuddesdon Way, Oxford. It is very important that all those involved or who have an interest have a say, and we welcome your views.

Introduction

Mabel Prichard School and The Gallery Trust are working with Oxfordshire County Council to increase the number of students on the school's site for primary school aged children by 30. This expansion in numbers is to support the ongoing and increasing need for places for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire. The expansion in the school roll from the current 106 places to 136 places will support students with special needs in the county and is important to ensure that appropriate education provision is available to children and young people with SEND. Currently, there are insufficient school places for students with SEND, and the supply of places is not meeting the demand.

About Mabel Prichard School

Mabel Prichard School is a special school for children and young people with complex needs from the ages of 2 to 19. Students have a range of severe and profound learning needs and physical disabilities. The school has a site for primary school aged children at Cuddesdon Way, Oxford, co-located with Orchard Meadow Primary School, and a site for secondary school and post-16 aged children and young people at Sandy Lane West, Oxford, co-located with Oxford Academy. The school serves a large catchment area across Oxfordshire.

The school is part of The Gallery Trust, Oxfordshire's largest Special Multi Academy Trust. There are 7 special academies in the Trust, with a further special academy opening in 2026.

What is the proposal?

The proposal is for Mabel Prichard School to increase the number of students on roll from 106 places to 136 places by September 2025. This is an increase of 30 students. The additional students will be accommodated within the building at Cuddesdon Way by adapting classrooms previously used by Orchard Meadow Primary School, but no longer required by that school. The building will not be expanded, but current space will be remodelled and refurbished to meet the needs of the students. This is a cost-effective way to increase the size of the school with a minimal impact on the site.

Will there be changes to the building and site at Cuddesdon Way?

The expansion would take place at Mabel Prichard School's primary site by using three additional classrooms within the existing building, which were previously used by Orchard Meadow Primary School. The changes will also provide additional storage space, an office and a communal learning space through adaptation of the existing building.

One classroom will be adapted to provide for students who have high level medical and physical needs who require additional space for hoisting, equipment, physiotherapy and higher staffing ratios. An existing classroom will also have adaptations to better suit the needs of those learners with high level medical and physical needs. Another two will be adapted for learners with complex learning difficulties and high-level sensory sensitivities, who require high levels of staffing, space and equipment for movement and regulation. The size of the building at Cuddesdon Way will not be increased: the work involves modifications to the existing building and does not require any additional space to be added.

The expansion would also involve a change to the access arrangements to the site, which currently has a single lane vehicle access and a single lane pedestrian access shared with Orchard Meadow Primary School. It would provide safer access on and off the site with a one-way system and parking for the buses, taxis and parents and carers dropping off and picking up students. The new entrance arrangement will improve the access to the school, and offer more minibus parking bays, taxi stands and parking on site.

Who will pay for the building work?

The proposed works will be funded by Oxfordshire County Council, as part of its county-wide programme of increasing special education provision. The additional places at the school will generate revenue funding from the Department for Education and from Oxfordshire County Council to fund the students' ongoing educational provision.

Why do we need to hold a consultation?

Under the Department for Education guidance entitled "*Making significant changes to an open academy*", academy trusts are required to undertake a consultation before making significant changes to the operation of an academy. Your views on the proposed change will be very welcome.

How you can respond to this consultation

Please let us know your thoughts on this proposal. There are several ways you can submit your views:

- complete the online survey at <https://forms.gle/PWyZtPPS3jeB5393A>
- email the consultation response form that is available with this document to consultation@thegallerytrust.co.uk
- print and complete the consultation response form that is available with this document and hand it in to the reception of Mabel Prichard School (primary or secondary sites), or post it to Mabel Prichard School, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6SB.

The deadline for your response is 15 July 2024.

The Trust will collate all responses, analyse the feedback, address any concerns raised and decide whether to proceed with the submission of the application for the change to the Department for Education.

If you would like a response to your comments, please provide your name, and email address or telephone number. Otherwise, your response will be treated as anonymous.

How can I find out about the outcome of the application?

We will confirm the outcome of the consultation on the Mabel Prichard School and The Gallery Trust websites.