

Wiltshire Council Statutory Notice: Intention to Discontinue the following Special Schools:

- **St Nicholas School (Special), Malmesbury Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 1QF**
- **Rowdeford School (Special), Rowde, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2QQ**
- **Larkrise School (Special), Ashton St, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 7EB**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and Regulation 12(1) of the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8JN intends to discontinue the above three schools with effect from 31 August 2023.

It is proposed that the three schools will be closed and replaced by a new special school which will be developed and established in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) Guidance "Opening and closing maintained schools: statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers" (November 2018). All capital costs will be met by Wiltshire Council.

Reason for Closure

The proposed closures are put forward as part of the council's overall strategy to create new special school places in the north of the County for children with special educational needs. The proposed new school will be established as a centre of excellence, building upon the recognised good practice of the existing three schools and providing high quality support not only for the pupils who attend the school but also for the wider population of pupils with special educational needs in Wiltshire.

This notice provides the requisite statutory notice regarding closure of the above three schools and preliminary notice of the related proposal of the opening of a new special school. A further statutory notice will be published when a proposer has been identified for the new special school.

The full proposal, along with supporting documents and a short consultation reply form may be found on: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-consultations>

Any person or organisation may also respond to the proposals by sending them to Special Schools Project, Education Directorate, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN or by sending an email to SpecialSchools@wiltshire.gov.uk

This email address will only be used to collect objections and comments and send out paper copies of the proposal. Questions will be welcomed at the surgeries described below.

Responses to the proposal must be received by the Council by 5pm on the 1st of March 2019 (extended from the 26th of February).

Further Information

1. Questions can be raised at surgeries being arranged at each of the above schools for parent/carers of pupils and for all parent/carers arranged by Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC). Details of the meetings will be sent by letter via schools to parent/carers and WPCC will advertise dates on their website:

http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk/en/Home_Page .

2. Information on the Wiltshire Council website will also include a series of video conversations about the proposals between Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and Stuart Hall, Strategic Director, Wiltshire Parent Care Council. These may be found at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-consultations>

Signed:

Ian Gibbons,

Solicitor to the Council
9th January 2019