

New Ridgeway Farm Primary School

School Specification

1. Background

This document is designed to outline to potential sponsors of a new Primary Academy at Ridgeway Farm - both the technical details of the new Academy and what Wiltshire Council desire of a sponsor in terms of education provision. This document should form the basis of applications from potential sponsors.

Wiltshire Council has identified the need for a new 210 place primary school at Ridgeway Farm to be operational from September 2016.

Purton is a large village and civil parish in Wiltshire, 4 miles (6.4 km) north-west of the centre of Swindon. The civil parish includes the village of Purton Stoke and the hamlets of Benthams, Hayes Knoll, Restrop and Widham.

In December 2012 Taylor Wimpey were given planning approval on appeal for 700 houses at Ridgeway Farm, The approval includes provision a 1FE (210 place) new school to serve the residential development.

A Section 106 agreement was signed in May 2012 for 700 dwellings in Purton, Ridgeway Farm, Common Platt. The agreement requires the developer to provide a 1.2 hectares site and a one form entry primary school by the earlier of the target substantial completion date or occupation of the 170th dwelling.

The new school will serve the new housing development will not replace any existing schools and will be based on a site in the new housing development. The school will open in September 2016 in new purpose built accommodation.

Wiltshire Council is committed to working with all state funded schools in the county, including Academies and Free Schools. The council will offer both support to the appointed sponsor in setting up the new Academy and continuing opportunities for involvement in strategic issues related to education in Wiltshire.

2. Details of the new school

The school site will be in Ridgeway Farm.

Area/community to be served: It is anticipated that the school will primarily serve the new housing developments detailed above.

Age Range: The school will cater for pupils between the ages of 4 and 11. The Authority's policy is to admit children into the Reception Year in the September following their fourth birthday.

Gender: Mixed

Opening date: 1 September 2016, for 15 children in every year group (reception – Y6), progressively increasing to 30 as housing is completed by the developer and occupied.

Admissions: The school will normally be a 210 place school, offering 30 places in Reception each year and the accommodation will be provided to enable this. See Table A.

Table A – Proposed admission number for new primary school

	Sep 2016	Sep 2017	Sep 2018	Sep 2019
Reception	15	20	30	30
Year 1	15	20	30	30
Year 2	15	20	30	30
Year 3	15	20	30	30
Year 4	15	20	30	30
Year 5	15	20	30	30
Year 6	15	20	30	30
Total	105	140	210	210

The sponsor will be required to abide by the Codes of Practice on Admissions and Admissions Appeals and participate in the Authority's co-ordinated scheme for admissions and In Year Fair Access Protocol.

For September 2016 applications it may be necessary to provide parents with the opportunity to apply outside of the co-ordinated admissions scheme as agreed between the schools and the Local Authority. This is because the school governance may not be far enough advanced as a recognised education establishment. Therefore, potential applicants may not be able to apply under the normal application process.

If this situation arises, Admissions Services in Wiltshire will make available a separate application form for the purposes of applying solely for the new school. Parents who apply on the separate form will also have the opportunity to apply under the normal application process and name three other schools as part of the co-ordinated admissions scheme.

All proposals should ensure they take account of the need to serve the local community and reflect the need for community cohesion. The determined admissions criteria must work in conjunction with the criteria in operation for other schools in the area.

Childcare: In order to provide sufficient childcare for working parents, out of hours provision, such as breakfast and after school clubs, is a key priority for Wiltshire Council. There will not be dedicated accommodation provided for these facilities, it would be anticipated that the sponsor provides these within the main school building.

Provision for Special Educational Needs: The school will be expected to make appropriate educational provision for all learners for whom a mainstream placement is considered appropriate. This will include ensuring an inclusive learning environment in which all pupils, including those with special or additional educational needs and those with disabilities are supported and enabled to make maximum progress. This will include adherence to the statutory SEN framework, having due regard to the Code of Practice. The school will be expected to ensure timely identification and assessment of needs, appropriate intervention and the efficient monitoring of the progress of pupils with identified special or additional needs. In meeting such needs the school will be expected to engage with parents / carers and work in partnership with them in the best interests of the progress of all learners.

Home to School Transport: The school will be accessible through walking and cycling from the community it serves, and is close to major bus routes. A Traffic Impact Assessment will be carried out by the council as part of the planning process for the build project. The appointed sponsor will then be required to develop a school travel plan.

Capital Funding Arrangements: As the new school is needed specifically to meet the needs of the pupils arising from the new housing development, the design and build costs will be met by the developer.

School Building: In order to meet the opening date of September 2016, the school design and build process is already underway. The sponsor will not, therefore, have the opportunity for any involvement in the design of the school building. The new building will meet all current guidelines and will be of sufficient size for a 210 place school.

3. Partnership working and collaboration

A key component of selection will be the sponsor's willingness and ability to engage with the local community in order to attract parents and children to the school, and to help ensure high aspirations and outcomes for all children in the area.

The sponsor would be expected to work closely with community groups and to make the school facilities such as the playing field and the school hall available out of school hours for community activities. It would also be expected that the sponsor connects with other local schools, and makes an active contribution to school-to-school.

At a recent workshop for the community and local schools they produced the following profile and key characteristics for providers to consider.

There is a strong collaborative approach to education in the community area which is school led promoting aspirations and shared values in order to deliver the high standard of Education expected in Wiltshire. This collaboration is called The North Wilts Learning Cluster Group and local schools are eager for any new providers to participate in bringing outstanding practice to the area. The existing schools are willing to work with the new Academy provider in order to embed it into the community and would like to encourage bidders to operate and maintain these links.

The new school will be on the boundary of the two Unitary authorities of Wiltshire and Swindon but will be a Wiltshire school where the pupils feed to Bradon Forest Secondary School.

4. Teaching and learning

Sponsors will be expected to demonstrate their ability to:

- ensure that teaching and learning, including the management of behaviour, is outstanding;
- effectively monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and other support provided for pupils with a range of aptitudes and needs, including pupils with a disability or those with special educational needs, so that all pupils have high levels of achievement;
- ensure good progression in skills in reading, writing, communication and mathematics with the effective application of these skills across the curriculum;
- provide successful preventative and early intervention strategies to minimise any gap in outcomes for children whose circumstances or learning needs make them more vulnerable, including taking a holistic approach including supporting parents and families;
- ensure high aspirations and expectations from all staff so that planning and teaching is successful in extending the knowledge, skills and understanding across a broad range of subjects and areas of learning;
- create a learning environment within the school, promoting challenging tasks that are well matched to pupils' learning needs and successfully engage all pupils in their learning;
- ensure pupils understand how to improve their learning as a result of frequent, detailed and accurate feedback from teachers following assessment of their learning;
- build on learning through play and active enquiry within an enabling environment;
- enable pupils to develop skills such as resilience, teamwork and learning for themselves, including setting appropriate homework that reinforces the learning partnership between home and school;
- make effective use of assessment for learning, as well as assessment of learning, so that teachers' monitoring of learning during lessons responds to pupils' feedback and makes adjustments to planning where necessary to maximise the pace and depth of learning;
- ensure pupils know how to improve their learning as a result of frequent and accurate feedback and through questioning and dialogue;
- make appropriate and effective use of Information and Communication Technology [ICT] to support and enable learning, the monitoring of progress and the planning of provision, also communication within the school community; and
- introduce successful innovations in teaching and share these across the school and with other schools.

5. Leadership and management

Sponsors will be expected to:

- show clearly how they will arrange the school staffing and governance required for the September 2016 opening, within a short timescale;
- demonstrate how they will ensure the long term sustainability of the school;
- demonstrate an ambitious vision for the school including high standards for quality and performance and high expectations for every pupil to achieve;
- ensure that the provision offered develops children's personality, talents and abilities to the full, with respect for human rights, for parents and carers, for children's own and other cultures and for the environment;
- work in partnership with wider services such as social care services, health, police and other schools to enable each child to progress and succeed;
- seek to build productive relationships with parents and carers and the wider community, based on trust and evidence, supporting pupils' achievement, behaviour and safety, and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- ensure that all pupils are safe;
- encourage pupil voice to enrich the curriculum and to generate curiosity and engagement in learning;
- provide an exciting and inspiring broad and balanced curriculum that ensure the learning and development needs of all pupils are addressed effectively;
- define what it is about their particular offer that will be attractive to parents, and what added value the organisation will bring to the school;
- actively promote equality and understanding between different groups of people and communities while tackling prejudice;
- rigorously evaluate the school's strengths and weaknesses and use the findings effectively to ensure good outcomes for each pupil, including those whose circumstances or learning needs may make them more vulnerable;
- use data in a robust and formative way to enhance the progress of all pupils and ensure high levels of attendance, behaviour and engagement;
- create a self-directed and inclusive learning environment;
- ensure capacity for developing and sustaining high outcomes for all pupils through developing leadership capacity and high professional standards among all staff; and
- use performance management effectively and develop and maintain innovation and flexibility to support the work of all staff and governors.

Additionally, the recent community based education workshop identified the following local priorities to be taken into account by potential providers:

6. Community profile

At a recent workshop for the community and local schools they produced the following profile and key characteristics for providers to consider.

Historically, people from the Purton community worked at GWR in Swindon and the community grew as a result. It retains a strong element of people who commute to Swindon to work but is also under threat from the growth of urban Swindon.

It is a very rural community with narrow roads and poor public transport. However, it is also used as a cut-through to Swindon which creates a high volume of traffic and bottlenecks.

The community's future aspirations for the school include:

- For the new provider to establish and retain strong links to the existing Primary Schools and Bradon Forest Secondary School.
- Promote the area's rural identity and Wiltshire's education ethos – Purton is a Wiltshire community first and foremost
- It would be helpful to create a designated walking/cycling route from the new school & housing estate to Purton town and the Bradon Forest school.
- Ideally, the name of the new school would reflect local Purton characteristics and/or landmarks to further link it to the town.

7. Contact details and application form

Proposals should be submitted using the Wiltshire Council Application Form and Specification Document. The Application Form and Specification Document are available from:

Jodie.maslen@wiltshire.gov.uk

Completed Application Forms must be submitted by 6:00pm on Monday 22 April 2015.

Please note that the selection process of a preferred sponsor will include a formal presentation and interview in **May 2015**.

If you would like any further information, or would like to discuss your application in detail, please contact Jodie Maslen:

Email: Jodie.maslen@wiltshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01225 713769

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