

THE PROPOSAL:

To close the residential care provision at Chart Wood School and to increase the school's capacity to 120 places for day pupils

Purpose

This document outlines our proposal to close the residential care provision at Chart Wood School as of July 2020 and to increase the capacity of the School from 105 to 120 places for day pupils from September 2020.

We are therefore consulting with families and carers, pupils, local authorities, staff, local schools and other stakeholders for just over four term-time weeks from Monday 6th January until the 3rd of February 2020. Subject to the comments received on the consultation, we plan to submit a full business case on our proposal to the Regional Schools' Commissioner in February 2020 who will make the decision on whether the proposal should go ahead.

Context

Residential Care Provision

Chart Wood School's residential provision has had three consecutive inadequate Ofsted judgements. The School is not in the position to admit additional pupils to its residential care provision whilst it is in this Ofsted category. The Local Authority Commissioners have confirmed they do not wish to place pupils in the residential provision for the near future.

Chart Wood School has a current capacity of 105 places including provision for 20 residential places. There are currently 88 pupils on roll with 11 as boarders. The annual forecasted income currently generated by the residential provision is £228k versus running costs of £356k which is not financially sustainable. This position will worsen in 2020/21 and into the future.

Only eight pupils are currently confirmed as residential in September 2020, based on the information to date. Should our proposal to the Regional Schools Commissioner be approved, we will work with parents/carers and local authorities to ensure that the residential pupils who we expect currently to be in residence at the School, can access an appropriate provision to meet their needs.

School Provision

Chart Wood School's day placement provision for pupils also has an inadequate Ofsted judgement. By discontinuing residential placements in 2020, we will ensure the School's absolute focus is on the quality and sustainability of the school's provision for the day pupils. This will also enable the school to be reflective of the changing landscape of the sector and prepare for and respond to a challenging LA funding environment.

This change will lead to us developing our blended, holistic curriculum plans and needs-led interventions for more day placements, to ensure that EHCP outcomes are met and appropriate provision is in place, promoting inclusion and contributing to high standards of support in line with our ethos.

It is expected that the proposed change will impact positively on pupils and the school community. We intend to ensure maximum benefit to pupils by redeployment of resources within the estate, including utilisation of residential accommodation to provide additional classrooms for pupil use. The additional space will potentially allow the school to increase its capacity from 105 to 120, subject to approval.

Impact on Staff

All of the staff working in the residential provision will have the opportunity to move to day time roles at Chart Wood School in September 2020 where their skills will be redeployed. We will of course meet with staff and their representatives if the proposal for closure is agreed by the Regional Schools' Commissioner.

Timeline and Process

A formal consultation, to seek feedback on the above proposed change, will take place for just over four term-time weeks from Monday 6th January 2020 until Monday 3rd February 2020. All responses received by the end of the consultation period will be carefully considered and approval will be sought from the Regional Schools Commissioner who will make the decision on whether the proposal should go ahead.

We therefore invite you to take part in this consultation on the proposal to close the residential offer at the end of term July 2020 and to increase the capacity of the school to 120 pupils by September 2020.

Public meetings, where you can meet the school leaders and ask questions, will be held on the following dates at Chart Wood School:

6pm-7pm on Monday 13th January 2020

6pm-7pm on Thursday 16th January 2020

Comments on the Proposal may be submitted in the following ways:

By paper: see attached response form

Online at: www.chartwoodschoool.org

By email to: consultation@cws.surrey.sch.uk

By post to: Consultation, Chart Wood School, Taynton Drive, Merstham, Surrey RH1 3PU

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully,

Graham Payne
Principal, Chart Wood School
Tel: 01737 215488