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To:

Parents of pupils at Kingsmead School, Staff, Governors, City Special Schools & Derby City Councillors (Ward Members).

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

**12th September 2024 to 14th October 2024**

**Please give us your views and comments on our proposal to increase the admission numbers at Kingsmead School.**

**1.0 Introduction**

* 1. Kingsmead School is a specialist provision and currently provides 110 places for pupils aged 7-19, within these 110 commissioned places Kingsmead uses a variety of settings to best meet the needs of the children who attend the school, this includes Bridge Street School and Castle School. Kingsmead School’s Governing Body, with the support of Derby City Council, is consulting on an exciting proposal to permanently extend the schools pupil admission number (PAN) to 180 from January 2025. This proposal will be supported by the acquisition of an additional building and refurbishments to the current Kingsmead School.

1.2 The proposal forms part of Derby City Council’s SEND Strategy and Vision - ‘Living My Best Life’. The reason for the proposal is to meet an increase in demand for places for children with the primary area of need of Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) across the City. If the proposal goes ahead, Derby City Council will support the school with accommodation for all young people who attend our school.

1.3 The closing date for responses is **9am** on **Monday 14th October.**

**2.0 Why is the Governing Body proposing to increase pupil places?**

2.1 Through the development of Derby City Council’s SEND Strategy and Vision, it has been identified that there is a growing need for SEMH provision within the City. The aim is that Derby City parents of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) should be able to access a place for their child, in a Derby City Special School. The provision of additional specialist places for children and young people with SEMH at Kingsmead School and other settings within the Respect Collaboration of Schools by the Governing Body will assist the Council in securing sufficient local SEND places

2.2 Nationally there is a shortfall of Special School places, Derby City is no different. The proposal will help to provide local school places for Derby’s children and young people with SEMH needs, as far as possible and appropriate.

**3. Why is the Governing Body proposing an increase to 70 pupil places?**

3.1 The Governing Body has considered the current and future cohorts of children attending the school, this has grown, particularly in the last 24 months. The increase in PAN size is proportionate.

3.2. There is currently a close match between the rising area of need of the specialism of the school and the national challenge for young people. Therefore, Kingsmead School is an appropriate setting to expand places and age range.

**4. What are the views of Headteacher and Governors?**

4.1 Kingsmead’s School Governing Body fully supports the proposal to extend the PAN.

**5. What are the implications for teaching staff?**

5.1 School budgets are largely based on pupil numbers. The extra pupils will result in increased funding for the school to employ sufficient teaching and support staff.

**6.0 Will there be an impact on other schools?**

6.1 PAN extensions require careful consideration, and the proposal needs to be seen in the context of specialist places in the wider area. This proposal at Kingsmead School is to meet an increase in demand for children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Derby City. There is no intention to reduce the size of schools elsewhere as a result of this proposal. All special schools are being consulted on this proposal.

6.2 The proposal will ease pressures on some mainstream and special school settings across the city. This means that children who live in Derby City and require specialist provision are more likely to be able to attend a Special School (if appropriate) within their local area.

**7.0 How can I give my views and comments on the proposal?**

7.1 Kingsmead School and Derby City Council are very interested in your views and comments on our proposal. Please respond to us in writing by using the Consultation Response Form attached to this paper. There is a four-week period for people to respond to this proposal. The closing date for responses is **9am** on **Monday 14th October**. If you would like to discuss any specific aspects of the proposal or need more information, please contact:

**The Senior Administrator,**

**Kingsmead School,**

**Brighton Road, Derby.**

**DE24 8TE**

**8.0 What are the next steps?**

8.1As Kingsmead School is a Community Special School, the Governing Body needs to consult and publish a public notice on the proposal. Please use this consultation as an opportunity to give us your views and comments on our proposal to extend the age range at Kingsmead School, Brighton Road, Derby. DE24 8TE

8.2 After the closing date of this initial consultation, all the responses will be gathered and reported to the School Governing Body to decide on whether to progress to the next stage. If Kingsmead School Governing Body approves moving to the next stage, a formal public notice will be published. We anticipate that a final decision will be taken by December 2024.

8.3 If the proposal to increase pupil places goes ahead, Derby City Council will work closely with the school on proposals for the new accommodation. We would seek to minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work and full consideration will be given to issues such as traffic and the impact on the environment as part of the planning process

**Proposal to extend the Pupil Admission Number at Kingsmead School**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

We are very interested in your views and comments on this proposal. Please use this form to let us have your views. (Please use extra sheets if you wish).

**Do you support the school’s proposal to change Kingsmead School Pupil Admission number?**

I support the proposal. □

I’m undecided about the proposal. □

I don’t support the proposal. □

**Please give us any comments here**

**Date………………………………………………………………………………..**

**Status………………………………………………………………………………**

(For example, a parent, governor, school, agency, other)

**Please return your completed form to: The Senior Administrator, Kingsmead School, Brighton Road, Derby. DE24 8TE**

**All responses will be treated confidentially.**

The closing date for getting your views and comments in is: Monday 14th October 2024.