



**NORTH VIEW
ACADEMY**
WISE 

NORTH VIEW ACADEMY, SUNDERLAND

PROPOSED INCREASE IN CAPACITY

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

19TH MAY – 23RD JUNE 2020

FOREWORD

WISE Academies is a successful Multi Academy Trust operating throughout the North-East of England and is proud to be the proprietor of North View Academy.

North View Academy provides specialist primary education to children with a range of needs including social, emotional and mental health issues in the City of Sunderland and surrounding areas. It is clear that there is a growing demand for such high quality provision and the purpose of this consultation is to expand the capacity at North View Academy in order to satisfy this demand and ensure that more local children can benefit from the expertise available at this highly regarded setting.

This consultation document sets out the detail of the proposed increase in capacity and how this change would be implemented if approved by the Department for Education.

Representatives of North View Academy and WISE Academies have already taken steps to engage with the Local Authority regarding this expansion and the Local Authority are wholly supportive of the proposal.

This consultation exercise has been launched as part of our commitment to communicate with all stakeholders and will run from 19th May – 23rd June 2020. This document sets out the background, the proposals and how interested parties can contribute to the consultation process.

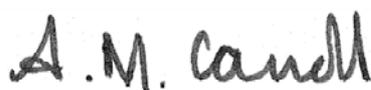
We very much look forward to receiving the support of everyone concerned and we therefore encourage you to respond to the consultation.



Gary Mellefont
Headteacher of North View Academy



Zoe Carr O.B.E.
CEO of WISE Academies



Alison Carroll
Chair of Local Governing Body



Margaret Wright-Stephenson
Chair of Trustees of WISE Academies



**NORTH VIEW
ACADEMY**
WISE 



**WISE
ACADEMIES**
We Inspire Success and Excellence



North View Academy, St. Lukes Road, South Hylton, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR4 0HB

CONTEXT

North View Academy opened on 1st August 2014. It is designated as a special school for children with a range of individual needs including SEMH. The planned number of places at the Academy for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is currently 70 places in the age range 4-11. There are currently 75 pupils on role at North View (a temporary change which did not require consultation) but this consultation relates to a proposed permanent change to 80, which will be reflected in the academy's funding agreement.

North View Academy became part of WISE Academies on 1st September 2018.

There is a heavy demand for places at North View Academy, reflecting the increasing need for settings with this specialism. North View Academy mainly admits children from Sunderland but placements are also made by surrounding Local Authorities in some cases.

Sunderland City Council has identified an increasing need for specialist provision such as that offered at North View Academy, and strongly supports the proposed expansion of North View Academy in order to meet the needs of SEND children in the area.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

This proposal will involve increasing the capacity of North View Academy from 70 planned places to 80 planned places. There will be no change in the academy's age range or designation.

If approved, it is hoped that the practical effects of this change will be seen from the autumn term 2020 and for this reason we are already formulating plans to implement this measure in readiness for an increased intake of children later in the year.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

North View Academy is a small special school which provides dedicated support for primary age pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The school capacity is 70 in the current funding agreement but could accommodate 80 pupils. The school experiences a high demand for the available places. All children who attend have Education, Health and Care Plans.

Demand for places at North View Academy outstrips the number of places available. Data from the Local Authority confirms that during 2018/19 there were 30 initial EHC Plans for North View Academy (14 of which had an ASD diagnosis). To date during 2019/20 there have been a further 14 initial EHC plans for North View Academy (8 of which had ASD diagnosis). The Local Authority further advises that there are expected to be a further five additional requests for placement at North View Academy in the near future. The academy cannot accommodate the requests for these placements within its existing capacity.

The above data reflects the current demand for placement at North View Academy from Sunderland, although the academy also admits pupils from outside of Sunderland. This reflects the growth in demand for specialist provision in the North-East of England, but is also a reflection of the reputation of the academy for the high quality of support that it provides to the children in our region who are most in need.

Key Points to Note:

- The plan is to increase the number of places at North View Academy from 70 planned places to 80 planned places. We would like this to be implemented by the autumn 2020 (September or as soon as possible thereafter);
- Plans are well advanced for the efficient organisation of classes to accommodate the additional ten children if this proposal is approved.
- Increased numbers of pupils will also generate additional funding which will benefit the academy. The school's budget will therefore be able to fund enhanced provision from this increasing sum;
- The expanded number of places means that North View Academy will be operating to its optimum capacity. This helps efficiency, the cost elements are reduced and more funding is available for all pupils;
- Because North View Academy has a high quality building and grounds, which was designed with some scope for expansion, the capital requirements in adapting the building will be minimal;
- The Academy was last inspected in April 2018 and was judged to be 'Good' in all areas. It is well equipped to provide a broad and balanced curriculum with successful outcomes for the increased number of children.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

What adaptations will be needed to the academy building in order to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers?

North View is located in a purpose built new school premises in the south of Sunderland. It is sufficiently spacious and well planned to enable an additional ten pupils to be comfortably accommodated without any additional teaching space being constructed. The cost of this internal reconfiguration is expected to be minimal. The academy is looking to re-configure some of the existing space, and this will not create any loss of amenity within the building. Communal areas within the premises can easily cope with the growth in the pupil numbers and facilities such as toilets have been confirmed as being sufficient.

When is it expected that the increase in capacity will be effective?

There is already pressure in the school system for these additional special school places to be created. We therefore hope that it will be possible for the increase (if approved) to be effective from September 2020 or as soon as possible after this.

Following completion of this consultation exercise, there will be a business case presented to the Department for Education (DfE). The timescale for the DfE considering the application and giving approval to the changes may be affected by the current restrictions in place due to the coronavirus pandemic but WISE Academies will do everything possible to make sure that this is expedited in time for the early autumn term 2020.

My child currently attends North View Academy. What will this mean for me and my child?

Parents of children at North View Academy can be assured that their child's placement will not be affected. Nothing will change for existing pupils who will still be at North View Academy in the autumn term. Transport arrangements for these pupils will also be unaffected.

The current Year 6 cohort will transfer to the appropriate secondary placement from September 2020 in the usual way. North View will liaise closely with the providers of secondary education in the area to ensure a successful transition between schools and continuity of learning.

For all other year groups please be assured that, irrespective of the outcome of this consultation exercise, standards of provision will remain at the same high level in the new academic year.

What about the staff?

The employment of staff at North View Academy will not be affected. Additional staff would be employed to support the increased number of pupils. There could be additional opportunities for the existing staff as a result of this expansion and, because the setting will have increased income as a result of the increase in pupil numbers, staffing levels will become even more sustainable.

North View staff have particular expertise around provision of care and support to children and this will not change. There will still be small group settings which lend themselves so well to the positive relationship that staff have with pupils.

What alternatives have been considered?

The Local Authority has a duty to ensure the sufficiency and suitability of school places and Sunderland has been successful in introducing additional capacity into the City for special educational needs pupils, which will mean that the City is well placed to meet future requirements in the sector. However, each of the special schools/academies in the City has its own specialism and there is currently a particularly acute need

for the kind of provision that North View Academy can offer. This is why the Local Authority has offered their strongest possible support to our proposal for the increase in planned places at North View Academy.

A great deal of analysis has been undertaken around the need for these additional school places and WISE Academies would not be proposing this expansion unless it had been demonstrated that this increase in capacity is sustainable and in the interests of our children.

Who is being consulted?

WISE Academies firmly believes in parental and community engagement. Any interested parties are invited to respond to the consultation including but not limited to the following:

- Staff from the academy;
- Parents/carers;
- Local Authorities;
- Other schools and academies;
- Staff trade unions;

CONCLUSION

North View Academy has a clear vision to improve the lives of its pupils and to prepare them for the next phase of their education. This proposal will mean that more children can benefit from the successful practices that exist at North View Academy and will help to make sure that more children and parents have access to the support they need.

In proposing this expansion of North View Academy, WISE Academies firmly believes that this will be a positive development. We view this as a tremendous opportunity to bring high quality educational provision to more of the children who will benefit from it most. We would like your views on this proposal.

TIMESCALES AND NEXT STEPS

- 19th May – 23rd June 2020 - consultation phase (parents, staff, surrounding schools, Local Authority etc.);
- An analysis of responses will then be undertaken;
- July 2020 - final recommendations to WISE Academies Board of Trustees. Trustees will consider all responses;
- July 2020 – a significant change application will be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE);
- September 2020 (or as soon as possible thereafter) - practical effects begin

Throughout this WISE Academies will be listening, carefully planning and engaging in vital conversations with the Local Authority, DfE and others.

You will be able to respond in any of the following ways:

- By email to consultations@wiseacademies.co.uk
- By writing to : WISE Academies Head Office, Consultations, Borodin Avenue, Sunderland SR5 4NX

Responses to be received by 23rd June 2020.



Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.