

# Amalgamation of Manor Mead School (community special school) with Walton Leigh School (community special school)

## **Statutory proposal for the closure of Manor Mead School (community special school)**

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that Surrey County Council proposes to discontinue Manor Mead School with effect from 31 December 2018. This proposal is related to the local authority's proposal to make the following prescribed alterations to Walton Leigh School in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alternations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

- to increase the total pupil numbers at Walton Leigh School to 160 pupils from 1 January 2019

The closure of Manor Mead School reflects one half of the process of amalgamating the two schools, with the increase in pupil numbers at Walton Leigh reflecting the other essential step in this respect.

### **Contact details**

#### **Name and address of local authority publishing the proposal:**

Surrey County Council, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DN

#### **Name, address and category of school proposed to be discontinued:**

Manor Mead School (community special school), Laleham Road, Shepperton, TW17 8EL

#### **Contact details during statutory representation period:**

Julie Beckett, School Commissioning team, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2DN

Email: [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

Web: [www.surreysays.co.uk](http://www.surreysays.co.uk)

### **Implementation**

#### **Date on which it is proposed to close the school:**

31 December 2018

### **Reason for closure**

Surrey County Council, in partnership with the governing body of the Schools, is proposing that Manor Mead School and Walton Leigh School amalgamate to become one special school based across two sites from 1 January 2019.

It is proposed to implement the amalgamation through the closure of Manor Mead School (community special school) and a prescribed alterations by increasing the age range and number of pupils at Walton Leigh School (community special school).

All children on roll at either school as of 1 January 2019 will automatically continue to have a place at Walton Leigh School. Both sites will continue to operate as schools under Walton Leigh School.

Creating one school for pupils with SLDD will replicate provision that is available elsewhere in the county. Walton Leigh School is the smallest specialist school in Surrey and amalgamation with Manor Mead will create one school with greater pupil numbers, which as a larger organisation is more sustainable in the longer term.

## **Pupil numbers and admissions**

### **The numbers for whom provision is currently made at the school:**

Manor Mead School currently has 83 planned places for children with severe learning and developmental difficulties (SLDD) from Nursery through to Year 6 (aged 2 - 11). Appropriate pupils will continue to access the provision at the extended Walton Leigh School using the current admission processes for pupils with Education Health Care Plans.

## **Displaced pupils**

This proposal forms part of an amalgamation, and therefore no pupils at the school will be displaced. From 1 January 2019, pupils currently at Manor Mead School will have places at Walton Leigh School.

Nursery and primary aged pupils continue to attend the current school site at Laleham Road, Shepperton, TW17 8EL. No changes are proposed to the site where pupils are currently accessing education.

## **Impact on the community**

Manor Mead and Walton Leigh Schools provide for similar special educational needs provision and serve a similar geographic area. In addition the schools are already joined together as a 'hard federation'. Both sites will continue to operate as a single special school; Walton Leigh School. It is anticipated that there will not be any adverse impact on the communities.

## **Special educational needs provision**

The aim of the amalgamation is to create one larger special school for pupils with SLDD needs based in the north east quadrant of Surrey but accessible to pupils from other parts of the county. Currently both schools offer provision to pupils with this type of need and are located relatively close to each other. As a hard federation they already have one governing body and an executive Headteacher.

Pupils will no longer have to go through a formal transition from one school to the other when transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3.

Creating one school for pupils with SLDD will replicate provision that is available elsewhere in the county. Walton Leigh School is the smallest specialist school in Surrey and amalgamation with Manor Mead will create one school with greater pupil numbers, which as a larger organisation is more sustainable in the longer term.

Demand for this type of provision in the north east area of Surrey is high and if places are not available then pupils will need to travel further to access appropriate provision. An increase in pupil numbers to 160 will reduce the number of pupils that are placed elsewhere in Surrey or in costly non maintained and independent provision.

## **Travel**

Both schools are located relatively close to each other in the north east quadrant of Surrey. Many pupils already travel into both schools by taxi or by minibus and this will continue. Extending the pupil numbers at the school will enable more pupils to be placed closer to home with shorter travel distances.

## **Maintained Nursery School**

The nursery provision currently on site at Manor Mead School will continue under Walton Leigh School from January 2019. The current nursery provision was judged to be outstanding in February 2015 along with primary provision at Manor Mead School. The provision will remain in the same place on the current Manor Mead site and will therefore still be accessible to any current and perspective parents from January 2019.