

Consultation

Making a significant change request – Hallmoor School

What is our proposal?

The Board of Trustees of Forward Education Trust (FET) proposes to make a permanent increase in the PAN (Pupil Admission Number) for Hallmoor School to 290 from 1st September 2025. Within the overall PAN it is proposed to designate 56 places for post-16 (6th form).

*This proposal is regularising something that has been in place in the current academic year, following recent rises in pupil admissions. This point is of particular importance to residents, who will not see **any** change in traffic/activity, compared to what they have seen since September 2024.*

When the school became an Academy, FET entered into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State on 7th April 2017 which set the PAN at 230 places, of which 62 were post-16 (6th form).

The school has operated outside of that funding agreement for some time. This was notified to Department for Education via the West Midlands Regions Group and time has been allowed to submit this change request, at a suitable level for the future needs of the school, to regularise the position.

The proposal is subject to this consultation and subsequent confirmation by the Secretary of State for Education, resulting in an amendment to the Funding Agreement for the school.

The consultation will open on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 9am.

Background information

Hallmoor School (Hallmoor) is a well-established school in Birmingham. Hallmoor is a school for pupils with an EHCP (Education, Health & Care Plan) who have a diagnosis of SpLD (specific learning difficulty), SLCN (speech, language and communication), ASD (autism spectrum disorder), PD (physical disability), MLD (moderate learning difficulty) and SLD (severe learning difficulty)

Hallmoor is referred to as a special school, because the children are identified as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) which for those pupils who attend Hallmoor has resulted in them having an agreed EHCP. Hallmoor is an all-through school for children aged 4-19, in Key Stages 1 to 5 and fall into National Curriculum Year groups Reception to 14.

Our Educational Approach is set around the National Curriculum, for all our learners. Our curriculum builds upon skills taught within the primary phase and supports pupils to progress onto volunteering, further education, work and their adult lives. At Hallmoor our curriculum prepares pupils for life beyond the school by promoting individual independence in adult life.

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Our curriculum aims to recognise the needs of everyone, offering a pathway of learning that supports building skills and knowledge over time. We have three core pathways: semi-formal, bridge and formal, across all four phases.

- At Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils work on their social and communication skills moving to a more formal curriculum when they are ready. Phonics and basic number skills and PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education) are part of the core curriculum at primary.
- At Key Stage 3 the semi-formal pathway works towards personal progress awards, combining English, Maths, ICT and PSHE, following more of a primary teaching model, with children predominantly being taught in the same classroom, with the same teacher.
- At Key Stage 3, the bridge and formal pathways offer teaching of subjects separately, in a more traditional secondary model.
- As students enter Key Stage 4, there are numerous options available, leading to formal qualifications for the semi formal and formal students, with a wide range of opportunity to build skills for adult life for all.
- At Key stage 5, students complete EdExcel functional skills at entry 1 – level 1 for Maths and English. They also have a curriculum offer that is shaped around the preparation for adulthood outcomes and a variety of vocational offers.

Why is this change necessary?

The Trust is acknowledging that the PAN has been exceeded for some time

Commissioned numbers in previous years have been:

Academic year 2019/20 - 255.

Academic year 2023/24 - 265

Academic year 2024/25 - 290

FET believes that the pupil population of 290 is sustainable within the current school footprint, through improved dynamic use of some spaces in school, coupled with a change in the way in the curriculum is developed. For example, the school has previously had two dedicated IT suites, but due to IT becoming more mobile in delivery using laptops and iPads stored in charging trolleys, these old IT classrooms can now be stripped out and converted into useable classroom spaces, overall increasing capacity.

Our post-16 numbers are currently high, above 80 students. The school is planning to implement a structured approach for learners, in conjunction with their families via annual reviews, to reduced numbers over the coming few years to within the proposed PAN. This can be done by choosing the most appropriate destination for students as they progress through Key Stage 4, but we believe a thriving 6th Form is an essential element of Hallmoor School.

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Gradual reductions in post-16 capacity will enable us to repurpose some key areas of school, to cater for the demand for numbers in the lower school, for example using the classrooms downstairs to expand the primary provision and access to outdoor space.

To support the pupil population, the school leadership team, comprising senior leadership and middle leadership of the four school phases, works closely with staff teams of teachers, teaching assistants, pastoral and well-being support and administrators.

Within each class, in addition to the teacher, there are teaching assistants at level 3 (TA3) and teaching assistants at level 2 (TA2). There are specialist teachers across the school.

When will this happen?

FET proposes that this change is effective from 1st September 2025, subject to this consultation and confirmation from the Secretary of State for Education.

Will there be changes to the Academy building?

There will be no visible major changes to the academy building. As Hallmoor has developed, we have been fortunate to be able to adapt rooms to have a wide range of spaces available to pupils throughout the school day. There may be changes to outside spaces, as we develop the outdoor learning and leisure environment, particularly in primary phase, to achieve a more free-flowing learning opportunity. There will be further internal adaptations, to improvement the learning environment, enhance the school's access to new technology and ensure resources are current for all subjects.

What are the standards in school like?

Hallmoor was inspected by Ofsted in December 2023 and was rated a "good" school. A copy of the report can be viewed at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/25/144336>

How will this affect pupils?

We have carefully developed the curriculum offer to pupils, which will undergo further development. We will develop a wider offer of access to therapy and interventions and we are confident that growing the school beyond its current plan can enhance of the lives of existing pupils but also make that opportunity to new pupils who would not otherwise have that same opportunity in other settings available.

How will this affect staff?

Bringing more pupils to Hallmoor will increase pupil-led income. This enhances the school's ability, with support from the Trust, to make staffing and other resources available. We do not believe the proposal to expand numbers in itself will have any adverse impact on staff. On the contrary, more pupils being educated and cared for by more staff creates opportunities to develop the skills & expertise of staff, to welcome new staff who can share in our development of curriculum pathways, and we aim to be able to share that expertise with the wider education community through outreach

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programmes over time. Enhancing the skills of staff also enables us to respond with a more bespoke provision to meet the changing, specific needs of our pupil population of the future. There will be increased opportunity for professional development and the possibility that more career options will be open to staff. The school may develop an enhanced management and support structure for learning and the school is confident that the environment for learning will improve further.

What will be the impact on other schools in the area?

The gradual, small expansion of Hallmoor would have almost no impact on schools in the area, even special schools. Birmingham City Council are clear that the number of special school places available is not reaching the demand needed, our plan for this limited expansion is intended to try to make a small contribution to the unmet demand.

Is there going to be any impact on traffic or parking in the area?

Inevitably, traffic volumes and modes will change over time. Local residents have responded positively to the work school has done to control congestion. In conjunction with the Council, Hallmoor will undertake and support measures to mitigate and reduce any future impacts, particularly in the immediate vicinity of Scholars Gate.

Traffic control measures are already effective. As this consultation and change is largely about corrective action, we do not anticipate an immediate change in traffic, if anything, this has already happened.

For information, current analysis of modes of transport to school is:

Modes of transport	Percentage of students
By minibus or Taxi – LA arrangement	54%
By foot or public transport	11%
By car parent pick up	35%

The school is considerate of the needs and views of local residents. We are approaching the Highways Department for any guidance with regard to impact and mitigations, particularly as traffic exits the school site onto Hallmoor Road. The school already has very efficient processes to bring vehicles onto school site, enabling children to safely arrive at school for the start of the school day, leaders are confident in their ability to continue to effectively manage any additional traffic impact.

Is there an opportunity for parents/carers and local residents to raise concerns?

Yes. The purpose of this consultation period is to provide parents/carers, local residents and other stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any concerns regarding this limited expansion with the Board of Trustees of FET.

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How is this being funded?

FET prudently manages the finances of all schools within the Trust. Over a period of time, reserves have been built from revenue funds to provide for unseen circumstances, as well as to provide for a wide range of possible future investment scenarios. This has enabled the Trust to invest in Hallmoor and the Board of Trustees are confident that the Trust has the resources to manage this expansion, as well as to continue to invest where necessary in the portfolio of schools within the Trust.

What happens next?

The Board of Trustees will consider the feedback from this consultation exercise, before making a submission to the Regional Director (West Midlands) to make the change happen, subject to the confirmation by the Secretary of State.

FET hopes to have this amendment to the school's funding agreement in place for September 2025.

How do you express your views?

Consultation opens	Tuesday 6th May 2025 @ 9am
Consultation closes	Wednesday 28th May 2025 @ 5pm

We would welcome your view on this proposal. You can do so in one of three ways:

1. By completing and returning the response form attached to this letter to school reception.
2. Completing the online form available via this [link](#).
3. Emailing a completed form to the email address consultation@hallmoor.fet.ac
4. Attending one of our in-person or online consultation events – information is available at <https://hallmoor.fet.ac/consultation/>

In all cases, the closing date for responses is 28th May 2025 at 5pm. Any responses received after this will not be considered.

The consultation is also available to view on the Hallmoor website:

<https://hallmoor.fet.ac/consultation/>

We are consulting with:

- Parents/carers.
- School staff and their representative trade unions.
- Sandwell, Solihull, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton council.
- All Birmingham schools, including special schools.
- Local Councillors and MPs.
- Local residents and other interested stakeholders.

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