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Current Context

Worcester is currently served by five secondary schools located around the City: Bishop Perowne CofE College; Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College; Christopher Whitehead Language College; Nunnery Wood High School; and Tudor Grange Academy. The location of these schools and the catchment areas of Nunnery Wood High, Tudor Grange Academy, and Christopher Whitehead Language College are outlined in the map below. Bishop Perowne CE and Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College provide faith-based secondary school provision for pupils from across the City and beyond.

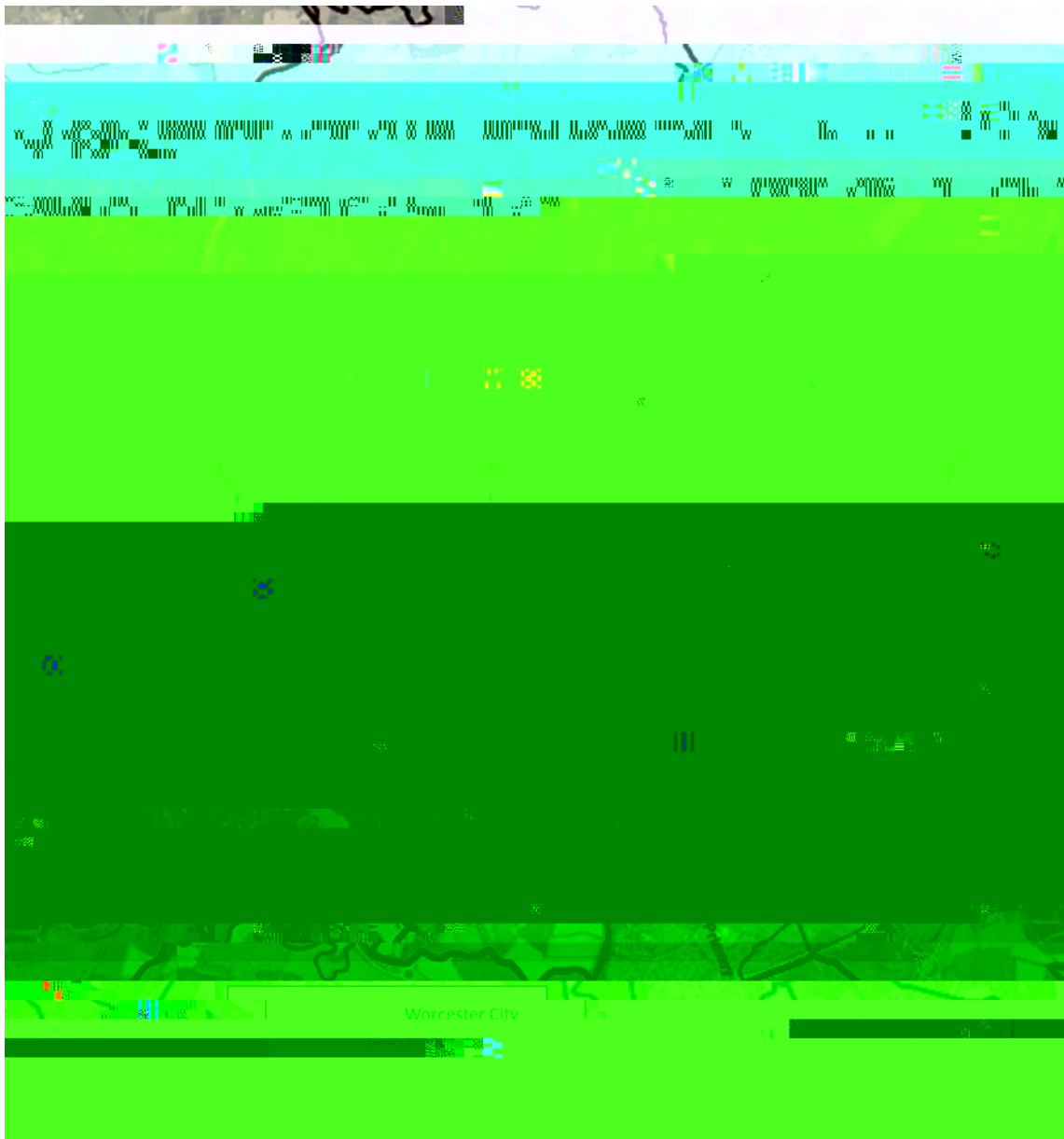


Figure 1 Map of Worcester City Secondary Schools

children moving into the area during the school year are able to join a local school, and children are able to move schools if needed. As a result, ensuring a sufficiency of school places alongside a small surplus is critical in meeting the strategic aims as outlined in the Worcestershire Education and Skills Strategy (2019-2024)². However, with increases in the number of children seeking a year seven place in Worcester City over the last decade D Q G : R U F H V W H U ¶ V S R S X O D W L R G n 5 R a Q W a Q e d f o r a d d i t i o n a l U R Z secondary school places.

Over the last five years, significant funding has been invested into the existing secondary schools in Worcester City with four out of the five schools having increased the number of places offered. All secondary schools in Worcester are on limited sites and are significantly restricted in the potential for future additional facilities. The provision of a new secondary school to meet this need was therefore approved by Cabinet on 4th February 2021³ and is planned to have its first intake of year 7 pupils in September 2026.

The proposals

In Summer Term 2021, all stakeholders and interested parties were asked to provide their thoughts on some of the key elements to deliver a new secondary school. The key findings and results of that survey and how they relate to this proposal can be found here:

[New Worcester Secondary School engagement results \(May-June 2021\)](#)

This initial

the site and buildings and work with the approved academy sponsor to establish the school.

Any new school must be operated by an academy trust⁴, to be determined via the free school presumption process.

Size of the school

The school will initially be built to provide 120 places per year group (four forms of

A number of sites were considered in the search for land for the new school, with focus on sites that would appropriately serve the North East of the City, who are currently least likely to receive one of their preferred schools

A focus on the wellbeing and mental health of pupils and staff

The engagement with stakeholders in the summer revealed that ensuring pupils feel their mental health and wellbeing is well supported is critical in the delivery of a good school for Worcester City. Academy sponsor candidates will be required to show their approach to wellbeing and mental health as part of their application. It is also proposed that small teaching spaces and quiet zones are integrated within the school where possible and that clear and established processes are in place to provide early help and social care for pupils and staff in need. The school will also be required to offer ongoing development opportunities for all staff and ensure the wellbeing and mental health of staff, as well as pupils, is a key priority. When selecting the location of the school, sites that offer access to green space were prioritised.

An ethos and practice of inclusivity

The importance of inclusive practice was highlighted in engagement findings. The following principles are put in place to ensure a high level of inclusivity and ensure all pupils can fully access school life:

- x The chosen sponsor must have a strong ethos and evidenced practice ensuring inclusivity of all pupils, ensure all pupils are able to access the curriculum and quality first teaching (QFT) and high-quality teaching, in particular making appropriate adjustments for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), vulnerable learners and Looked after Children.
- x The chosen academy sponsor will be expected to build an ongoing, holistic understanding of their pupils and their needs, and facilities will reflect

in population of Worcester City. This is in keeping with the engagement findings that buildings should be adaptable to future need and changes in education practice.

In line with engagement findings, local materials and construction companies will be prioritised where possible throughout the procurement process.

The possible impact of the proposal

Delivery of additional school places

A new secondary school in Worcester City would provide more school places for year 7 to 11 pupils in the Worcester City education planning area. As a result, these children will have a reasonable opportunity to acquire a place at their preferred school, children moving into the area during the school year will be able to join a local school, and children will be more easily able to move secondary schools if needed.

As this school will also support the longer-term growth of new housing within the City and support in providing a more appropriate surplus (extra) places in the City, other secondary schools may experience less pupils per year group dependent on parental preference.

Travel

One of the key outcomes of this project is for more families to have a secondary school within their local community, resulting in reduced car use and enabling more pupils to travel to school by active travel methods, i.e. walking and cycling. A Traffic Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the planning process for the school build and the appointed academy sponsor will be required to develop a School Travel Plan encouraging safe travel to school which promotes walking and cycling.

Specification

The school specification will be released alongside the application form for the academy sponsor competition and will be used as assessment criteria when selecting an appropriate sponsor. Ensuring that the specification outlines the important criteria for an academy sponsor is imperative to selecting the correct sponsor.

Natural environment

The proposed location of the school provides opportunities to enhance local habitats and integrate the natural environment into school life and the curriculum of the school. The design of the school will seek to minimise disruption of existing trees and hedgerows on the site and enhance habitats for wildlife wherever possible. A public bridleway currently runs through the centre of the site which will require diversion should this proposal be approved. Opportunities exist to minimise the diversion and enhance any new bridleway within the existing landscape. The proposal to divert the bridleway will be subject to a separate statutory consultation should this proposal be approved.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The provision of a new school allows us to design the provision in line with current best practice to enable accessibility. Consideration can be given to the creation of a new Mainstream Autism Base (MAB) for the school, which will allow more children who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to access appropriate provision within their local community within a mainstream school.

We welcome your comments on this proposal via our online survey:

[Worcester City Secondary School consultation survey \(opens in a new tab\).](#)

The closing date for this survey is **noon on Sunday 23rd January 2022.**

More information about this consultation can be found on the [New Worcester City School website \(opens in a new window\).](#)

If you require an alternative format of this document, the survey or translation into community languages, please contact newsecondaryschool@worcestershire.gov.uk

What happens next

Based on feedback received during this consultation, the school specification will be amended and finalised before being released as part of the academy sponsor competition, which will begin in the spring term of 2022. The feedback received will help to ensure the chosen sponsor meets stakeholder expectations regarding the new school, as selection of the sponsor will be according to the requirements outlined in the school specification.

Your responses will also support us to progress planning and design for this site, with further opportunities to comment through the planning process.

Contact details for this consultation

Please direct any enquiries to our dedicated mailbox via NewSecondarySchool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Have your say:

Provide feedback on this consultation by **noon on Sunday 23rd January 2022**

Visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/newsecondaryschool for more information