

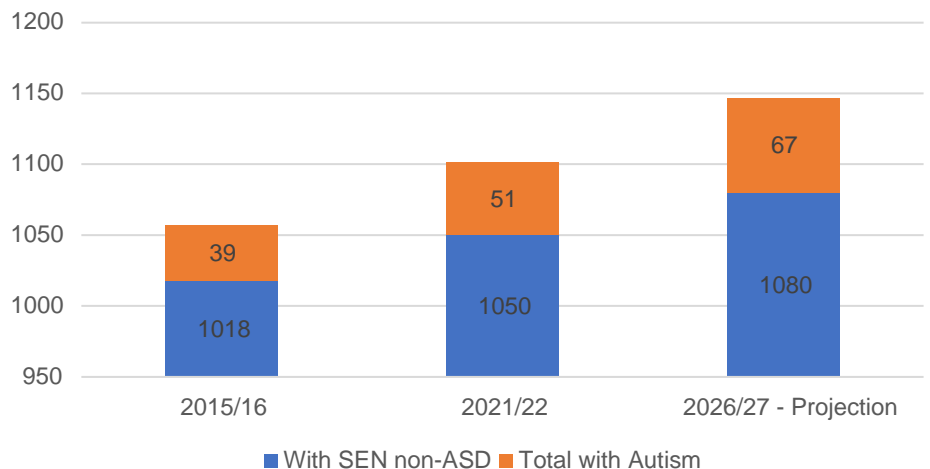


Agenda

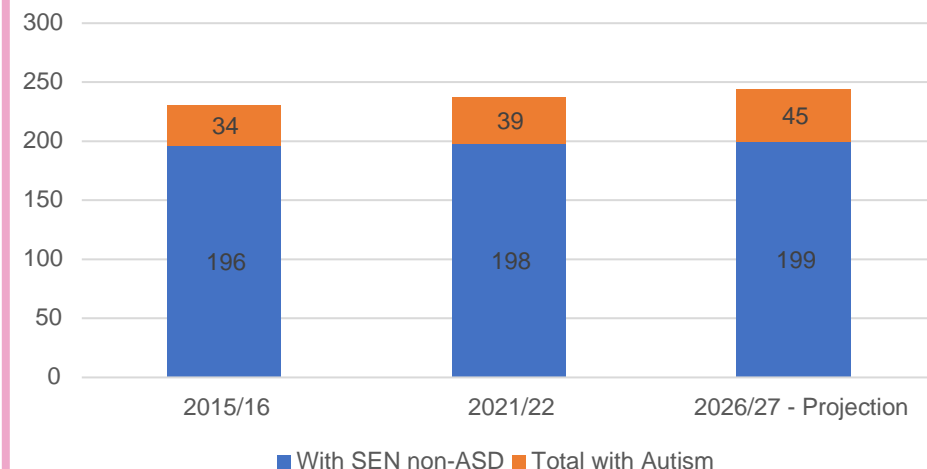
- ‡Current and projected need
- ‡Existing provision
- ‡The rationale for a new school
- ‡Future provision- the new school
 - ‡Location
 - ‡Funding
 - ‡Context and vision
- ‡Indicative timescales and next steps
- ‡Create: Schools support offer
- ‡Q & A

Children and young people with Autism in Worcestershire

Pre-School age children

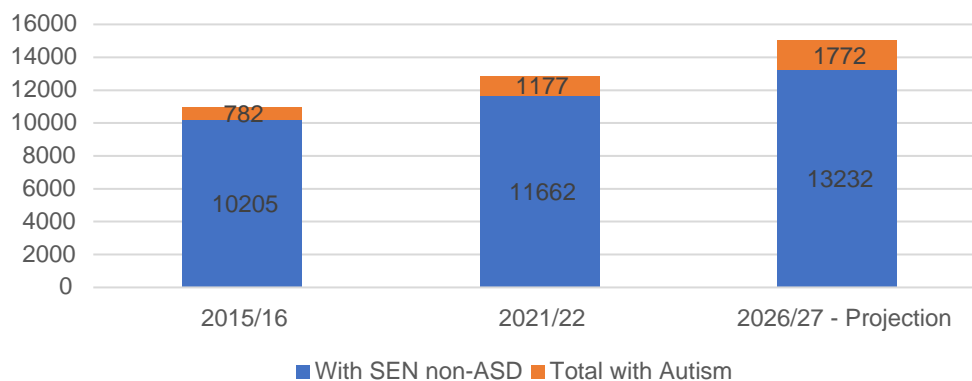


Young people 17 years +

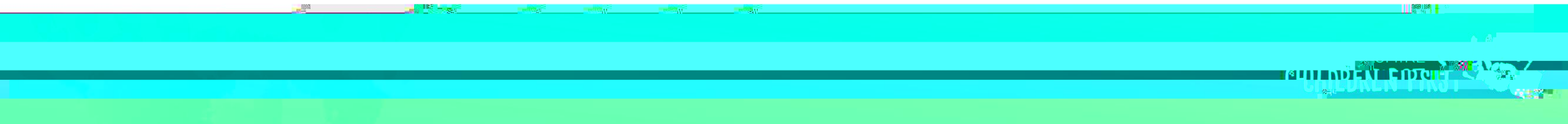


In 2015/16 4% of the total pre-school age children with SEN had a primary need of Autism
 In 2021/22 this increased to 5%
 By 2026/27 this is projected to be at least 6%

Children age 5-16 years

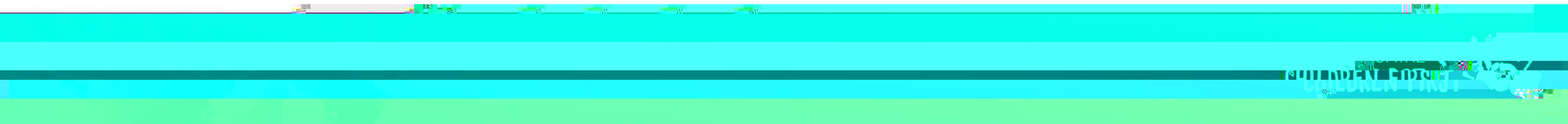


Current local offer



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‡Worcestershire is part of the Delivering Better Value in SEND



Needs analysis of current children and young people with Autism in Independent, -Not Maintained Special Schools in and out of County

The new Special Free School will provide an education for children and young people that:

- ‡ may experience high anxiety and / or demand avoidance as a result of Autistic presentation;
- ‡ are unable to access mainstream education provision with support;
- ‡ have the cognitive ability to access a mainstream curriculum;
- ‡ need smaller class sizes (e.g. 8-10 group sizes); and
- ‡ need a whole school and staff dedicated to a holistic Autistic approach.

About the new school

- ‡ The new Free School will be located in Malvern, on the site of the current Poolbrook Centre (a former school building owned by Worcestershire County Council)
- ‡ It will be a Special Free all-through school and will create 120 places for 5 to 19-year-olds (Reception to Year 14) with Autism.
- ‡ The school will offer full-time placements:
 - ‡ 6 places per year group for Reception to Key Stage 2
 - ‡ 12 places per year group for Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4
 - ‡ 18 places for Post 16
- ‡ The site has space to expand the school to c. 162 places if additional provision is required
- ‡ The plan is to open in a phased approach to fill places over a period of 5 years



Site of former primary school

‡ Green hatched = currently occupied site

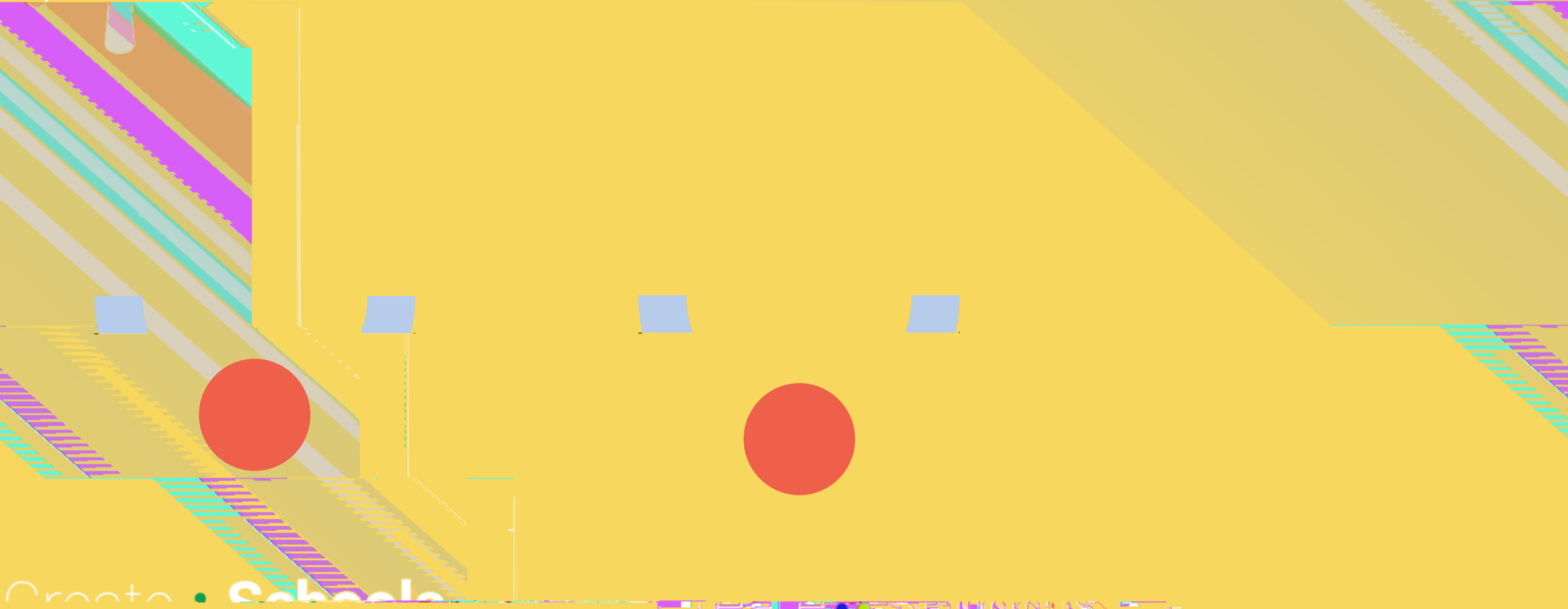
‡ Red outline = former playing field

About Create: Schools



- ‡ Wholly-owned division of PAG
- ‡ Established in April 2022
- ‡ DfE sole supplier of advice to Free School Proposers
- ‡ Access to a range of partners with expertise in key areas such as project management, capital, finance and legal

Application Process



In-depth bid review and feedback at all stages of the application process



Access to expert partners

Support we offer

Mock interviews and preparation for pre-opening

Resources to support you in all



Sections A and B



Section A ^Tell us who you are

All applicant groups must complete this section in full. There are no assessment criteria for this section. In this section, you must provide basic information about your applicant group and your academy trust.

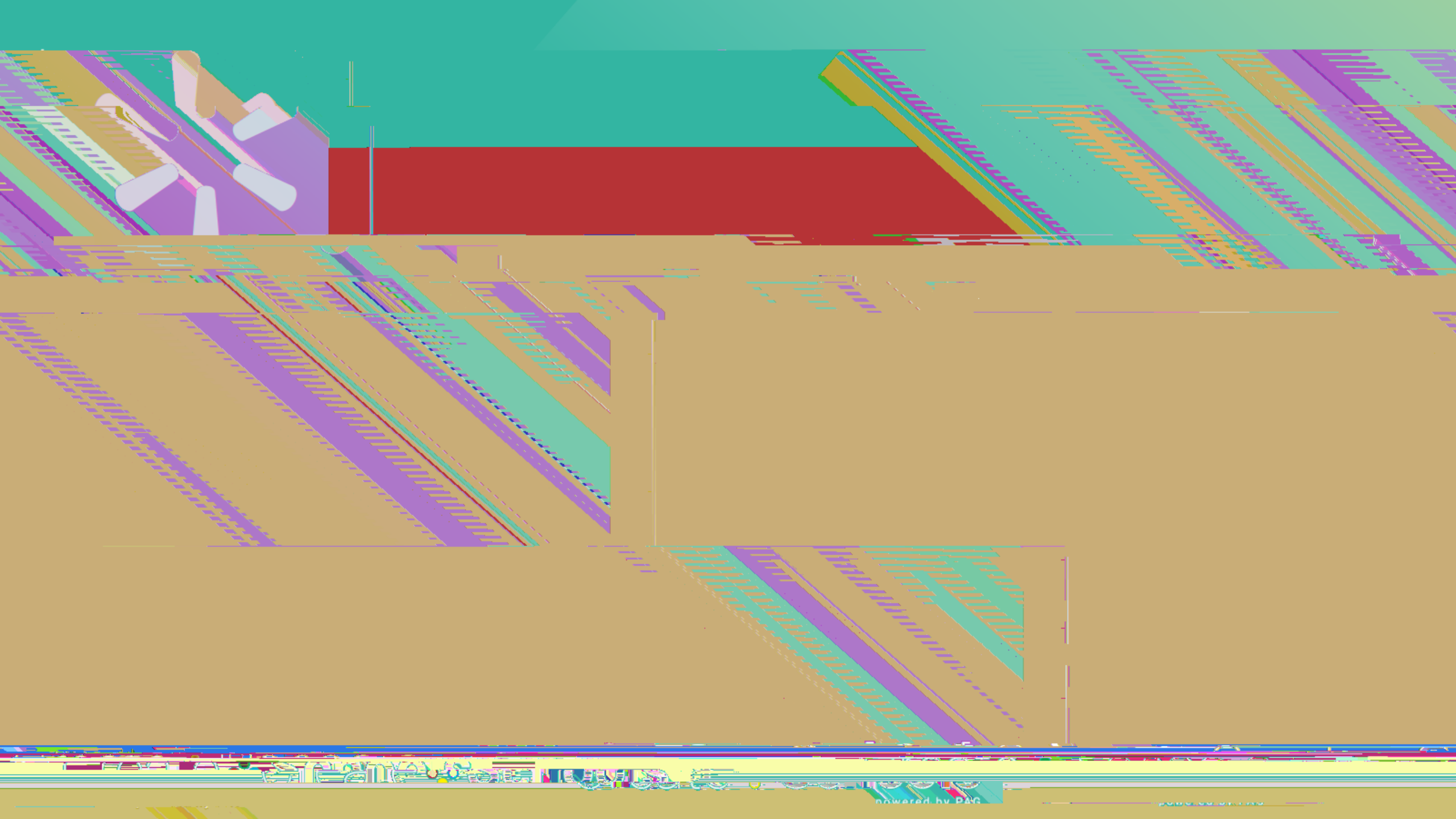
Section B ^Outline of the school

When defining details about the school in this section, you should refer to the specification of the local authority you are applying to, available online at GOV.UK. It is important to be aware that the DfE will

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be children or young people with an EHCP

Special free schools may have a religious ethos; however, they cannot be designated as having a religious character.

The responsibility for identifying a site lies with the local authority, however if you have a suitable site, you should outline this in section B.



Section D: Education Plan

Applications must set out the plan to deliver your educational vision. We are looking for an ambitious and deliverable education plan that is consistent with your vision and pupil intake. It must be affordable, sustainable and consistent with financial planning.

Section D will consist of 4 parts:

- D1 ^ Curriculum plan
- D2 ^ Measuring pupil performance and setting challenging expectations
- D3 ^ Staffing
- D4 ^ Integration and community cohesion

Section E: Capacity and Capability

Applications must demonstrate the capacity and capability to deliver a financially viable school that provides a high-quality and inclusive education.

Part E1: This section is to be completed by those who currently run schools. All groups who currently run or lead schools will need to have a strong educational track record to be approved to open a free school.

Part E2: Applicants must display they have necessary experience and credentials to deliver the school. This includes providing information on the preopening group, a skills gap analysis and timelines for recruiting a headteacher designate.

Part E3: Applicants should demonstrate an effective governance structure here.

Section F: Financial Viability

You must demonstrate that your school will be financially viable and sustainable. You must have robust and credible plans to attract good pupil numbers that take account of our minimum expected sizes for new free schools.

Your trust should implement effective resource planning to ensure every pound is spent wisely and has a positive impact on the pupils and the school.

The Pre-Opening Process



In this phase, the academy trust will need to develop detailed plans and turn them into a school ready for opening. The preopening process includes:

- ‡ Trusts will regularly engage with the department
- ‡ Agree on your provisional opening date for the school.
- ‡ A project development grant to cover essential non-capital costs up to the point at which the school opens
- ‡ For some projects, progressing to the preopening phase is subject to precise and stringent conditions, which are set out in the approval letter
- ‡ Where a project fails to make sufficient progress in preopening, the opening of the ‡ ‡

Next Steps

‡ Submit your application by midday on 31st August 2023 via email to fs.applications@education.gov.uk

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