



OAKGROVE SCHOOL

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www.oakgrove.school

Oakgrove School are consulting on the proposal to increase its Post-16 capacity

The Board of Directors and Local Governing Body of Oakgrove School are consulting all those who it considers may have an interest in, or be affected by, the proposals. We are informing all parent/carers of the proposal, the Local Authority and other schools in the locality. We are also consulting staff and the wider community by placing the details on our website, putting notices up in the main school Reception, informing our local Member of Parliament, Local Councillors and also the local Parish Councils. Copies of this document will also be available to interested parties upon request.

We would welcome your views, whether positive or negative, on the proposal. The consultation period will run from Wednesday, 14th December 2022 to midday on Wednesday, 25th January 2023 inclusive and comments must be received by the closing date. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposal should do so by submitting their comments, marked for the attention of the Clerk to Governors, to julie.gale@ket.education. Alternatively, comments can be submitted in writing and either delivered by hand to the school office or sent by post, marked for the attention of the Clerk to Governors c/o Oakgrove School, Venturer Gate, Middleton, Milton Keynes, MK10 9JQ. All views expressed will be taken into account.

Proposal for Oakgrove School to expand its capacity to increase Post-16 provisions

Oakgrove is part of a medium sized, geographically concentrated Multi-Academy Trust called Kingsbridge Educational Trust. The trust currently operates four schools: Oakgrove all-through school, Kents Hill Park all-through school, Monkston Primary School, Middleton Primary School and currently educates just over 4,200 students. There is a clear scheme of delegation and each school has a high degree of autonomy and is overseen by the Board of Directors, a Local Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team. Leadership and Management, at Oakgrove School, has been graded as Outstanding by Ofsted at every inspection.

Oakgrove School opened its Post-16 provision in September 2009, when the school's population was considerably smaller with cohorts of 210 students in each year group. Since 2009, Oakgrove, and the wider population of Milton Keynes, has undergone significant expansion, with the school now having cohorts of 300 in each year group from years 7 to 11 as part of the Milton Keynes Local Authority 'Expanding the Best' programme. Oakgrove has seen its Post-16 provision almost double since opening - this is the result of consistently high student outcomes, high retention rates and the continued strong reputation of the school in the local community. Demand for Post-16 places continue to grow.

In September 2022, the school had to refuse entry to students that, despite meeting the entrance criteria, owing to a lack of capacity could not be offered places. Oakgrove's location in south-east Milton Keynes means that we are at the centre of significant population growth linked to strategic land allocation release for house building. The expansion will see the completion of at least 3000 additional houses over the next 5 years, adding further demand for Post-16 places in an area lacking schools with Post-16 status, capacity and space. Oakgrove is in the fortunate position of having all the necessary history, status and academic track record alongside a large school footprint for expansion.

Kents Hill Park (KHP), also part of Kingsbridge Educational Trust, is less than one mile from Oakgrove, is an 11-16 school with no current capacity to introduce Post-16 provision. Their first Year 11 cohort of 150 students complete their studies in summer 2023 and 75 of these students are likely to progress to Oakgrove Sixth Form. Oakgrove's Sixth Form Admission Policy was consulted on and adjusted in 2022 to give priority to Kents Hill Park students for entry in September 2023. Detailed transition arrangements are already in place between the two schools in order to support students transferring into Oakgrove. Oakgrove School is likely to expand its curriculum provision further to support this.

To add to the internal and trust wide demand, a lack of Post-16 places has been identified by Milton Keynes City Council through their School Place Planning group and this mirrors the demand identified by central government who have given Milton Keynes the highest score of their demand index for Post-16 capacity bid applications. Milton Keynes City Council School Place Planning group have identified Post-16 capacity as a key focus over the next 5-10 years; the reasons for this are linked to significant projected population growth within the Post-16 age range, with projected Year-12 intakes increasing from 1,924 in 2022 to 2,383 by 2029, an increase of 24%. These figures are based on year 11 to 12 retention rates within schools of approximately 58%; however, Oakgrove's high-performance outcomes over a prolonged period of time means that we expect a higher level of demand for places from both internal and external students.

In 2026/2027, we are predicting our Post-16 demand to be 603 students, over 200 more than our current provision and capacity. To further add to the demand for Post-16 places, the review of Post-16 provision at Milton Keynes Academy and the closure of Sir Herbert Leon schools, alongside the new Glebe Farm School not having Post -16 provision as part of their original funding agreement, means that Oakgrove sits at the epicentre of growth and demand for Post-16 places.

Part of our Post-16 planning took into account the most recent Labour Market Evaluation produced by the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) identifies Milton Keynes as having a ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64 of 1.13, the highest in the area and job vacancies are the highest since 2018. Business operations, health and digital are amongst the most in demand job areas identified in this report, however, engineering and logistics are still heavily in demand. The potential lack of Post-16 provision, especially academic courses in Milton Keynes may further limit the development of local skills. This is particularly acute for students from Kents Hill Park School with other local schools approaching capacity. Students attending the highest performing school in Milton Keynes with enhanced careers support will dovetail with the recent granting of City status for Milton Keynes, raising attainment and retaining a highly qualified workforce to meet the demands of the local economy in the Oxford/Cambridge Arc.

If funding is secured through our Post-16 Capacity Bid, additional benefits for future learners through our curriculum and building plans, include additional Science Labs that will benefit all learners in the school. Creating these will ensure that all Science lessons are timetabled with specialist facilities. This will particularly benefit our Key Stage 5 learners and support them with the practical skills needed in their STEM and BTEC courses. Additional general classrooms will provide benefits in terms of resources, displays and materials being available in rooms rather than having to be transported around the site, this currently takes up valuable curriculum time. In particular students with SEND will be able to remain in one room for the majority of the day which will benefit their mental health and reduce anxiety related to moving around a very busy school site. Expansion of our Post-16 provision would allow added facilities that would benefit all students irrespective of whether in Post-16 or not.

The safety of students and visitors to the school is of paramount importance. Now that the school has taken over the old Leisure Centre, parking that was set aside for Leisure Centre visitors has transferred to the School so there is additional capacity on site which should ease the peak times during the school day when the car park is at its busiest.

The school and trust do not envisage any negative impact on educational standards at Oakgrove or other local schools, we are simply trying to add the necessary capacity into the Post-16 school system, enhance the school's facilities, range of qualifications that we offer and allow more students the opportunity to attend Oakgrove School. The footprint of the school site and our overall location means that we have the possibility to add further to the high quality Post-16 provision within Milton Keynes City and to create a sustainable pathway for future generations of learners.

Please note, any changes to Post-16 capacity are subject to securing additional funding through the Department for Education's Post-16 capacity bid application. If successful, an implementation plan will be drawn up with a target date effective from September 2024.