



## **Proposal to move Furze Down School sixth form**

**Open date:** 26 June 2023

**Close date:** 6 August 2023

**Name:** School Commissioning

**Email:** [FurzeDownandBuckinghamConsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:FurzeDownandBuckinghamConsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

### **Overview**

**We want to hear your views on a proposal to move Furze Down School sixth form to the short breaks day service building in Buckingham (also known as the Buckingham Opportunities Centre).**

This proposal would allow:

- Furze Down School to add 26 places for pupils aged 4 to 16 years old
- the short breaks day service in Buckingham to continue providing adult services from a smaller area of the current building

Furze Down School, Winslow is a special school for communication and interaction. The school supports children and young people with special educational needs.

The short breaks day service in Buckingham provides specialist support for adults with learning disabilities, autism, dementia or mental health needs. It is one of 7 council-run short breaks services in Buckinghamshire.

A review of the short breaks day service building in Buckingham found it was not being fully used – with space and capacity for a wider use. On average, 3 to 6 adults per day currently use the building for day services.

### **Proposal to move Furze Down School sixth form**

We are proposing to move the 40 sixth form pupils from Furze Down School to the short breaks day service building in Buckingham.

This proposal would support sixth form pupils with:

- developing independence and preparing for adulthood – including travel skills
- an integrated supported employment and learning provision
- access to work related activities in Buckingham

Under our proposal, no areas of the building or site would be shared:

- the building currently used by the Buckingham short breaks day service would be divided – about 70% of it would be used for Furze Down's sixth form
- the short breaks day service and Furze Down sixth form would each have their own entrance, secure areas and external area

There will be no staff redundancies as part of this proposal.

### **Travel to Furze Down School sixth form in Buckingham**

Under the law, there is no automatic entitlement to home to school transport assistance for students with SEND aged 16-19 (i.e. of sixth form age), but the Council does make arrangements as necessary to facilitate their attendance.

The criteria for eligibility for transport assistance for sixth form aged students with SEND is set out in the Council's [Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2023 to 2024](#). The Post-16 Statement is reviewed annually and transport provision for young people aged 16-19 with SEND is detailed on the [Local Offer](#).

Under our current Post-16 Statement, sixth form aged students with SEND who are eligible for home to school transport assistance can apply for a [Personal Transport Budget](#), to allow families to make their own travel arrangements, or they can apply for [Council-arranged transport for a fee](#).

Those who use Council-arranged transport will be required to make a contribution to the cost of the transport the Council provides. The contribution is based on the number of days travelled per week. The Post-16 SEND transport [contribution costs for the 2023 to 2024 academic year](#) are set out on our website and these fees are reviewed annually.

Eligible students who live closer to the Buckingham centre, north of the Winslow site, will have their transport needs assessed on a case by case basis

and it is expected that pupils who live locally to Buckingham and who can travel independently will use public transport and / or will walk to the centre. Students who can travel by public transport could apply for [a disabled person's bus pass](#), which may require a payment to travel before 9am on weekdays.

Eligible sixth form students who live close to and to the south of Furze Down School in Winslow, regardless of how they arrive at the Winslow site (e.g. by family car, public bus, or on Council-arranged transport), are expected to be supported to make the onward journey, supervised by Furze Down School staff, to and from the Buckingham centre either by school minibus or public transport. Currently it is planned that the school would cover costs for the school minibus from the Winslow site to the Buckingham site.

### **Increasing need for social, emotional and mental health support**

Over the last 5 years in Buckinghamshire, there has been a:

- 50% (1,805 pupils) increase in the number of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- 64% (1,424 pupils) increase in children and young people with communication and interaction needs and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs – this is the most increasing need

Over the next 5 years in Buckinghamshire, we are expecting a further:

- 32% increase in the number of pupils with an EHCP
- 42% increase in the number of children and young people with communication and interaction needs and SEMH needs

### **What this proposal would mean for Furze Down School, Winslow**

A key priority of our SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021 to 2023 is to provide more places for pupils with communication and interaction needs.

Moving Furze Down School sixth form would help achieve this by:

- adding 26 places for pupils aged 4 to 16 years old at Furze Down School
- allowing all specialist teaching areas at Furze Down School to be used – some are currently being used for general teaching

## **What this proposal would mean for the short breaks day service in Buckingham**

Adult services would continue from the short breaks day service building in Buckingham.

The smaller area of the building would not impact the quality of service provided. The service could also support additional adults.

If the proposal happens, the short breaks day service would not be located at the Buckingham site whilst building works took place.

However, all adults currently using the short breaks day service would:

- be able to use alternative services / support
- meet with staff to discuss and agree alternative services / support to meet their needs

## **Related documents**

Before you respond to this consultation, please have a look at the following document available at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com):

- Furze Down School consultation letter

## **Events to find out more**

We are hosting two events to find out more about the proposal:

- **Presentation for parents / carers – Tuesday 4 July 2023, 4pm to 6pm**
  - at Furze Down School, Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3BL
  - Furze Down School can supervise current pupils if their parents / carers want to attend this presentation – please email the school if you need supervision: [office@furzedownschool.org.uk](mailto:office@furzedownschool.org.uk)
- **Drop-in session for parents / carers, short break service users and residents – Wednesday 5 July 2023, 4pm to 6pm**
  - at Buckingham Opportunities Centre, Well Street, Buckingham, MK18 1EN

## **How to have your say**

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com)
- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey
- email us at [FurzeDownandBuckinghamConsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:FurzeDownandBuckinghamConsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about this consultation, please email us at [FurzeDownandBuckinghamConsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:FurzeDownandBuckinghamConsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

**Please tell us your views by midnight on Sunday 6 August 2023.**

## **What happens next**

With the Governing Board of Furze Down School, we will consider all the responses we receive and decide whether to move Furze Down School sixth form.

If the decision is taken to proceed, the next stage is the publication of a statutory notice.

## **Statutory notice**

The statutory notice is a more formal opportunity to give your views by submitting formal objections or support to the proposal.

This stage runs for 4 weeks. If the decision is taken to proceed, we would expect the statutory notice to run from 11 September to 8 October 2023.

The responses received would be considered by the Governing Board and Buckinghamshire Council.

## **Final decision on the proposal**

The Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, would take the decision on the final outcome. We would expect this decision in December 2023.

If the decision is taken to proceed, Furze Down sixth form will be moved and Furze Down School will be expanded ready for September 2024.

## Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on [dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

## Printed consultation survey

### Proposal to move Furze Down School sixth form

1. Do you agree with the proposal to move Furze Down School sixth form to the short breaks day service building in Buckingham?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

2. Do you understand why the proposal to move Furze Down School sixth form to the short breaks day service building in Buckingham has been made?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

**If 'No' or 'I don't know', please tell us why:**

**3. If you think there is anything we haven't considered when developing the proposal to move Furze Down School sixth form, please tell us here:**

**4. If you have any other comments about the proposal to move Furze Down School sixth form, please tell us here:**

## **About you**

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

## 5. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I am a parent or carer of a student at Furze Down School
- I work at Furze Down School
- I am a Governor for Furze Down School
- I am a student at Furze Down School
- I am a service user at the Buckingham short breaks day service
- I work at the Buckingham short breaks day service
- I live near Furze Down School
- I live near the Buckingham short breaks day service
- I work at another local school in the area
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

## 6. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Letter from school
- School staff briefing
- Drop-in session at the short breaks day service in Buckingham
- Local media (newspaper, radio or TV)
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Buckinghamshire Council newsletter
- From Buckinghamshire Council staff
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Word of mouth
- Local Community Board
- Local Councillor
- Local Parish / Town Council or Town Committee
- Other (please give details below):



**7. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (go to question 9)
- On behalf of an organisation

**On behalf of an organisation**

**8. Please provide the following details:**

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

**End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation**

**More about you**

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer, or you can skip all the questions.

**9. What is your postcode?**

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

## 10. What is your age?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

## 11. Are you:

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

## 12. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long-term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

### 13. How would you describe your ethnicity?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

## **End of the survey**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

Please return your completed survey by midnight on Sunday 6 August 2023.

You can:

- email it to [FurzeDownandBuckinghamConsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:FurzeDownandBuckinghamConsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- post it to School Commissioning Team, Buckinghamshire Council, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Walton Street Office, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UZ