

Changes to Post 16 provision at Oak Grove College

CONSULTATION

Consultation from 7th September to 5th October 2020

Public meeting date: Oak Grove College 22nd September 2020

2pm & 6pm

Virtual meeting date: 29th September 2020



www.westsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Consultation ends October 5th 2020



Introduction

The County Council has been developing a new Education and Skills Strategy to support the inclusion of all children and young people, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This strategy builds on the SEND strategy for 2016-2019 and the outcomes of the 2018 Ofsted/CQC SEND Local Area inspection.

This booklet explains the proposals to change the Post 16 provision at Oak Grove College. As a community special school, the Local Authority can propose to make changes to special school provision subject to public consultation as set out in statutory guidance Making Significant Changes ('Prescribed Alterations') To Maintained Schools for Proposers and Decision Makers Oct 2018 published by the Department for Education. The proposal is to reduce Post 16 planned places from 56 to 24 by 2025/26 but retain the overall number of places at the school (256) by re-designating some of Post 16 for Pre-16 provision. This is in line with the current patterns of attendance.

We value your ideas and comments on these proposals, urge you to read this document and respond to us with your views by completing the response form at the back of this booklet or on-line via www.westsussex.gov.uk/oakgrove Included, within this a 'frequently asked questions' section which is specific to this consultation.

Your opinions are important to us and will influence how and where school places are provided.

Nigel Jupp

**Cabinet Member for Education and Skills (and Deputy Leader)
West Sussex County Council**

Background information and proposal - Oak Grove College, Worthing



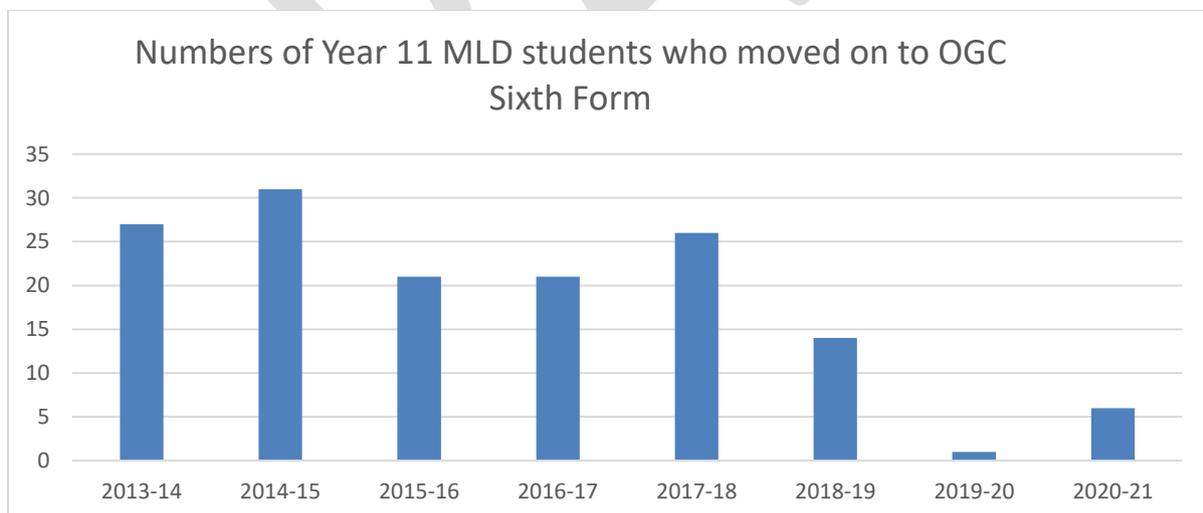
Post 16-19 provision (sixth form)

Number of Post 16 planned places – initial planned places of 34 for 2022/23 reducing to 24 Post 16 planned places by 2025/26

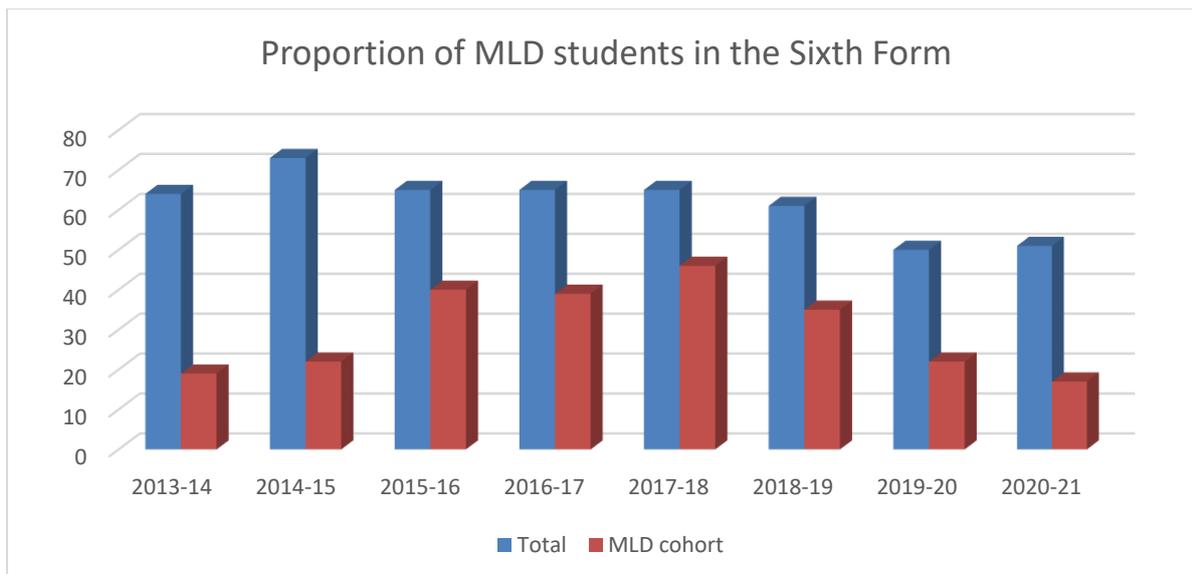
This would see an increase in Pre 16 places equivalent to the decrease in Post 16 places with total planned places remaining at 256

The post 16 provision (or sixth form) at Oak Grove College (OGC) was initially for Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) / Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) however, the designation of the whole school is currently designated as generic learning difficulties. The Post 16 provision has historically been generally available for all who attended the school. OGC since its inception has worked with local Further Education (FE) colleges, Greater Brighton Metropolitan (GB MET, formally Northbrook College) and Chichester College, to support learners in Year 11 who FE provision is appropriate for.

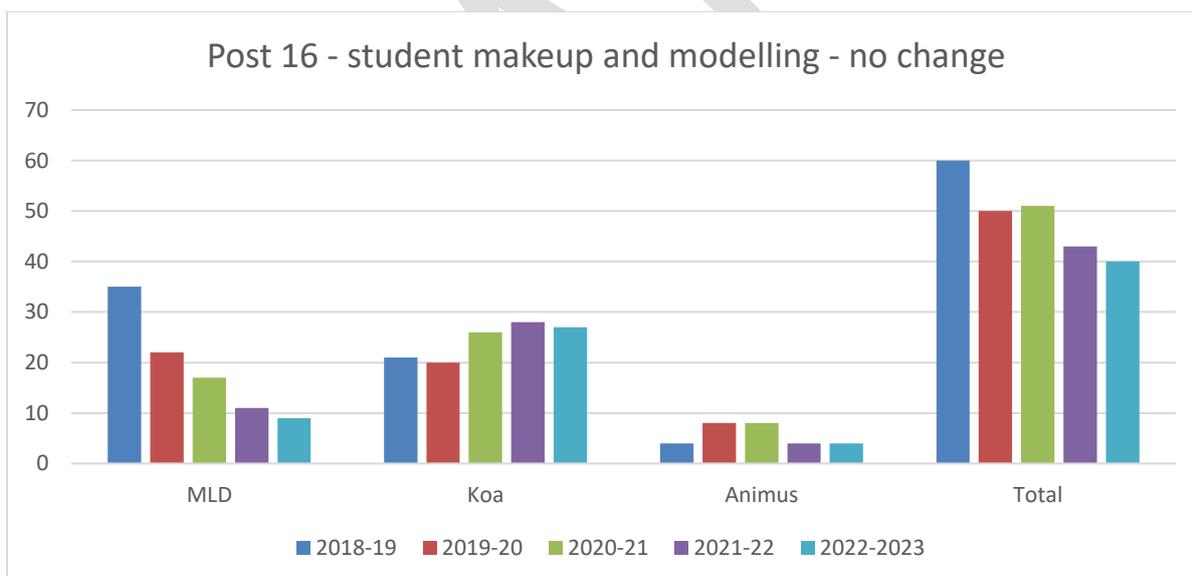
OGC commissioned GB MET to provide a day of curriculum involving travel training, vocational learning on the college campus. This was run by GB MET staff with some groups supported by OGC staff. This replicated strategic aims of the local authority SEND Strategy to create greater capacity in special school places. By introducing this at KS4 the strategic aim was to support OGC students in making informed and appropriate choices about their Post 16 provision.



The success of this KS4 options course has led to a decrease in the numbers staying on for Post 16 provision from OGC (MLD) Year 11 students with only 7 staying on in the last 2 years. In addition, the proportion of MLD students in the sixth form is decreasing and this trend is expected to continue as the number of MLD students move through.

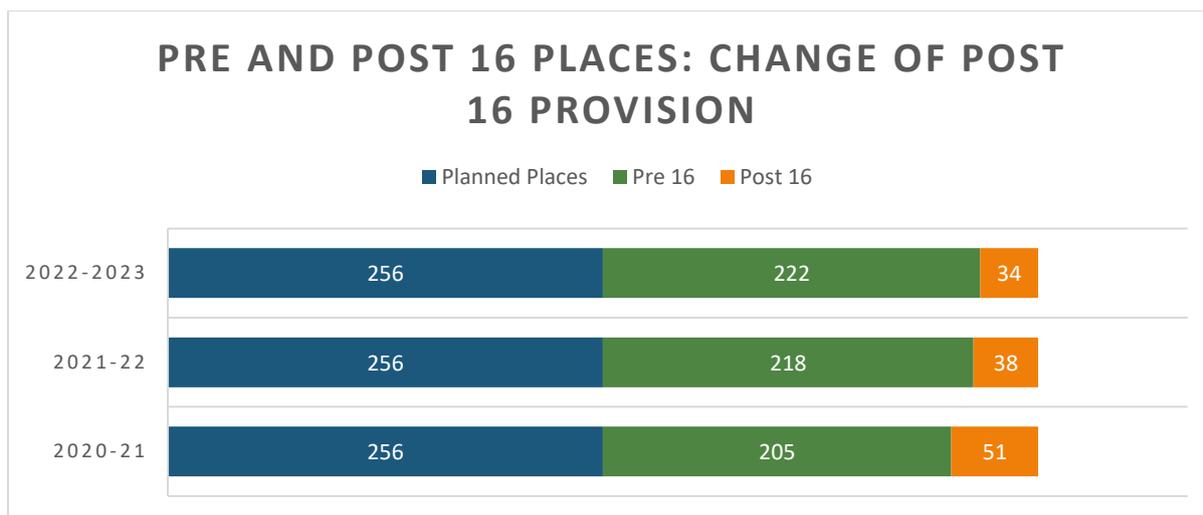


The following graph shows the makeup of sixth form over the last three years. This indicates the proportion of MLD students in the sixth form is decreasing. Koa students are those with SLD and Animus are those with PMLD. OGC still have a need to provide sixth form provision for these students as the numbers remain constant or demonstrating increases for next 3 years.



Oak Grove College has modelled 2021-22 numbers based on information we have on our current cohort of students and estimating the number of MLD students likely to stay on based on an average of the last 2 years. The further two years are modelled on a similar approach. This indicates again that the feasibility of providing an MLD curriculum for these students is not value for money when students are moving onto FE provision.

The change of provision for Post 16 would lead to an increase in the number of pre 16 places based on total planned places of 256, overall planned places remains constant.



The change of provision for Post 16 would be the culmination of a piece of strategic work that began in 2012-13, by Oak Grove College, with the creation of the one-year transition course and more recently in 2017 with KS4 college transition day added to OGC MLD cohort curriculum.

Pupil numbers – the picture in West Sussex

Depending on the requirements of the Educational Health and Care Plan, children will require a place in a mainstream school, Specialist Support Centre (SSC) or maintained Special School. In recent years, the requirement for SSC and Special School placements has increased significantly and projections indicate that this trend will continue. Additional capacity is therefore required in both SSCs and Special Schools to enable children to have a school place close to home to reduce revenue costs of Out County placements in the Independent and Non-Maintained Sector and costly home to school transport costs.

The SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019-2024 which sets out how the County Council will support the inclusion of all children and young people, with a particular focus on those with SEND.

The vision is that all children and young people in West Sussex will, irrespective of their learning needs or abilities, gain the skills and confidence to live well in their community. They will be supported and nurtured through an educational system that responds to their circumstances and prepares them for adulthood.

Within the Strategy three priorities have been identified:

- Knowing our children and families well (an inclusive, person centred approach).
- Meeting the needs of our children and young people through our schools, educational settings and services.
- Working together towards solutions (collective responsibility).

As part of the new strategy, a review of existing specialist provision has been undertaken. In addition, the number of children with SEND that are educated in placements out of the county as their needs are not able to be met in maintained schools or academies has also been reviewed. Increasing provision for children

and young people with SEND through the creation of additional places in special schools at pre-16 will assist with the aim of enabling children to attend school locally.

Best Start in Life: the proposal will positively impact on the outcomes for children and young people with SEND and enable them to be educated locally. It is also a key part of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019 - 2024.

Many schools are facing financial pressures and therefore do not have the capacity to provide additional support to pupils. As a result, this is driving up the demand for more specialist education services, as children with low level SEND who could potentially attend mainstream schools are being educated in more specialist provision. With planned transition and carefully designed courses these pupils will be able to attend courses at local Further Education providers.

There has been a positive response to increasing provision for children with SEND from a range of stakeholders including West Sussex Parent Carer Forum during the consultation process undertaken as part of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy in the summer of 2019.

Who is being consulted?

This consultation booklet is being sent electronically to all parents/carers, school governors, teachers and support staff who work at the schools identified for expansion. Copies are also being sent to headteachers of the neighbouring schools in the localities, local councils, MPs, Church Dioceses, leaders of the early years' facilities, community groups, unions and professional associations. Following the end of the consultation period on 5th October 2020 responses will be analysed and used to inform the governing bodies of the school for schools to take decisions on whether to proceed.

Will there be any building works?

It is not envisaged that any new building requirements will be required as the overall numbers using the facilities will remain the same.

Impact on staff and pupils

Current pupils, in post 16 provision will continue to be part of the college subject to their annual reviews of their Educational and Health Care Plan. Younger pupils will have the opportunity to attend GB MET as an alternative to OGC.

School budgets

Special schools are funded according to a formula set by the Government which allocates £10,000 per planned place, i.e. the agreed number that a school could accept, plus an additional sum per pupil for the actual number of pupils and students on roll, known as top-up funding. At this stage Oak Grove College's overall planned places will not be affected. The decrease in Post 16 planned places will be substituted with an increase in Pre 16 places to meet the demand for pupils at Key Stage 3 & 4.

Preferred Options

The options set out in this booklet are the County Council's *preferred* options following full discussions with the schools involved. If you have sound educational

reasoning why these options are not the best, please include them in your response.

How to make your views known?

1. Complete the online survey on our 'Have Your Say' website
<https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/strategic-planning-and-place/changes-to-post-16-provision-at-oak-grove>
2. Contact Oliver Lane-Smith
Email: oliver.lane-smith@westsussex.gov.uk
Tel. 0330 222 3105
3. Complete the response form at the end of this booklet and return via your nearest school or by post to:
School Organisation Team
Ground Floor
Northleigh
Chichester
PO19 1RH

Questions & Answers

If you have any questions you would like answered before responding, please ask directly in school or to Oliver Lane-Smith as above.

Timescales for consultation

The consultation will run from 7th September until 5th October 2020. Your comments will be collated and analysed before being passed to the relevant governing body at the end of the consultation. The governing body will then consider the responses and make their decision.

Due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on school proposals, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses or enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. A list of frequently asked questions will be made available to view online and will be updated throughout the consultation period.

Privacy Statement

The School Organisation Team will use this survey to collect personal or special category data in order to fulfil a statutory duty. The data will be processed in accordance with the 2018 Data Protection Act, the General Data Protection Regulations and any subsequent data legislation. All data will be anonymised and used for statistical analysis before being forwarded to each individual school for further consideration. The County Council will securely store consultation data electronically for a period of up to 5 years before being destroying it appropriately. West Sussex County Council is registered as Data Controller (Reg. No. Z6413427). For further details and information about our Data Controller, please see www.westsussex.gov.uk/privacy-policy.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please insure you have read the consultation document before completing the survey
- Children and young people under the age of 13 need the consent of a parent / carer to participate
- There is a separate section for each of the schools included in this consultation, Survey participants can choose to comment on one school or as many school proposals as they wish
- Please complete the last section (About You), If you do not wish to provide an answer, please select 'prefer not to say'. The County Council asks 'About You' questions to help it monitor the effectiveness of its consultations. The data provided also helps the County Council to meet its Public Sector Equalities Duties under the 2010 Equalities Act.

The results of the survey will be anonymised and summarised to remove any personally identifiable details and made available on the West Sussex County Council website.

1. Please provide your postcode, including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

2. Are you under the age of 13? If so, you will need parental/carer consent from your parent/carer to participate. Please provide their contact details in the boxes provided below so that we can contact them if we need to:

Name of parent/carer:

Contact telephone number for parent/carer providing consent:

3. Are you responding as...? (please select all that apply)

A parent/carer
Staff member
Governor
Local resident
Student/Pupil
Other

If you are Parent/Carer how many children do you have and how old are they?
Please write in

Pre-school (ages 0-4)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more
Primary (ages 4 - 11)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more
Secondary (ages 11 -18+)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more

Oak Grove College

1 Please indicate whether you are (please tick one box only for each question)

- In support of the re-designation of Post 16 provision at Oak Grove College
- Object to the proposed re-designation of Post 16 provision at Oak Grove College
- Neither support nor object to the re-designation of Post 16 provision at Oak Grove College

2. How much do you agree this school is centred on the needs of the children and learners?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

3. If you have any further views you wish to express about this school or the issues raised above, please use the space below to do so.

DRAFT

Please provide your postcode, including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

About You

The County Council asks the 'About You' questions to help it monitor the effectiveness of its consultations and to help undertake an equalities analysis in order to meet its Public Sector Equalities Duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

It is only for these reasons that you are asked to provide the information below and the data you provide will be separated from both the respondent details and the response comments.

You do not have to provide this information if you do not wish to. In this case, please choose the 'Prefer not to say' option.

If you are aged 12 or under, please select the 'prefer not to say' option for the remaining questions unless you have already provided parental consent for participation.

1. How old are you?
 - 12 or under - please do not answer any further questions unless parental consent has been given
 - 13-16
 - 17 - 24
 - 25 - 44
 - 45 - 64
 - 65 plus
 - Prefer not to say
2. Are you?
 - Male
 - Female
 - Other
 - Prefer not to say
3. Is your gender the same as the assigned to you at birth? Please select one option only.
 - Yes
 - No
 - Prefer not to say

4. What is your ethnic group?
- White
 - Mixed/multiple ethnic groups
 - Asian/Asian British
 - Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
 - Other ethnic group
 - Prefer not to say
5. What is your religion?
- Buddhist
 - Christian (All Denominations)
 - Hindu
 - Jewish
 - Muslim
 - Sikh
 - Any other religion
 - Unknown
 - No religion
 - Prefer not to say
6. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?
- Yes, limited a lot
 - Yes, limited a little
 - No
 - Prefer not to say
7. What is your sexual orientation?
- Heterosexual
 - Bisexual
 - Gay or Lesbian
 - Other
 - Prefer not to say