



Department
for Education

Free school bid form

For local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools

Published: July 2018

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The bid form explained

This free school bid form is for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision (AP) free schools.

Local authorities (either as a lead or sole bidder) can submit a bid for one special and one AP school in total in their area. Given the limited number of new schools we will create in this wave, it is highly unlikely that we will approve more than one school in any one local authority area. In the most exceptional of circumstances where you plan to make the case for two new schools in your area, you will need to complete a separate bid form for each school, although you should cross-reference where appropriate.

The overview section on the second tab asks for information about the number of bids you are submitting (i.e. one or two), the priority of each bid (if you are submitting two), what (if any) other bids you are supporting, and your expected future need for new special and AP schools (and when they are needed). If you are submitting two bids, you only need to complete the overview page on one form.

If your bid is successful, the opportunity will be advertised nationally, and if a strong proposal comes forward, the new school will be delivered and funded as part of the department's central free schools programme.

Before completing your bid, please ensure that you have read the ['guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools'](#) carefully, as this sets out the criteria by which your bid will be judged. Please provide all the information required.

The form should be completed by a local authority representative (or representatives, if it is a joint bid) with the approval of the Director(s) of Children's Services (DCS).

This bid form consists of 14 tabs in total (including this one). Please ensure you read all tabs carefully. You must complete the following tabs in full: overview, confirmation, A1, A2, B, C1, C2, C3, C4 and D. You will also need to complete tab 'A2 continued' if applicable and either tab 'Table C1i' or tab 'Table C1ii' depending on whether your bid is for a special or an AP free school.

Completed bid forms, specifications, and any supporting documentation (e.g. site plans, letters from commissioners)

should be submitted by midday on 15 October 2018. Submit your bid by email to:

APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk. Please title your email as follows: **Special/AP free school bid – [insert name of local authority (or lead local authority if joint bid)]**. Your email should not exceed 9 megabytes in size; anything

larger will not be delivered. **If the bid is larger than 9 megabytes**, please split the documents and send two (or more) emails clearly indicating that the emails are connected (e.g. email 1 of 3).

Free school bid forms should:

- maintain the pre-set printing format;
- not include any comments; and
- not include photographs, images or logos.

This opportunity **does not replace the [presumption](#) process and does not replace a local authority's sufficiency duties.**

Annex A of the [guidance](#) sets out how the information you provide will be used.

[Next tab](#)



Free school bid form One of One Leicestershire

1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you only need to complete this section once (on the form of your preferred bid).
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Overview

While local authorities (either as a lead or sole bidder) can submit a bid for one special and one AP school in total in their area, it is highly unlikely that we will approve more than one school in any one local authority area in this wave. However, we would like you to inform us of expected future need for new schools.

Overview table	
Name of your local authority	Leicestershire
List the bid(s) you are submitting this wave, as either the lead or the sole local authority (including type of school e.g. special or AP) – please list these in priority order so that the first is your preferred bid	Special Free School for Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.
List the bid(s), if any, that another local authority is leading on and that you are supporting (including the name of the lead local authority)	None
Optional: brief description of your expected future need for new special and AP schools, and when they are needed	Leicestershire is experiencing a substantial growth in demand for SEMH places which reflects the trend on a national level. Analysis of our data show a high number of SEMH pupils are placed in high cost provision many outside of the immediate locality. There is an urgent need to develop local provision. Projections show that trends will continue to increase. Whilst our most pressing need is for SEMH provision this is part of a longer term SEND Strategy which will see the delivery of further Special Schools and Resource bases in mainstream schools, this will include a focus on Communication and Interaction (ASD) which is the other major area of emerging demand, and further SEMH provision.

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1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Confirmation

This confirmation must be signed by the relevant Director(s) of Children's Services at the local authority(ies) putting forward this bid.

I am/we are the Director(s) of Children's services at **Leicestershire** and I/we have seen this expression of interest and support it.

I/we confirm that the information provided in this bid form is correct to the best of my/our knowledge.

I/we further confirm that the local authority(ies) and, if applicable, other commissioners (e.g. local schools commissioning AP places) named in section A of this bid have developed this proposal in partnership and, if the bid is successful, will commit to commissioning the number of places at the school as specified in this bid, and to paying the relevant top-up funding (indicative funding specified in this bid, to be confirmed by the local authority(ies) if the bid is successful).

I/we also confirm that I am/we are aware of the financial consequences of the commissioning on our high needs budget(s).

In addition, I/we intend to commission places beyond the first two years, as per the proposed school growth profile (pupil/capacity build up).

NB: an electronic signature is acceptable. If multiple local authorities are submitting this bid, complete a signature box for each local authority.

Signed:

Position: Director of Children's Services at Leicestershire

Print name:

Date:

Signed:

Position: Director of Children's Services at [INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]

Print name:

Date:

Signed:

Position: Director of Children's Services at [INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]

Print name:

Date:

Signed:

Position:

Print name:

Date: 12th October 2018

Signed:

Position: Director of Children's Services at [INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]

Print name:

Date:

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1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Section A1 – local authority(ies) putting forward this bid

Please complete table A1. If this is a joint bid, information must be provided for each local authority involved and the lead local authority must be stated. **Please note that including a local authority on this list means they have committed to commissioning places.**

If you are the sole local authority submitting a bid (i.e. it is not a joint bid), then you must provide the reason why in box A1.

Table A1 - local authority(ies) putting forward this bid		
Name of local authority	Name of person leading	Contact details
Lead local authority: [select name of lead local authority in cell C30 below. This would be the local authority in which the school would be located]	[Redacted]	Telephone: Mobile: [Redacted] Email: [Redacted] Address: [Redacted], [Redacted]. [Redacted]
Leicestershire		
[If applicable, select name of second local authority in cell C36 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of third local authority in cell C42 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of fourth local authority in cell C48 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of fifth local authority in cell C54 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:

Box A1 - if you are submitting a solo bid, please explain why

There is some crossover of provision between Leicestershire and other neighbouring Local Authorities, for example Leicester City, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, generally these LA's are well served by their own strategic development plans for SEND provision. Nevertheless, contact has been made with these LA's (emails received from Derby City, Derbyshire, Rutland, Nottingham City, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire, and a face to face meeting with Leicester City, some of whom are also submitting bids - appendix 1) to confirm they have no wish to take up the places made available, however it is important that we fully understand their future needs and how this might impact on the Leicestershire LA. Evidence shows that there is significant demand emerging in Leicestershire alone, as a consequence of increased births, early identification of need and new housing, however our strategic plans are supportive of an area wide approach. As a rural county we are particularly aware of the disruption to pupils progress resulting from excessive travel to and from school. Leicestershire is a large county, hence our approach to future SEND provision for SEMH pupils is based on a North/ South model of provision. We also have a large number of High Cost Providers located within our locality. We seek to promote children and young people being educated close to home, such that this might enable individuals to learn, develop and thrive within the local community. Our bid for an SEMH free school will help us to deliver a solution for North Leicestershire based on a hub and spokes model, with the new school operating as a centre of excellence supporting and undertaking outreach work with resource bases in the locality (now under development by the LA) and our mainstream maintained schools and academies. The new free school is therefore seen as an integral part of our strategy to deliver real change for Leicestershire children and young people, whilst also reducing our dependence on high cost provision, and making more effective use of available resources.

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1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Section A2 – evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned

You must complete table A2 on this tab, showing how many places you would use at the school for the first two years of the school's operation. If there are multiple commissioners, you also need to complete the larger table on tab 'Table A2 continued'.

In addition, if you are submitting a bid for a new AP free school, you must also:

- Attach commitments in writing from any commissioners other than local authorities (e.g. local schools) indicating their firm intention to commission a specific number of places in the first two years, including the top-up funding they will pay for the children occupying the places;
- Attach evidence that the commissioners have made an informed decision, for example, confirmation that commissioners have seen your bid, and are aware of the characteristics of the new school and the outcomes you want to achieve; and,
- Provide information in box A2 about the commissioning and funding model used in your area(s). To note, we will ask for further details about how you have engaged with the commissioners, and their level of involvement, later in section C3.

Box A2 - for AP schools only, please use this space to describe the commissioning and funding model(s)

Table A2 - evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned (to be completed for both special and AP schools)							
Commissioner	Year of operation	Number of EY places	Number of KS1 places	Number of KS2 places	Number of KS3 places	Number of KS4 places	Number of 16-19 places
Leicestershire	First year of opening			10	10	5	
	Second year of opening			15	15	20	



1. This table must be completed if there are multiple commissioners .
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Table A2 continued

You must complete table A2 on the previous tab, showing how many places you would use at the school for the first two years of the school's operation. If there are multiple commissioners, you also need to complete the table on this tab.

Table A2 continued - evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned (to be completed for both special and AP schools)							
Commissioner	Year of operation	Number of EY places	Number of KS1 places	Number of KS2 places	Number of KS3 places	Number of KS4 places	Number of 16-19 places
Leicestershire	First year of opening			10	10	5	
	Second year of opening			15	15	20	
	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Section B – what type of school is wanted

There are no assessment criteria for section B. Please provide key information about the school you would like to commission in table Bi. Additionally, please set out the expected pupil build up (how the school would fill year-on-year once it opens) in table Bii.

Table Bi - what type of school is wanted	
Type of school	Special free school
Category of provision/needs (if more than one type, with different top-up rates, please explain)	Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)
Age range	7 to 16
Per-pupil revenue funding you would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain)	<p>Leicestershire's approach to funding special schools is based upon [redacted] place funding plus top up funding that reflects the needs of individual pupils and related education provision. Top-up funding is allocated in bands, pupils are allocated to bands. Banding is allocated based on the Child or young persons needs (as outlined in the EHCP) and the provision that will be required to meet those needs. A Banding moderation process is undertaken by peers to ensure consistency of funding between schools. The range of bands, and the average top up funding rate, that will apply to the new school are:</p> <p>[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]</p>
Gender (co-educational/boys/girls)	Co-educational
Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity - including 16-19 places, but not including nursery places)	50
Type of places offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	Full time
Number of nursery places, if applicable	Not Applicable
Number of 16-19 places, if applicable	

<p>Number of 10-15 places, if applicable</p>	
<p>Describe any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)</p>	<p>The Special School will operate on a hub and spoke model working very closely with 5 SEMH resource bases in mainstream schools in the North of Leicestershire being developed by the Local Authority. Outreach work is seen as paramount to the success of this model. The outreach model will build on current practice and extend to include SEMH to reach all Leicestershire maintained schools and academies within the locality. This forms a key part of the Leicestershire Strategy for SEND provision (Appendix 2). Currently all Leicestershire Area Based Special Schools provide outreach support, this school will follow the same outreach model and support other outreach functions. Our outreach work will include the following aspects of provision; developing a coherent partnership offer amongst all schools, offering a range of support for individual schools/pupils aimed at achieving re-engagement with teaching and learning, increased aspirations and improved outcomes within a mainstream setting. An important part of our work will be offering specialist advice and support, sharing expertise amongst schools, providing training and signposting for staff so as to strengthen schools skills experience and confidence, and monitoring and tracking data for all pupils.</p>

Table Bii - pupil build up							
	Year of opening	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
Nursery							
Reception							
Key stage 1 (Y1-2)							
Key stage 2 (Y3-6)	10	15	15	15	15	15	15
Key stage 3 (Y7-9)	10	15	15	15	15	15	15
Key stage 4 (Y10-11)	5	20	20	20	20	20	20
16-19: commissioner referred		0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	25	50	50	50	50	50	50

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Section C1 – the current context in your area

We are looking for bids in areas where a new school will most support local authorities to manage current and/or anticipated pressures on special school places or on the overall high needs budget, so that the needs of children can be better met. We will not be inclined to approve bids that have the side effect of decreasing the inclusion in mainstream schools of children with SEN, or who are at risk of permanent or fixed term exclusions, or of creating excess spare capacity in existing special or AP school. Bids will score more highly if they can demonstrate that a new school will be filled by students who would otherwise be going to more expensive or poor performing provision.

Please use box C1 to provide information about existing provision in your area, future expected growth and use of your high needs budget. You should also use this box to provide commentary around the information sources listed in Annex B of the [guidance](#) that we will use to support our assessment of this section.

In addition, please use table C1i (for special schools) or C1ii (for AP schools) - found on the next tabs - to describe the recent, current and projected trends of

Box C1 - the current context in your area <i>(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words, excluding your entries on table C1i/C1ii)</i>		
<p>Leicestershire is a large rural county in the East Midlands. Currently over 4000 (2.9%) of pupils have an EHC Plan and the number is increasing annually, particularly so for children and young people having SEMH needs. Our current provision is described below:</p> <p>Specialist Nurseries: We have two specialist nurseries. Mainstream Primary and</p> <p>Secondary Schools: All mainstream schools provide a 'core' offer of support and to include children with additional needs.</p> <p>Leicestershire Special Schools: There are five area special schools in Leicestershire, all of which are either good or outstanding. They support pupils with significant learning difficulties and other complex needs from age 2 or 3 up to 19. Maplewell Hall Special School is our 6th Special School for pupils aged 11 to 19 years with moderate learning difficulties and with a specialist provision for secondary aged pupils with higher functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder.</p> <p>Specialist Nurseries: We have two specialist nurseries in addition to the above Oakfield short stay school (PRU) offers support for primary age children with complex social, emotional and mental health needs, this includes:- Dual placements for children at risk from exclusion, referrals for behaviour support, managing reintegration into mainstream school and the outreach support offer</p> <p>In terms of secondary provision there are five Secondary Behaviour Partnerships (SEIPs). The partnerships offer support, advice and outreach as well as facilitating alternative education for young people at risk of exclusion. There are also a large number of Units and Resource Bases in mainstream schools: These help the LA to meet a variety of SEND needs including primary and secondary provision for speech and language, autism, moderate learning difficulties and hearing impairments.</p> <p>For Post 16 provision, the five local FE Colleges and two Independent Specialist Colleges have developed their curriculum offer to meet the needs of SEND learners. It is particular concern to the LA that a large proportion of our pupils (345/7.9% overall) with an EHCP are placed with ISPs, more so than our statistical neighbours, and this is placing unprecedented pressure on our available High Needs Block funding. (Appendix 4 demonstrates provision used against PAN)</p> <p>The County Council published a new strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in the spring of 2018, this was developed in close liaison with current providers, parents and carers and the West Leicestershire and East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups. The strategy sets out our vision and priorities for developing support and provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.</p> <p>This free school bid fits directly with Priority 3 (C2) detailed later within this application.</p> <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> <p>[REDACTED] In terms of SEMH, we have set out an ambitious pathway to expand existing quality provision and set up a large number of new bases attached to mainstream schools as well as building two other new SEMH Special schools. The work plan to deliver the vision and priorities therefore is dynamic, ambitious and responsive to national and local changes in policy and local needs. We want to ensure that more local provision is developed and reduce dependence on high cost placements, longer term it is hoped that some pupils may wish to move back to the provision now under development. The current model needs to be developed to better promote inclusion and deliver quality outreach support. We have discussed and developed our plans with SEND Board, which includes PFC reps and will continue to work closely with parents and YP re co-design.</p>		
<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Word count:</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px;">641</td> </tr> </table>	Word count:	641
Word count:	641	

Section C1 – the current context in your area

1. This table must be completed if you are submitting a bid for a special free school.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to tab 'C1 - current context' as well as the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Table C1i - trends in your specialist provision for all children with EHC plans													
Type of provision	Number of providers used	Please indicate the number of pupils with an EHC plan living in your local authority who are placed within these settings, and the total cost (including base, top-up and transportation if applicable) of all placements at each setting				Projected figures without the new school you want				Projected figures if your bid for a new school is successful			
		2014 (pupils)	2014 (cost)	2018 (pupils)	2018 (cost)	(pupils)	2022 (cost)	(pupils)	2026 (cost)	(pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)
		Resourced provision and units inside local authority											
Resourced provision and units outside local authority													
Special schools (either maintained or academies) inside local authority													
Special schools (either maintained or academies) outside local authority													
Independent / non-maintained special schools inside local authority													
Independent / non-maintained special schools outside local authority													
Mainstream schools inside local authority													
Mainstream schools outside local authority													
General FE colleges (if relevant) inside local authority													
General FE colleges (if relevant) outside local authority													
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) inside local authority													
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) outside local authority													



Section C1 – the current context in your area

1. *This table must be completed if you are submitting a bid for an AP free school.*
2. *If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.*
3. *Please refer to tab 'C1 - current context' as well as the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.*
4. *Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.*

Table C1ii - trends in alternative provision																	
Type of provision	Number of providers used	Please indicate the no. of pupils living in your local authority who are placed within these settings, and the total cost (including base, top-up and transportation if applicable) of all placements at each setting								Projected figures without the new school you want				Projected figures if your bid for a new school is successful			
		2014 (pupils)	2014 (cost)	2018 (pupils)	2018 (cost)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)				
		Maintained PRUs inside local authority															
Maintained PRUs outside local authority																	
Maintained AP free schools or academies inside local authority																	
Maintained AP free schools or academies outside local authority																	
Independent AP settings (registered) inside local authority																	
Independent AP settings (registered) outside local authority																	
Independent AP settings (unregistered) inside local authority																	
Independent AP settings (unregistered) outside local authority																	
AP units located in or attached to mainstream schools inside local authority																	
AP units located in or attached to mainstream schools outside local authority																	
Places designated for AP commissioned from special schools inside local authority																	
Places designated for AP commissioned from special schools outside local authority																	
Places designated for AP in further education settings inside local authority																	
Places designated for AP in further education settings outside local authority																	
Other AP inside local authority – please specify																	
Other AP outside local authority – please specify																	



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Section C2 – your strategy for high needs provision

You must use this section to tell us about your strategy for high needs provision. The purpose of this section is to help us understand your plan for children with SEND or those requiring alternative provision and make a judgement about whether the school you are proposing fits within your strategy.

Box C2 - your strategy for high needs provision
(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 1000 words)

Leicestershire County Council has commissioned several reports to help identify and analysis the needs of our SEND pupil cohort. From this we have an action plan which aims to promote and develop inclusion within mainstream settings whilst simultaneously developing provision for those with the highest levels of need.

The number of EHC plans maintained by Leicestershire Local Authority has gradually increased over time, with the biggest increase in the number of children and young people seen in 2017. In 2014/15 there were 2770 Statements/EHC plans, which rose to 3,703 in 2017/18 and currently stands at over 4000 statutory plans. Of these pupils, 345 (17/18 cohort) pupils attended Independent Specialist Provision in 17/18 and an additional 74 pupils attended Independent Specialist FE provision. Of the 345 pupils, 119 pupils at ISP have ASD as a primary need and 165 have SEMH as a Primary needs.

The use of Independent Specialist Provision in Leicestershire is the highest of our statistical neighbours at 7.9 %; this is primarily due to the fact that we have no provision set up to meet the needs of pupils with the primary need of SEMH or complex ASD. Our existing Special Schools meet the need of learners with other Primary Area of Need including delayed learning and are all full to capacity.

Part of the High Needs Block Strategy has been to make projections of our future needs based on current trends – in addition to this we know there are large scale plans for new housing developments of around 30,000 homes which will also increase demands. The Strategy is aimed at developing provision, support and advice around inclusion, and a review of our current systems and processes. When factoring in increased births and population movement we project that overall an additional 885 children with an EHCP , unless we take action now to develop new provision then many of these pupils could be placed in expensive ISP placements.

In Leicestershire we do not have a Special School for pupils with SEMH as a primary need, this bid is to set up one of two schools (one in the North and one in the South) to meet this need within the Authority. The new free school is to create a specialised school like no other in Leicestershire that will offer each child or young person a personalised programme that focuses on their individual needs and achieving accelerated progress.

In order to address the identified increase in demand , particularly for those with SEMH and ASD we plan to set up additional 'resource bases' attached to mainstream schools for pupils with SEMH and Communication and Interaction difficulties, including autism. These will also add to and strengthen our Outreach support offer. We also plan to open a Special School for Autism plus the second SEMH school, to match the one outlined in this bid. All of the above will be at a substantial expense to the Local Authority with the intention of increasing the quality of provision we have available locally and to be more cost effective and provide better value for money while having the highest expectations for all Children and Young people living in Leicestershire.

[Redacted text]

As a result a separate High Needs Block Strategy has been written which coordinates 5 Strands of work: Case planning and review / Specialist Teaching Service Review / SEN Sufficiency and Provision / Inclusion / Children with Medical Needs / Communication and Financial Strategy. Each Strand has up to 13 projects within it. These are all at a strategic level with the intended outcome of reducing the High Needs Block Spend. The High Needs Block Strategy links carefully with the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy which sets out our vision, aspiration and priorities for developing support and provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.

- The priorities of the SEND strategy (Appendix 2) are:
1. To improve multi-agency working and coordination of services for children with special educational needs and disabilities;
 2. To improve support for and involvement of parents and carers, children young people and families and ensure they are adequately safeguarded in all settings;
 3. To improve the quality and sufficiency of SEND education provision and services by:
 - Supporting mainstream schools and settings to develop their SEND provision:
 - **Developing local specialist services to ensure sufficiency of places in high quality specialist provision across a continuum:**
 4. To improve the transition to adulthood.

Leicestershire has an established multi-agency SEND board which includes Parent and Carer representation which oversees the work of the related strategies. As part of wide representation on the SEND Board, Health partners are aware of our plans, we will work with them to develop the health offer, eg CAHMS and emotional well-being. We would expect the school to

we will work with them to develop the health offer, eg C&I and emotional well-being. We would expect the school to provide Independent Careers Advice and guidance and in line with our 'Pathways for Adulthood Strategy' (Appendix 3) raise the career aspirations for pupils with SEND while planning and supporting them to progress beyond an EHCP, this would include providing links to training, internships or supported internships and apprenticeships and building links with local employers.

Word count:

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Section C3 – why you want a new school and how it fits with your strategy and the local landscape

We want to open new schools where they are the right solution for the area. We are looking for bids where a new school will help local authorities meet children's needs, fit into the local authority's strategic plan for high needs provision and complement the local education offer.

Please use box C3 to explain the rationale for a new school.

In addition, please use table C3 to provide evidence of engagement with others and attach any supporting evidence of this (e.g. letters) when you submit your bid.

Box C3 - why you want a new school and how it fits with your overall strategy

(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words)

We have described the current provision in Leicestershire. The current needs of children and young people, when mapped against our projections demonstrate that we need to develop more specialist provision in a number of ways which we have described within this bid. We want to meet the needs of children and young people who live in Leicestershire, in state funded, quality provision. The New Special Free School for pupils with SEMH will become a cornerstone of Leicestershire's SEMH provision to meet the needs of those children and young people. It will be the first of 2 schools (North and South) providing high quality provision for both the pupils on its role but for pupils who receive Outreach support through the system described below.

Our systems will be designed to ensure that Children and Young People with SEMH needs are not overlooked. Together in partnership, schools, LCC and CCG will adopt a robust staged approach to effectively identify need in a timely manner, to align provision to that need that is designed as a system that

- *allows CYP to move through a "pyramid of provision" to the highest levels of specialism appropriate to their need but brings the CYP back closer to their local school as provision begins to address need
- * in some cases; maintains the involvement of the mainstream school based on the principle that the CYP will return to the school, ensuring that school decision makers collectively share responsibility for "policing thresholds" and govern access to additional provision.

Our SEMH School will be at the top of the "pyramid" and will:

- *Provide the greatest degree of specialist expertise that CYP need
- *Act as a beacon and corner stone of our "whole system"
- *it will offer an innovative curriculum to reignite the interest of each pupil and inspire enthusiasm for learning.
- *The curriculum should be academically challenging where appropriate for each pupil.
- *The school will take an approach to teaching that raises pupils 'aspirations of what they can achieve' when they leave school

This structure and system will enable Leicestershire to significantly reduce the spend on Independent Specialist Provision for pupils with SEMH

Criteria for entry to the SEMH School:
In order to secure active engagement in education the CYP requires high and sustained levels of intervention in order to overcome one or more of the following:

- Mental health issues (attachment disorders, depression, anxiety, substance misuse etc.)
- Dysfunctional family and social settings (family breakdown, instability, poor housing, antisocial behaviours)
- Significant peer pressure including exposure to criminality (siblings or friendship contact with excluded CYP, County Lines, other criminality, drug use)
- Very significant underachievement that has undermined a CYP's confidence in their ability to engage in education (very low reading age but with evidence of average plus ability)
- Schools, Short Stay School and Partnerships will have systematically sought to address needs at a lower level of support and these efforts have not met the CYPs needs.

Table C3 - engagement with others		
Who	How you have engaged (e.g. surveys, meetings)	Summary of engagement (e.g. summary of survey findings and/or conversations)
Your neighbouring local authorities – please specify	Meeting with Leicester City HoS and team 06/09/2018 Correspondence with Regional Partners in Derby City/ Derbyshire/ Rutland/ Northamptonshire/ Lincolnshire/ Leicester City and Nottingham City	Leicester City confirmed they do not plan to make a bid for a Free School and would not expect to commission any places Authorities in Region indicated they are developing their own provisions and would be unlikely to commission places
Commissioning bodies in your area – please specify	SEND Board	CCG / Health partners wish to be involved in the set up and commissioning of services used within the school such as CAMHS.
Local mainstream schools – please specify	Leicestershire Heads Briefing - 2/10/18 Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership (LEEP) - 3/10/18 Leicestershire Special School and unit Head meeting - 28/9/18	Feedback that this is well needed provision and support given to plans put forward. Commitments confirmed to partnership working
School representative bodies e.g. schools forum – please specify	Special School and Unit Heads meeting 21/09/2018 and 1:1 meetings with all Special School Heads to confirm commitment to partnership working. Secondary Education Inclusion Partnership (SEIPs). Agenda item on Schools Forum 24.09.18	Feedback that this is well needed provision and support given to plans put forward. Commitments confirmed to partnership working
Representatives of parents and carers and young people e.g. parent/carer forum – please specify	SEND Board	Approval given - parental feedback was that this is a well needed provision. Counsellor representative very keen this moves forward. Further engagement planned
Any other partners e.g. community groups, FE colleges – please specify	SEND School Governor meeting - presentation and feedback 19/09/18 x2 meetings. Correspondance with MP's (Nicky Morgan and Andrew Bridgen)to confirm support.	Proposals well received and supported by all contacted

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Section C4 – the expected outcomes

To be approvable, bids must demonstrate that the new school will:

- Help to achieve better outcomes for children and young people (compared with existing options); and,
- Support inclusion, including re-integration where appropriate and providing expertise to mainstream schools.

Please use box C4 to describe the impact you expect the school to have, as well as the potential risks and how you would mitigate those.

Box C4 - expected outcomes <i>(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words)</i>
<p>We want all Children and Young people to have access to the highest quality provision to meet their needs, both in mainstream and specialist schools. We have identified SEMH as an area we need to develop and aim to create the highest quality provision and outreach to meet the needs of CYP with SEMH. We hope to reduce the number of Children and Young people with ECHPs who are educated in Independent Special Schools. We would like all our pupils to be educated locally, within a state funded school with which we have supportive and aspirational agreements that reflect our shared endeavour to improving outcomes. We believe that children being educated close to where they live can give many additional benefits and aim to keep educational placements as close to home as possible. The accelerated progress and aspirational outcomes for all our children and young people is key in achieving our goal of outstanding educational provision across the county. In Leicestershire our existing 6 Special Schools are rated as Good or Outstanding, the Heads are part of a supportive network with the shared ambition of all our CYP having the best life chances and making the best possible levels of attainment. We would expect this school to become a part of our Special School Network.</p> <p>The new free school is to create a specialised school like no other in Leicestershire that will offer each child or young person a personalised programme that focuses on their individual needs and achieving accelerated progress. The school will provide a safe and supportive environment with opportunities for pupils to develop their academic and social skills. It is expected that this will enable pupils to make positive choices. Children and young people's needs change over time so a flexible approach to the learning programme will be needed. The provider will be expected to explore the possibilities of links to mainstream provision and engage with partners ensuring the educational offer gives pupils access to a wide and varied curriculum which stretches and challenges them to reach their potential. The School should have the following characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Specialist education provision that focuses on re-establishing CYP's engagement in education and the resilience to sustain that engagement by: *Overcoming, or creating strategies to cope with, SEMH issues that are barriers to engagement *Beginning the process of educational "catch up" required enabling a CYP to take their place back in the school system *Enabling CYP to overcome fears and prejudices about the educational institutions they have previously experienced and return to *Therapeutic provision – with very high level of specialist expertise *Links to and knowledge about : Mental Health Initiatives in the county with cross over of staff and direct routes into CAMHS, Early Help and Social Care – family intervention , National and local Knife Crime and other Youth Offending Initiatives, Drug Use Prevention and Treatment teams in the NHS and third sector *Partnership arrangements and an Outreach offer *Building stronger links with families, communities, further education and employers . Encouraging pupils with SEMH to take their place in society *Subject to the LA as the Admissions Authority. <p>We continue to aim for CYP to be educated in the locality they live in where possible and at the best value for money within cost effective provision that meets needs well. We aim for CYP who are equipped to transition into further and higher education. We have noted and support the findings of the 'Forgotten children' report in July 2018 and aim for young people to take up education, employment and training opportunities and be economically active in their communities.</p>
Word count: 587



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Section D – the proposed location and site

Finding a suitable site is an essential part of opening a free school. As part of preparing your bid you should investigate potential sites for the school and tell us about them in your bid. In this wave we will undertake a desktop assessment of site and consider the value for money, timescale and delivery risks in securing a site for the proposed school in the proposed area.

We will give preference to those projects where our site assessments shows that we are likely to secure a value for money site in a timely manner with an acceptable level of risk, in particular, those bids that include an available site on a peppercorn basis. Making a site available on a peppercorn lease gives the greatest chance of the school opening successfully, and on time.

Please complete table D to tell us about where the school would be located and the preferred site.

Please also provide the name and contact details for the main local authority lead for sites. The ESFA may contact this person to ask questions about the site. **If you know any of these site details before submitting your bid, please let DfE know (by emailing FSC.EOI@education.gov.uk) so we can start conversations with you.** Please contact David.atterbury@leics.gov.uk Tel; 0116 3057729

Please tick the box below to confirm that the relevant Lead Member for Corporate Property has seen this bid and is content with the information provided about site (if provided).

I confirm that the Lead Member of Corporate Property at **Leicestershire** has seen this expression of interest and supports it.

Table D - the proposed location and site	
<p>Please describe the location in which you propose to set up your school being as specific as possible. This could include the name of the area in which you would like to put the school, the part of a city, town or suburb. Please also consider how flexible you are - how far from your preferred location are you willing to go? Please include an annotated map as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk, if possible. If applicable, please also describe the potential impact of any specialism that you plan for your school to have on the site requirement.</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Please tell us the postcode of a central location in your preferred area. You need to provide this even if you have already identified a preferred site. It must be a full postcode e.g. SW1P 3BT, not SW1.</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your calculated building space using the ESFA formula (see section D in the guidance) and any comments on this.</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>If you have identified a preferred site, please complete the rest of the table:</p>	
<p>Full address and postcode of preferred site. It must be a full postcode e.g. SW1P 3BT, not SW1.</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>In which local authority is your preferred site?</p>	<p>Leicestershire</p>
<p>Please tell us how you found the site.</p>	<p>The Local authority has a strategy for the provision of school places and a clear understanding of future growth and demand within localities. The Iveshead school has had an age range change and a merger of high and upper schools which has created surplus capacity on the campus</p>
<p>Please confirm the tenure.</p>	<p>The local authority submitting the bid</p>
<p>Please include information on purchase or lease price if known.</p>	<p>The local authority would expect, should the SEMH school be developed, the trust would be offered the site on a peppercorn rate in keeping with DfE expectations.</p>
<p>Who owns the site?</p>	<p>The local authority submitting the bid</p>
<p>Is the site available/on the market? (Please attach agents' particulars as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk if available)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Name and contact details of owner and/or the agent or local authority representative</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>If the site is local authority owned, which local authority owns it?</p>	<p>Leicestershire</p>

<p>If the site is local authority owned, please state if the local authority have confirmed that, if successful, the site may be used by the free school. Please include terms (e.g. 125 year peppercorn lease). Please also provide details of any other local authority contribution towards the capital costs of the project (e.g. developer contributions).</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>What kind of site is it?</p>	<p>Cleared site requiring new build</p>
<p>What is the current use?</p>	<p>School/education building</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>
<p>Why have you chosen this site? What makes it suitable?</p>	<p>The location is well placed geographically, it is accessible, it is owned by the LA and readily available and not subject to leases.</p>
<p>If known, how big is the building and the site? Please attach any site and building plans as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk</p>	<p>not applicable</p>
<p>Please comment on the condition of the building. Please attach photos if available as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk</p>	<p>not applicable</p>
<p>If the named site is part of a housing development or the school is attracting Section 106 contributions, please give as much detail as possible, including: the development and developer, timing and programme of build, number of housing units, status of planning application and any links to planning applications/decision notices, extent of funding coming from the developer plus confirmation of the local authority's position in relation to your free school using this site.</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>

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