



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**

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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 of us of expected future need for new schools.

Overview table	
Name of your local authority	Sandwell
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	1. Primary Special School for Autistic Spectrum Disorder pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (126 places - Reception to NCY6). The bid is being submitted as a sole
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	With a Wave 11 Secondary Special School (ASD with MLD) for 90 places at Key Stages 3 and 4, to be delivered by the ESFA, the Authority does not currently anticipate an additional special school for the foreseeable future.

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1. This section must be completed.
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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 Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 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

Signed:	
Position:	Director of Education, Skills and Employment, p.p. Lesley Hagger, Director of Children's Services at Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Print name:	Chris Ward
Date:	15th October 2018

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: 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:

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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] Sandwell	Moira Tallents / Melanie Barnett	Telephone: [REDACTED] Mobile: Email: [REDACTED] Address: Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury,
[If applicable, select name of second local authority in cell C36 below]	N/A	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

Across the Borough the Local Authority has experienced an unprecedented demand for primary school places as a direct result of a significant increase in the birth rate, retention and inward migration. The growth is replicated within the special school sector and to support provision at Key Stage 3 and 4 a secondary special free school was approved as part of Wave 11. The ESFA has now rebrokered the school having recently nominated Forward Education Trust to sponsor the new school. Comparison of historic trends and growth against current projections of children diagnosed as having Autistic Spectrum Disorder with Moderate Learning Difficulties indicates that the Authority requires a dedicated primary special school to complement the Wave 11 proposal and to support its special school 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.

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

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

N/A

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
Sandwell MBC	First year of opening	■	■	■			
	Second year of opening	■	■	■			



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
[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						
[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						

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1. This section must be completed.
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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)	ASD with MLD.
Age range	5 to 11
Per-pupil revenue funding you would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain)	█ per place (base funding) plus █ per pupil (top-up funding)
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)	126
Type of places offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	Full time
Number of nursery places, if applicable	0
Number of 16-19 places, if applicable	Not applicable
Describe any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)	Sandwell consists of six town areas. There is currently no special school provision for ASD with MLD within the three towns that form the northern half of Sandwell. There is no planned outreach, training and / or reintegration support planned since the Authority wishes to see the school establish itself within the area, with a view to encouraging the new school provider to offer outreach and training. For primary aged ASD children (with MLD) it is not envisaged that reintegration support would be considered relevant.

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)							
Key stage 3 (Y7-9)							
Key stage 4 (Y10-11)							
16-19: commissioner referred							
Totals							

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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.

Box C1 - the current context in your area

(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words, excluding your entries on table C1i/C1ii)

Existing Provision Currently Sandwell has no specific special school that caters for the needs of pupils with ASD. Our current provision includes 11 ASD specific resource bases in 'good' or 'outstanding' mainstream schools, and 4 'good' or 'outstanding' special schools for pupils with SEMH difficulties, MLD and other needs, complex and severe learning difficulties (primary and secondary). At present we have 166 young people in our special schools that have a diagnosis of ASD as well as a further 39 in out of borough special school. There are 100 pupils placed in mainstream resource bases. There is very little capacity within our current specialist provisions to provide the additional places required to meet the needs of pupils with ASD and MLD. **Expected Growth** The local authority has seen a year on year growth of 0.1% since 2014 of pupils requiring an EHCP in schools- an additional 390 pupils since 2014. We expect this figure to continue to rise with the growth of the general school population. There has also been an 18.5% increase in primary aged children with EHCPs being diagnosed with ASD, with a further 40 children awaiting diagnosis. A Specialist Free secondary school for ASD pupils has been agreed during Wave 11 however there is a need for a primary equivalent as current specialist provision is already near to capacity. **How places will be filled.** The places will be filled from the population that would currently be placed in out of borough specialist schools, our LA special schools and resource provisions. This would relieve current pressures on LA special schools as places would become available for children with other complex needs. It would also relieve pressures on schools with resources bases as the more complex students with ASD + MLD could be accommodated in special schools, leaving those who are more likely to make academic progress in a mainstream school. Resource provisions have seen a dramatic increase in the level of need of children they are placing and due to this 2 schools have recently decided to close their provision, **High Needs Budget management and value for money.** The LA would reduce the use of out-of-borough placements over time and recycle monies to cover the cost of the additional placements in the special free school. The new special school would also replace planned further development of resource bases within mainstream schools, thus recycling the places so limiting the overall increase and pressure on the High Needs Block.

Word count: 409

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)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)	2022 (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	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

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 if your bid for a new school is successful			
		2014				2018				Projected figures without the new school you want			
		(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(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													



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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)

Sandwell's strategy for high needs provision is dependant on expanding and converting current school buildings through the use of the SEND Capital Fund. The current "evolve" strategy and "special provision plan" can be found at [REDACTED]. Currently the plan is being revised in light of actual expenditure of projects under development and realistic estimates of costs including Building Schools for the Future (BSF) schools. The "evolve" strategy has the ultimate outcome of optimising provision so that Sandwell's most vulnerable children can aspire and achieve. Within the strategy there are multiple foci in order to achieve the goal. These include:

- Creating a new 40 place Post 16 provision at an outstanding special school in order to promote supported internships. This will prepare young people for employment and help increase independence in accordance to the "Preparing for Adulthood agenda.
- Creating 20 additional places in SLD special school and broadening their age in order to meet current demand across 2 schools.

Creating a new secondary age alternative provision to prevent students from being permanently excluded by providing short term intensive therapeutic intervention. This will also reduce the demands of our current secondary PRU.

- Creating 2 new primary SEMH resource provisions (10 places) in mainstream schools and 14 addition places in the primary site of SEMH Special school in order to increase capacity of SEMH provision across the borough. This should free capacity with the primary PRU in order to offer more preventative places and hence reduce the number of exclusions of primary aged children across the borough.
- Creating an additional 20 places on the SEMH special school site to match the additional capacity within primary and reduce the number of pupils with SEMH needs using alternative provisions/ out-of-borough providers. This is the first phase of a building project, with additional monies the school site can be further extended in order to create more additional places (20 places) but this is dependent on capital costs of the other projects.
- Within the current strategy there are also resource bases within mainstream schools for pupils with ASD (30 places), MLD (10 places) and medical/complex needs (10 places). If this bid is successful, the new Special School will replace the need for these provisions as not only will the school provide a specialist teaching environment for the pupils with ASD, it will also release capacity in our Special Schools for SLD/Complex needs and MLD, so that the need for additional provision is no longer warranted.

Word count:

413

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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)

The new Special School will cater for the needs of primary aged children with ASD (and moderate learning difficulties). Currently Sandwell does not have a dedicated Special School for pupils with these needs, they are currently placed within our other special schools and resource bases. It is part of the authorities strategic plan to increase provision for children and young people with ASD, as this is a rising area of need across the authority and a gap in our provision. A secondary special free school has already been commissioned on the site proposed. Having a primary school on the same site would ease transition. The site is in the north of the authority, no other local authority special schools are in this vicinity. The site is currently a redundant secondary school and it would benefit the community for this land to be repurposed rather than left empty. As previously stated, the opening of a new ASD specific special school, will not only provide high quality provision but also release capacity within our other good and outstanding special schools. It will also provide another higher level tier of support for children whose needs are too complex for mainstream resource provisions. An independent review of SEND provision was commissioned by the Joint Executive Group of Headteachers in 2016. The review elicited responses of schools, support agencies and parents. The findings of the review identified a lack of specialist provision across Sandwell due to rising needs and population, especially within the SEMH and ASD sectors. Sandwell also has a strong group of parents (Sandwell Autism Group) who have children with ASD, they would also welcome increased specialist provision. A new primary special school for pupils with ASD, would also release funding through revising the use of the SEND Capital Grant, to enable the authority to increase specialist provision for secondary aged pupils with SEMH difficulties.

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		
Commissioning bodies in your area – please specify		
Local mainstream schools – please specify		
School representative bodies e.g. schools forum – please specify		
Representatives of parents and carers and young people e.g. parent/carer forum – please specify		
Any other partners e.g. community groups, FE colleges – please specify		

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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

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

The outcomes we would expect from providing a new special school for pupils with ASD would be an increase in the quality of specialist provision available and therefore an increase in individual pupils achieving their potential. The aim of all specialist provision in Sandwell is to prepare the children for adult life by supporting independence and teaching the skills needed to be part of their community and gain meaningful employment. This preparation starts in the early years and gathers momentum as the pupils grow older. We would expect the new special school to work collaboratively with the other special schools in the area, including the new Secondary ASD school. They would be part of a strategic plan to improve provision for pupils with ASD by working closely with our current resource bases to share good practice and to be part of the ASD resource base steering group. They will be expected to work closely with the LA's Complex Communication and Autism Team and as such offer training / outreach to identified mainstream schools that require additional support. The risks of opening a new special school for pupils with ASD would be that it will increase the proportion of children educated in specialist settings within Sandwell. Whilst this is a concern, Sandwell is a very inclusive local authority, currently we have only 0.5% of our SEND population allocated to Special Free School places compared to 9% nationally and 11.3% regionally. An increase in this sector would bring us more inline with our neighbours.

Word count:

252



Free school bid form [1 of 1]

- 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 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.

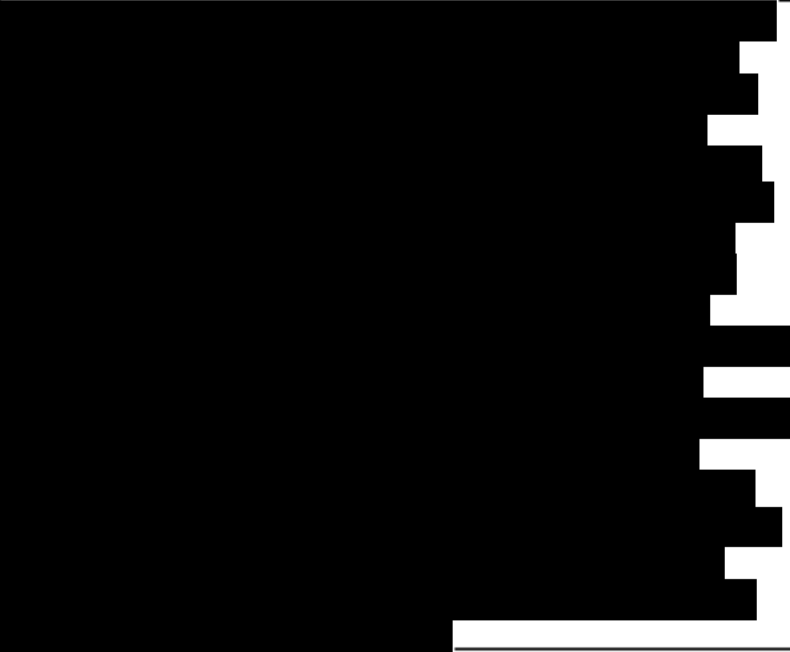






Please also provide the name and contact details for the main local authority lead for sites. The ESFA may contact this person to ask questions about the site. **If you know any of these site details before submitting your bid, please let DfE know (by emailing FSC.EOI@education.gov.uk) so we can start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

.....

Please 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).

Please tick to confirm

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>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>Your calculated building space using the ESFA formula (see section D in the guidance) and any comments on this.</p>	<p>2,527m²</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>In which local authority is your preferred site?</p>	<p>Sandwell</p>
<p>Please tell us how you found the site.</p>	
<p>Please confirm the tenure.</p>	<p>Other - please explain</p>
<p>If other, please explain further.</p>	
<p>Please include information on purchase or lease price if known.</p>	<p>Not known at this stage, but peppercorn basis would be expected.</p>
<p>Who owns the site?</p>	<p>An academy or trust</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>No</p>
<p>Name and contact details of owner and/or the agent or local authority representative</p>	
<p>If the site is local authority owned, which local authority owns it?</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>What kind of site is it?</p>	
<p>What is the current use?</p>	Other - please describe
<p>If government building or other, please describe.</p>	[REDACTED]
<p>Why have you chosen this site? What makes it suitable?</p>	[REDACTED]
<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>	See above comments.
<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>	The existing buildings are in very poor state that have been closed for approximately 5 years, hence the ESFA Free School Capital team's decision to demolish the existing structures.
<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>	Not applicable.

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