

New Free Schools South Gloucestershire Wave 13

Information to MAT CEOs

The Department for Education is looking to open new mainstream free schools in areas that currently have the lowest standards and need additional school places.

South Gloucestershire Council is seeking to establish the provision of two new schools through the central government Mainstream Free Schools Programme (Wave 13). Under this route, government invites applications from groups to establish high quality new schools and provides the capital for land and construction. To secure best value for money, where possible, the DfE will look to supplement funding with other contributions. This includes the provision of a site from local authorities or contributions from developers.

Details of the new schools planned are set out below along with details of the process and timeline. Indicative maps of the school locations are available from 10 September 2018 onwards from tanya.smith@southglos.gov.uk Requests received before this date will be logged and actioned after 10 September 2018.

Process

You can register your interest in creating a new free school as part of Wave 13 using the DfE's [online form](#), which is available until 1 October 2018.

If you do not already run an academy, you will need to establish an academy trust (a company that operates an academy or free school) before you submit your application. You can find information about setting up an academy trust in Annex A of the DfE published guidance *How to apply to set up a mainstream free school - July 2018* and additional guidance is available from the New Schools Network.

Note: You must register your interest using the DfE's [online form](#) by 1 October 2018.

Once you have registered your interest, you should begin work on your application, gathering all the material that is required.

A sample application form and application form notes are published on the DfE's website (for information only) to show what proposers will need to submit when the application window opens. Once you have registered your interest, the DfE will send you the editable application forms you need to complete.

The criteria/information you need to provide is set out in the DfE published guidance *How to apply to set up a mainstream free school - July 2018*. You should complete the Excel and Word application forms. You must address all of the criteria.

Once you have completed your application, you should submit it by **midday on Monday 5 November 2018**.

More information on opening a free school is available at the following link to the DfE's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-application-guide>

Note: The DfE's guidance sets out that to be successful, all applications must be in one of the targeted districts identified by the department as having the lowest standards and lowest capacity to improve (a full list is set out in Annex G of the guidance). South Gloucestershire Council's proposed new free schools are **not** in one of these areas and therefore you will need to demonstrate that it is in a 'pocket' of low standards where there is a very strong case for a free school. Further details of the information required is set out below – see *Pocket of Low Standards* and *Basic Need* headings.

Assessment

When assessing the case for your proposed school, the DfE will have conversations with local authorities to determine whether there is basic need for the school and consider whether the proposal fits with any local school improvement strategies that they may have planned.

Decisions

Decisions on applications are taken by the Secretary of State. **The decisions are final and there is no appeals process.** You will receive feedback if your application is not successful.

Timeline

Action	Deadline
Sponsors to register their interest online	by 1 October 2018
Sponsors to submit their free school application	by 5 November
Interviews for Wave 13 applications start	in early 2019
Approved applications will be announced	in Spring 2019

Pocket of Low Standards

Given that South Gloucestershire is not in a local authority district identified as having the lowest standards and lowest capacity to improve, you will be required to demonstrate that the school would be in a 'pocket' of low standards where there is a very strong case for a free school. This could be:

- an area where disadvantaged pupils are being particularly poorly served by local schools, where a new free school could raise standards and improve opportunities for these pupils; or
- a relatively small geographical area where the educational standards and local capacity to improve are very low, but where much higher standards elsewhere in the local authority district meant that the district was not included in our list of targeted areas.

The DfE is unlikely to approve an application in an area outside the identified districts where educational standards are only slightly below the national average. Ways to demonstrate that you are in a pocket of low standards could include being in an area:

- where a large proportion of the schools within a reasonable travel distance are currently judged to be 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' by Ofsted; or where results are below the floor standards; or
- where a large proportion of disadvantaged pupils attend schools that are currently judged to be 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' by Ofsted; or where results are below the floor standard.

Note: South Gloucestershire has not been identified by the Social Mobility Commission as a 'cold spot'. Cold Spots reference - *Social Mobility Commission State of the Nation 2017 Social Mobility in Great Britain*.

You can obtain details of the performance of schools and colleges in South Gloucestershire using the following [online tool](#) on Gov.uk.

Basic Need

All applications must have demonstrable basic need for a high proportion of the school places that the free school will create. You can find more information on this in Section B2 of the assessment criteria in the DfE's guidance ***How to apply to set up a mainstream free school - July 2018***. The information required should demonstrate:

- a high proportion of the places at the proposed school will be needed to meet a projected shortfall of school places in the local area in the short to medium term (a five-year horizon for primary schools and a seven-year horizon for secondary schools, in line with the data collected from local authorities by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA);
- you have consulted published basic need data, taking account of forecast need, existing capacity and capacity that will be added over the coming years;
- you have understood the current basic need picture, including any changes since data collection and any plans to create places which will absorb the need.
- you understand the current picture of nursery provision in the local area as this will help to inform your plans. The Council has made an assessment of childcare sufficiency to support the need for nursery provision.

This list is not exhaustive. The examples above are intended as guidelines.

It is your responsibility to make your own case as to why a new free school is needed in the area you are proposing. However, you may obtain supporting documentation on basic need from **10 September 2018 onwards** from Tanya Smith, Strategic Lead School Place Planning, South Gloucestershire Council, via email to tanya.smith@soutglos.gov.uk Requests received before this date will be logged and actioned after 10 September 2018.

New Free Schools Proposed in South Gloucestershire – Wave 13

New Mainstream Primary School in Warmley

The Council has reserved a site for new primary school provision on the former Grange School site. This is large enough to provide 420 primary school places including on site nursery provision. The pupil projections indicate a basic need for new places from September 2021. The location of the site is east of the ring road and plans for the development of the site are being developed by the Council as part of a master planning exercise. The land is Council owned and it is planned that the site be leased to the successful sponsor on 125 lease agreement. It is likely that the successful sponsor will be required to help facilitate the shared use of community sports facilities provided on the school site though options for joint use and design are to be determined. The site will also accommodate nursery provision and this could be run by the sponsor or by an independent, private or voluntary nursery provider.

New Mainstream All-through School at Lyde Green

The Council is planning new school provision on the housing development at Lyde Green and has secured [partial] land and a [partial] financial contribution from the developer as part of a Section 106 agreement. The Council is planning an all through school for the 4-16 age range which will provide 420 additional primary phase places and between 450-900 secondary phase places. The Section 106 agreement provides for 450 secondary phase places (3 forms of entry). This was negotiated on the basis that the development is expected to yield in the region of 450 secondary school age children. The land negotiated for the secondary phase reflects the yield at 1.05 hectares. A further 0.65 hectares is available for the Council to purchase. This would provide sufficient land for a 900 secondary phase (6 forms of entry) and is in line with the Council's secondary pupil projections which identify a basic need and supports the case for a 9FE secondary phase.

The actual size of the school will depend on securing additional land from the developer to build a 6 form entry secondary phase and approval of the free school, including capital funding, as part of the Wave 13 free schools programme.

The successful sponsor of the new all through school will be expected to form close links with Castle Schools Education Trust who are responsible for the first Lyde Green Primary School which opened in September 2015. Children ageing through the existing primary school at Lyde Green will require Year 7 places (at the new Lyde Green all through school) in 2022. It is planned to open Reception and Year 7 classes from September 2022 or earlier if possible.

The Council has negotiated nursery provision separate from the school. It will be for the developer to agree terms with a private, voluntary or independent provider in line with the terms set out in the Section 106 agreement.