



Department
for Education

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Ms Tina Russell
Chief Executive
Worcestershire Children First and Director of Children's Services
County Hall,
Spetchley Road,
Worcester,
WR5 2NP

25 October 2022

Email: trussell@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Dear Tina

Statement of Intent for a new secondary free school in Worcester City.

I am writing to confirm that Worcester City Secondary School has been given Secretary of State approval to sponsor the proposed secondary mainstream free school in Worcester City under section 6A (the 'free school presumption') of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (referred to as the 'the Act').

With effect from May 2015, all new schools established under s6a of the Act have been classified as free schools. The school is not required to use the term 'free school' in its name, in line with practice within the department's centrally managed free schools programme. My team will be in contact with the sponsor about developing their plans to work with you to take the project forward. The department will expect the local authority to agree an implementation plan with the sponsor and this will be monitored by one of the department's free school lead contacts. It is our expectation that the support and intervention from the department will be minimal, and we will engage with either party only if it appears that the project is not achieving the agreed milestones or there is a risk of a relationship breakdown.

The department's free school presumption guidance makes it clear that the local authority must provide a suitable site for this school and meet all associated capital costs.

Local authorities are expected to have informed all prospective sponsors at the competition stage what funding is available for pre and post opening start-up costs. We require you to confirm with the selected sponsor, at an early stage, the funding allocation arrangements. The department will provide a one-off payment of £25,000 to the successful sponsor for the legal costs associated with establishing each new free school.

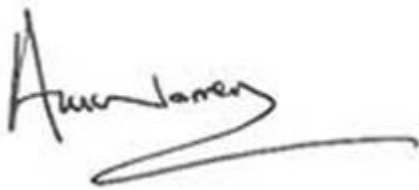
Upon opening, the school will be funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency

(ESFA) on the same basis as other academies and free schools in the same local authority area, with the exception of post-opening grant. The local authority is responsible for providing any post-opening funding required to address diseconomies of scale until the school reaches full capacity.

Letters have also been sent to the successful sponsor and your local MP notifying them of the decision.

I wish you and Oasis Community Learning every success in establishing the new free school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Warren', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Warren
Regional Director, West Midlands