

ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL CREATION OF NEW SATELLITE SITE FOR RAISE ROCHDALE PUPIL REFERRAL SERVICE (PRS)

Notice is given in accordance with statutory requirements that Rochdale Borough Council, Children's Services, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU, intends to open a new satellite site for Raise Rochdale PRS.

1. The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the Proposals:

Local Authority: *Rochdale Borough Council*

Address: *School Organisation and Development Team, Early Help & Schools, Rochdale Borough Council, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU*

Date of Publication of Proposals for Consultation: *21st November 2025.*

2. The name, address and category of the school that is proposed to be altered:

Address: *Raise Rochdale PRS School, (postal address: Saxon Hall, Samson Street, Rochdale, OL16 2XW)*

Category of school: *Community Pupil Referral Unit school*

3. The date in which the proposed changes will take effect in terms of both the buildings and additional place provisions:

1st September 2028.

4. The place to which representations can be made, and by when:

Any person can make representations on the proposal by using the following link to the council consultation website at: <https://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/childrens-services/c292cf1b/> or by sending them by 19th December 2025 to: Fay Davies, by e-mail at fay.davies@rochdale.gov.uk or in writing to this address: School Admissions, School Organisation & Development Team, Early Help and Schools, Rochdale Borough Council, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU.

5. What is proposed?

The proposal is to create a new satellite school site for Raise Rochdale PRS, to re-provide accommodation that is currently being delivered at a temporary site. The new site off Mayfield Street in Central Rochdale will provide 64 places from 1st September 2028 (the opening of the school building may be within the 2027/28 academic year, but the first full year is likely to be 1st September 2028).

6. School capacity and places- current pupil numbers and admissions- (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made:

Raise Rochdale PRS had 199 pupils on roll from Reception to Year 11 in the May 2025 school census. The current age range of the children is 5 to 16 years. The school is an alternative provision school and admits children who are unable to attend mainstream schools due to various challenges.

ROCHDALE MAY 2025 CENSUS	Rec NOR	Year 1 NOR	Year 2 NOR	Year 3 NOR	Year 4 NOR	Year 5 NOR	Year 6 NOR	Year 7 NOR	Year 8 NOR	Year 9 NOR	Year 10 NOR	Year 11 NOR	Total NOR
Redwood Special School	0	1	1	4	4	3	5	4	18	49	41	69	199

7. Why do we want to make the change(s)?

Reasons for the increase of places and choice of a larger satellite site:

7.1 Rochdale Council has a statutory duty under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to provide suitable education for children of compulsory school age who cannot attend mainstream school.

7.2 Raise Rochdale PRS is a specialized educational school that caters to children who cannot attend mainstream school for reasons such as behavioural issues, medical conditions, or specific learning difficulties. Raise Rochdale's aim is to provide a supportive and structured environment where these students can continue their education tailored to their individual needs.

7.3 The council has a duty of care to manage school places effectively by working in partnership with schools and academy trusts so that schools can adequately staff their schools and so that additional classroom accommodation is provided in a timely manner.

7.4 Most children at Raise Rochdale PRS have some special educational need, although this is not a criterion for entry. The special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years is statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities. The guidance states that all children and young people are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards and the fulfilment of potential.

This should enable them to:

- achieve their best
- become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and
- make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training

7.6 Since 2014 the number of children in each year group cohort has increased and this increases the number of children requiring a PRS school place.

7.6 Raise Rochdale operates over three sites in Rochdale: the main school at Heights Lane, Saxon Hall and St Alban's House. The site at St. Alban's House is temporarily leased and the purpose-built school being discussed here will replace some of the school capacity currently being provided at St Alban's and Saxon Hall.

7.7 Raise Rochdale PRS provides specialist alternative provision places for children in both Primary and Secondary year groups.

7.8 Raise Rochdale is recently de-federated from a partnership with Rochdale's special school that provides SEND places for children with predominantly Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues. Under the previous federation the school was called Brownhill Learning Community.

Quality of Provision

7.6 The OfSTED report for previously federated school's collaborative, under the establishment title of "Brownhill Learning Community" was published in July 2024 and the school was judged to be "Requires Improvement" in all categories.

7.7 The advantages to the school and the children will be:

- Greater curriculum offer for children needing vocational training in years 10 and 11.
- Additional capacity to replace St Alban's House and to manage the ongoing growth in children requiring alternative provision (AP) schooling.

7.8 The Governing Body of Raise Rochdale Service is committed to upholding the standards and ethos of the School. Through the Leadership and Management Team and alongside the Governing Body, the school aspires to provide a 'Good' education to all of the children in its community.

8. The need for a increase in places - a statement and supporting evidence about the need for reducing school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate additional pupils in the current schools:

8.1 In January 2025 the council's Cabinet allocated funding for a new satellite special school. A link to the Cabinet report for Tuesday, 21st January, 2025, item 145, is here:-
(<https://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s113038/HighNeedsCapitalandInvestment2025v3.pdf>)

A previous detailed review of SEND and places is also contained in the council's the [Education Sufficiency Strategy](#) which detailed the need for the additional secondary special school capacity that will be provided by this new satellite school.

Information and feedback on this consultation can be found in the link below:

<https://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/childrens-services/c292cf1b/>

9. Implementation of the Proposals

Rochdale Borough Council as promoter has responsibility for implementing the proposals which must conform to the Section 19, the School Admissions and SEND Code.

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