

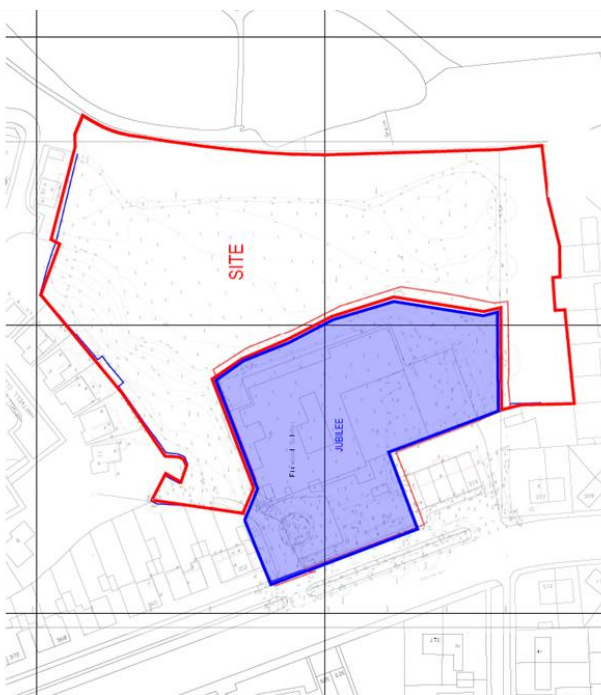
# Frequently Asked Questions

## Firwood School additional site proposal

### 1) What is being proposed?

It is proposed to build a new educational facility for Firwood Academy Special School on land adjacent to the Jubilee Centre (324 Crompton Way, Bolton BL2 3AF).

### 2) Where will the site be located at the Jubilee Centre?



The map below shows the Jubilee Centre highlighted in purple, with the proposed site location outlined in red. The site location is adjacent to the Jubilee Centre, at the rear and side of the facility.

### 3) Why is it being proposed and why can't it be built at the current Firwood site, off Stitch-me-Lane?

Bolton is presently facing a high demand for special school places and although Firwood has recently been extended, it is quickly approaching its full operating capacity. More places are needed in order to meet identified future demand in Bolton, to avoid the otherwise high cost of placing children in settings outside of the borough. Placing children in educational settings outside of the borough can be of great inconvenience to pupils and their families.

Further development at the main Firwood site, off Stitch-me-Lane, would be difficult and very costly to undertake, given the sloping nature of the site. It would also reduce the amount of external play and recreational space required for pupils. The Council is therefore looking to support the further expansion of Firwood by building the additional places on another site and propose the identified site at the Jubilee Centre.

#### **4) How big would this be?**

The new facility would accommodate up to 100 pupil and students and from Firwood Academy Special School.

#### **5) What age would the children be?**

Firwood is a secondary special school that provides secondary and post 16 education for pupils aged from 11 to 19.

#### **6) How would children travel to and from the proposed new facility?**

Most pupils who are taught at Firwood are transported to and from school via the Council's own school bus service, although some arrive by taxi. Such transport arrangements greatly reduce the number of vehicle movements to and from the school that are typical seen at similarly sized mainstream schools.

#### **7) If agreed, what happens next?**

All comments received from this consultation exercise will be considered and reported to decision makers to determine whether to proceed with the proposal. If agreed, then as an Academy school, Firwood will be invited to prepare their proposals to establish a new educational facility on the site as an extension to their school. This would be subject to the usual requirement to secure planning permission, and any subsequent submitted planning application would be subject to the normal consultation process at that time. This would include further consultation with residents and stakeholders.

#### **8) How do I have my say?**

To take part in the survey please complete the consultation survey by visiting [https://bit.ly/Bolton\\_Consultation](https://bit.ly/Bolton_Consultation).

If you require a paper copy or support completing the survey, please contact the Consultation Team on 01204 336584, leaving your name, contact details, address, and the title of the consultation which is: 'Firwood School'.