



Home & Hospital Tuition Service



9 July 2018

Mr Chris Ward
Director of Education, Skills & Employment
Sandwell MBC
Oldbury Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
B69 3DE

Dear Mr Ward

Consultation on proposal to increase the number of special school places for young people with Special Educational Needs and Learning Disabilities – Transfer of Whiteheath

I am the parent of a child who is currently in Year 10 at Whiteheath Education Centre on the Rowley Campus. I have recently become aware that the Council propose to extend Westminster School by moving pupils from the current premises which Whiteheath occupy to a building in Tipton. I am very concerned about this proposal.

You might not be aware of the complex problems which young people at Whiteheath have, but my son/daughter had been out of education for months before they were given a place at Whiteheath. They are under the care of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services but were too unwell to access their mainstream school. Not only have Whiteheath taught them on Home Tuition but they have been able to build a part-time timetable around them and gradually coaxed them into the Centre. The building the Centre is based at is so unlike a mainstream school that it has helped them overcome their anxieties in order to return to Education. The fact that the current building is very quiet, open and not overlooked by children from mainstream school has made it easier for my son/daughter to settle.



**HOME & HOSPITAL TUITION
SERVICE**

Whiteheath Education Centre
Hawes Lane
Rowley Regis
B65 9AL

Telephone: 0121-561 6887

I understand that the proposal is to move Whiteheath pupils into a building on the Tipton Campus, which is smaller, darker, does not have the same facilities and is overlooked by a Day Nursery and a mainstream school, ACE Academy. I am very concerned that much of the good work done with my child to date will be lost. Please can you reconsider your proposal.

Yours sincerely

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Parent/Carer of pupil at Whiteheath Education Centre