

Public Consultation

Expanding Fitzwaryn School, Wantage by developing a satellite provision at St John's CE Academy, Grove, opening in September 2026.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views from interested parties on the proposal to expand Fitzwaryn School. It is very important that all those who have an interest have a say, and we welcome your views.

Introduction

The Propeller Academy Trust is working with Oxfordshire County Council to expand Fitzwaryn School by developing a satellite provision taking children from September 2026. This expansion is to support the ongoing and increasing need for places for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire who require a specialist placement.

The satellite provision will eventually provide up to 40 places for primary and secondary age children. It is expected that in September 2026 the satellite can provide 12 Key Stage 1-2 places and, from January 2027, 12 in Key Stage 3. From September 2027 this will extend to 16 in Key Stage 1/2 and 24 in Key Stage 3. Currently, there are insufficient specialist school places for students with SEND, and the supply of places requires these additional places to meet the demand.

About Fitzwaryn School

Fitzwaryn School is an outstanding special school for children and young people with complex needs from the ages of 3 to 19. Pupils have a range of moderate, severe and profound learning needs including physical disabilities. The school is located at Denchworth Road, Wantage. The school has over 120 children on roll, exceeding the school's capacity. Children attend from across large parts of Oxfordshire as well as Wiltshire, West Berks and Swindon.

The school is part of The Propeller Academy Trust. There are 6 special academies in the Trust, 5 in Oxfordshire and 1 in Bracknell. The Trust has been selected to run an additional new school opening in Bracknell Forest.

What is the proposal?

The proposal is for Fitzwaryn School to expand by opening a satellite to the main school. The satellite will be on the sites of the newly built St John's CE Academy, Grove (run by The Cambrian

Trust). St John's CE Academy is an all through academy with primary and secondary provision provided on separate sites.

The distance between the main site for Fitzwaryn School and the proposed satellite is approximately 1.3 miles; there is a 5-minute walk between the two St John's sites.

The satellite will be able to teach 16 primary age children and 24 secondary age children. Fitzwaryn staff will lead the satellite, teach the children and liaise closely day to day with the St John's school teams. All children attending the satellite provision will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with Fitzwaryn named in the relevant section of the plan.

The St John's buildings have been designed with specialist accommodation which will be utilised by Fitzwaryn. This provides a cost-effective way to maximise use of the available space.

How will Fitzwaryn School operate the satellite school?

The satellite school at St John's sites will be an integral part of Fitzwaryn School. The satellite will operate semi-independently day-to-day. There will be on-site leadership managing staffing, delivery of the Fitzwaryn curriculum ensuring pupil needs met, behaviour, safeguarding concerns, and liaison with families. Additional staff will ensure the essential administrative support required in schools.

The wider school leadership and governance, with Propeller's involvement, will provide oversight and capacity for the satellite school. This will ensure:

- expertise in handling safeguarding and health and safety matters,
- delivery of high-quality teaching and learning,
- timely decision-making for complex pupils' needs,
- the effective operation of the satellite site.

Staff will be appointed to work in the satellites. In practice it is intended that staff will mostly work on one site for consistency for staff teams and children. The purpose-built classrooms are being assessed for requirements for specialist equipment that will be provided to meet the needs of Fitzwaryn children. Safe access to the satellite school will support minibuses, taxis and parent and carer dropping off and picking up children.

How will Fitzwaryn satellite operate on the St John's CE Academy sites?

There are many successful examples of schools sharing sites including examples where a special school is co-located with a mainstream school. Primary age Fitzwaryn children will only attend at the primary phase site, similarly secondary age children will attend the secondary site.

There will be a formal agreement so that both schools understand how children will access the schools and which areas of the site are to be used by each school during the school day. Also, the schools' staff will collaborate daily to ensure the best experience for children and their families.

Which Fitzwaryn children will attend the satellite school?

Children who will attend Fitzwaryn School will have it named on their EHCP. The decision on which site a child will attend will be taken during the EHCP processes including at annual review. Discussions between parents and the school will identify the best site to meet each child's needs.

Who will pay for the expansion?

The newly built St John's School has been designed with specialist accommodation that is accessible and suitable for Fitzwaryn children.

The additional places at the school will generate revenue funding from the Department for Education and from Oxfordshire County Council to fund the students' ongoing educational provision.

Why do we need to hold a consultation?

Under the Department for Education guidance entitled "Making significant changes to an open academy", academy trusts are required to undertake a consultation before making significant changes to the operation of an academy. We welcome your views on the proposed change.

How you can respond to this consultation

Complete the online survey available [HERE](#)

Complete the response form below and email to consultation@propellertrust.org

The deadline for your responses is 5pm on Monday 11th May 2026.

How can I find out about the outcome of the consultation?

The outcome of the consultation will be published on the Fitzwaryn School and The Propeller Academy Trust websites.

Expansion of Fitzwaryn School - Consultation Response Form

Please complete your responses below and email completed form to:

consultation@propellertrust.org

Closing date for responses is 5pm on Monday 11th May 2026.

1. Do you agree with the proposal to expand Fitzwaryn School by establishing a satellite school at St John's Academy, Grove in addition to the main site on Denchworth Rd, Wantage?

YES NO

2. Do you have any comments about the proposal details provided in the accompanying document?

3. Which of the following best describes you?

Please tick all the categories that apply.

- Staff at Fitzwaryn School
- Parent/Carer of student/s at Fitzwaryn School
- Oxfordshire Head Teacher
- Employee at another school or educational establishment
- Parent/Carer of student/s at other schools
- Health Partner employee
- Local Authority employee
- Councillor