

Proposed New Schools in Cheadle Hulme for the Laurus Trust



Frequently Asked Questions

Why are these new schools being built?

There is a basic need to provide new schools within the Cheadle Hulme area and this is backed up by the Council's statistical analysis. A Stockport Council Leader has confirmed that the primary schools in this area are full and it is projected that without additional schools being created, there will be pressure on local school places.

A report from Stockport Corporate Directorate (2015) also identified a need to create an additional 3,000 secondary school places in Stockport over the next 10 years.

The local Cheadle Hulme High School is consistently oversubscribed and this year 246 students could not be given a place. Because of a projected need for additional secondary places from 2018, increasing numbers of students will not be allocated a place in the school of their choice, unless these new schools are built.

Why is a new primary school being provided when Queens Road primary school and Orrishmere primary school closed?

The Council made the decision to combine the two one form entry schools – Orrishmere and Queens Road Primaries – into a new larger building that is now named Oak Tree Primary. The Council recognised that this would assist oversubscribed primary school places, but that it would not solve the capacity issues in the area. After the project was completed it was clear that the additional numbers coming forward for primary school places had grown again.

The Council officers have a view that the additional traffic generated from a two form entry primary school (420 pupils) could create an impossible situation for residents and parents in and around Oak Tree Primary. As such, it did not support the re-use of the Orrishmere site for a primary school of this scale.

Why was this site chosen?

Having undertaken a rigorous search across Stockport, the site at the rear of The Cheadle College on Cheadle

Road was chosen as it was of sufficient size to accommodate the new school buildings and associated outdoor play space, it was available for occupation, and it is within the required catchment area.

Were any other sites considered?

Yes. A total of 33 sites were considered and robustly evaluated against school development criteria. These sites were discounted though on the basis that there was insufficient land available to develop the new schools, they were not affordable, or there was incompatibility with the proposed school uses and the surrounding area.

What are the proposed admissions criteria for the new schools?

The Laurus Trust, who will run these new free schools, are currently working with stakeholders to confirm the Admissions Policy. There are three options currently being explored including distance, mirror catchment area for Cheadle Hulme High School, and feeder Primary Schools.

What are the opening times for the new schools?

The Cheadle Hulme Primary School will start at 8.50am and finish at 3.15pm. The nursery and breakfast clubs will open from 7.30am, and the nursery and after school clubs will close at 6.30pm.

The Laurus Cheadle Hulme Secondary School will start at 8.20am and finish at 3.45pm. Breakfast clubs will open at 7.30am, and after school curricular activities will finish at around 4.45pm.

Staggering the start and close times for the primary and secondary schools will help to minimise the impact on Cheadle Road and the surrounding roads, as well as avoiding congestion at drop off and pick up times.

The school buildings are expected to be open until 10.30pm for sports activities / community use during the week, and from 9.00am to 5.00pm on Saturdays.

What facilities are being provided for community use?

A number of facilities will be made available for community use including an indoor Sports Hall (for badminton, table tennis, netball, football, basketball and trampolines), an external Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), an Under 12 rugby pitch, and a full size 3G floodlit pitch*.

The community facilities will also be complemented by the facilities that are available at Cheadle Hulme High School.

Were the comments from the previous consultation event taken onboard?

Yes. We carefully considered all the comments received from the previous public consultation event and the online survey and have addressed these wherever possible in the developing design proposals. For example the new school buildings are located as far away as possible from the local residential properties, the sports facilities will be made available for community use, North Downs Road will be restricted to staff members and deliveries only, and improvement works will be undertaken to Cheadle Road to ease congestion at peak times.

Are there any works being undertaken to Cheadle Road to ease congestion?

Yes. A comprehensive and robust transport assessment has been undertaken and this has identified the need to undertake improvement works on Cheadle Road. The proposals include widening Cheadle Road to create separate turning lanes from Cheadle Road into The Cheadle College and into Orrishmere Road, and widening the junctions at Cheadle Road / The Cheadle College entrance and at Cheadle Road / Orrishmere Road. The footpath along Cheadle Road adjacent The Cheadle College will also be widened which will enable a cycle lane to be provided.

To further ease congestion on Cheadle Road, parking will be provided within the school grounds for both car and school buses, together with a bus turning circle. Student drop off and pick up facilities will also be provided within the school grounds, and within The Cheadle College and at Bruntwood Park.

How long will it take to construct the new schools?

Approximately 15 months. Construction works are due to commence at the end of October 2017* and be complete by the end of 2018. The new schools will open in September 2018 and will operate from the Cheadle Hulme Primary School until the secondary school building is available in January 2019.

Will there be any disruption during the construction works?

Inevitably there will be some disruption during the construction works. However, our chosen contractor, BAM Construction, is a member of the Considerate Constructors Scheme. This means they will proactively engage with the local community to minimise disruption wherever possible. They will implement a Traffic Management Plan to ensure that there are no deliveries before 7.30am. While some vehicles may gain access to site via North Downs Road, large vehicles will gain access to the site via The Cheadle College entrance.

Will we be kept informed as to the progress of the construction works?

Yes. BAM Construction will issue regular newsletters to local residents and businesses to keep them informed of the upcoming construction works. They will also provide contact details of their construction team so the local community can make contact with them at any point during the construction works.

Will the project create opportunities for local people and businesses?

Yes. BAM Construction are a local contractor with their regional office based in Salford and are committed to employing local people and businesses. They have a large supply chain that is based in the local area and will encourage these companies to use local suppliers where possible in order to reinvest as much as possible back into Cheadle Hulme and the local area.

BAM Construction will also use the project for learning and development opportunities. They will provide opportunities for trainees and apprentices, as well as work experience placements. Site visits will be held for students of local schools and colleges who want to know more about the construction industry. The project will also be used as an opportunity for previously unemployed people to develop the skills and training to help them get back into work.

Where can I find out more information about the project?

Further information can be found on the Laurus Trust website (www.laurustrust.co.uk) or by sending an enquiry to laurus.trust@projects.ibigroup.com

During the construction works, further information will be made available from the site team.

** Subject to the project receiving planning approval*