# Overview

This application form should be used, in conjunction with the published specification for the new school and the ‘free school presumption’ advice, to apply for a new school via the presumption route – ie where a local authority has invited proposals to open a new school. This new school would be deemed a free school. You should use this form to provide all the necessary information and evidence for your proposal.

Please note that the LA led free school presumption is a different route to the DfE’s free school programme. Further information about how to establish a new school via the free school programme route can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-new-school-free-school-presumption>

If you would like further information or wish to discuss your application, please contact the local authority using the contact details set below:

**The completed application form, together with any supporting documents, should be sent to ECC at the following email address by 5pm on 28 June 2024 to** [**ralph.holloway@essex.gov.uk**](mailto:ralph.holloway@essex.gov.uk)

**New Special School in Rochford**

Proposers should refer to the Free School: Annex C criteria when completing this application form

**An application to establish a new special school across two sites in Rochford, Essex to open in September 2026**

## Section A – Applicant Details

Name of organisation.

Contact details (name, email address, phone number, and postal address).

How would you describe your organisation?

When did you become a DfE approved sponsor?

Do you currently run any existing schools, academies or free schools? If so, please give details, including the most recent Ofsted and attainment data for each.

Did you put this application together with support from another company or organisation? And if so, please provide details about this organisation.

## Section B – The School

Please explain how your organisation’s knowledge and experience of the local area would be used to inform your plans to establish this particular school. Please use the following headings to focus your responses.

Capacity and quality as a provider

Capability to promote high standards, and to innovate to drive system change

The capacity to establish a new school on the basis of high expectations and high performance to continue to drive up standards and excellence within the special school system

Evidence of how the new school will address the local need for additional specialist provision for children with an Education Health Care Plan and will add diversity to the current local offer

Evidence of capability and initial plans to operate an inclusive school

A strong desire and vision to work closely with other education providers in the locality to promote partnership working and community cohesion

Evidence from existing sponsors of a proven track record of school improvement or sustained high standards and how the proposed governance model will drive and support high standards.

## Section C – Vision

Please explain your vision and how it meets the requirements in the published specification.

## Section D – Education Plan

Please explain how your educational offer meets the requirements in the published specification.

## Section E – Capacity and Capability

Please explain and provide evidence of how your organisation would meet the requirements in the published specification.

## Section F – Funding and Costs

Please explain and provide evidence of how your organisation would meet the requirements in the published specification.