

## **Moor Allerton Hall and Allerton Grange Consultation - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Evidence / examples / benefits of through / 4FE**

#### **Can you provide evidence or examples of 4FE schools or through schools which are providing positive outcomes for children?**

There are no academic studies into 4FE schools specifically, however there are studies which suggest large schools can be better for pupils and that it is class size and the curriculum and leadership of the school which impacts most on a child's outcomes. You can make the argument either way though. We believe that the leadership of the schools could make this work and with the support of the learning improvement team at Leeds City Council would make the proposed through school a successful and positive learning environment for children of all ages.

There are a number of large primary and through schools nationally who maintain an excellent ethos and good Ofsted ratings. Gascoigne Primary in London has around 1200 pupils on role and Nottingham academy through school has nearly 4000 pupils.

Through schools enable children and young people to experience the same core values, culture and ethos across their entire education journey.

#### **What are the benefits of a through school?**

There are many benefits of developing a through-school model which includes:

Developed pastoral support;

Access to a broader curriculum with specialist teaching and a similar educational approach that provides consistency of teaching and learning;

Support for children with increased social, emotional and mental health needs as there is less disruption and change;

A longer amount of time to develop and nurture relationships with teachers, staff and pupils and improved access to specialist facilities and resources, especially for younger children, such as sporting areas, music rooms and scientific equipment;

Improved transition arrangements and the ability to personalise learning further by having greater flexibility to support gifted and talented pupils as well as those needing additional support;

Continued wrap around care for vulnerable families, who would have continuity of staff when moving through year groups; and

Removes the need for parents to apply for a place in Year 7 as the children are already on roll, however parents retain the option to apply elsewhere if preferred; Greater range of staff to provide wider expertise and broader professional development.

Leeds City Council is fortunate to have maintained a strong Learning Improvement department which will continue to work with the proposed through school to ensure children make progress and have successful outcomes. The proposal has been put forward based on this level of support, coupled with strong Governing bodies and school leaders in the existing schools which are both in the ascendency. As a local authority, we have absolute confidence that collectively in partnership we can drive the proposed through school forwards.

Leeds has two successful through-schools that have both retained their outstanding and good Ofsted ratings following becoming through-schools (Roundhay and Carr Manor). There are examples of good successful larger schools in other areas of the country - Gascoigne Primary in Barking is currently the county's largest primary with around 1200 on roll (6FE). They are rated Good by Ofsted, more info at <http://www.gascoigneprimaryschool.co.uk/> . There is also Nottingham Academy, a 3-19 through school with a PAN of 3780, split across 3 sites. They are also rated Good by Ofsted with effective safeguarding, more info at <http://www.nottinghamacademy.org/>

### **Safeguarding & educational impact**

#### **How can we safeguard effectively if primary age pupils and secondary age pupils are on the same site and using the same facilities such as playgrounds, halls etc?**

Issues such as pupil/staffing ratios will be considered to ensure that pupils are appropriately supervised when accessing facilities throughout the site. We will be considering a flexible use of space to ensure that play times and other outdoor activities are managed appropriately so unsupervised mixing of age ranges does not occur. This may include use of sports and playground facilities at designated times.

Where through schools already exist, such as Carr Manor and Roundhay, safeguarding issues are managed very effectively and we would expect similar systems to be implemented should this proposal move forward. We would work with the school to look at appropriate use of facilities across the whole school which would take into account safety and safeguarding which is paramount to all education establishments and to Leeds City Council, and we will continue to work with all educational partners to ensure this is the case.

### **How will you ensure there is no detrimental impact on the educational attainment of the children already at the schools?**

Leeds City Council has maintained a strong Learning Improvement department which would continue to work with the proposed through school to ensure children make progress and have successful outcomes. The proposal has been put forward based on this level of support, coupled with strong Governing bodies and school leaders in the existing schools. As a local authority, we have confidence that together we can maintain the improvement in outcomes for children attending here.

It is nationally recognised that traditionally children moving from one school to another at this point undergo a drop in attainment as they settle in to the new environment with new people. This can also extend well into year 8 in some circumstances. A through school can help to mitigate this as the children are already well known to the school and staff, and the children are familiar with their environment.

In Leeds we have a Best City for Learning Strategy that emphasises the importance of a smooth transition between the phases of learning for a child so their education is not disrupted. The proposed through-school fits well with this model and would put into practice what we firmly believe to be an advantage to the children. As mentioned above, we have evidence in the city of the through-school model working well in delivering learning in this way that helps the children to thrive in their school environment.

### **A 4FE school, especially a through school, will be quite large. How will you ensure the size of the school doesn't negatively impact on children?**

Within the Reception and KS1 phase, class sizes would remain at up to 30 pupils to each qualified teacher so in terms of day to day work in the classroom it should not feel very different.

The numbers of pupils within the school would grow gradually year on year so there would be time for children already at the school to adjust to the changes. By utilising the separate buildings, each of the current settings would feel no larger than the existing schools. An option would be to have KS1/KS2 split across the current primary building and the North East Learning Centre (CLC) and if this was to be put in place there would be no more children at the current Moor Allerton Hall site than are currently at the Primary School.

In Leeds we already have two well established through-schools that are rated good and outstanding by Ofsted and who ensure all children's needs are catered for and they are not just seen as a number.

Nationally there are a number of very large schools – Gascoigne Primary is around 6FE and Notting Academy through school has nearly 4000 pupils on role. These are both managed very effectively and provide well for the children attending.

### **The current status of Moor Allerton Hall Primary as a specialist centre for deaf and hearing impaired children is a valued part of the school. How would that quality of provision be maintained as part of a through school?**

The proposed provision would be developed with the school leadership and Governors and would include the necessary infrastructure to deliver education for pupils attending the school. The same principles adopted for the DAHL provision in existing classrooms at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School would be replicated in any new accommodation and the new through-school.

## **Buildings, site and use of space**

### **How will highways and environmental impacts of this proposal be managed?**

Currently we are in the part of the consultation process where issues such as these are raised and considered. As with any other school expansion or building works an environmental impact and highways assessment would be undertaken. These would have to satisfy planning conditions and guidelines in order to be progressed. To do this work now, before the principle of the proposal has been agreed, would involve spending significant sums of public money 'at risk' on work which may not be necessary if the proposal does not progress.

A transport assessment would be carried out to assess the impact on traffic as a result of the proposed increase in pupils. This would look at potential road safety issues and obstacles perceived or otherwise on the surrounding highway network, that currently prevent children from walking and/or cycling to the school. We would promote sustainable travel, as we do at all schools, but will be arranging for the air quality at this location to be monitored to determine if there is an existing problem and consider what the effect of the proposed extension could have on air quality.

### **What will practical arrangements be for lunches, assemblies etc?**

KS1 classes will remain at 30 pupils to each qualified teacher so in terms of day to day work in the classroom it may not feel very different. We will be working with the school on the design, and the arrangements for lunches, assemblies etc would be decided by the school to make best use of the available space. In other schools measures such as staggered play and lunch times have been used to enable smaller numbers of pupils to be using any given place at one time.

The numbers of pupils within the school would grow year on year so there would be time for existing children to adjust to the changes. Children coming into the school would be coming in under the new arrangements.

### **Where exactly will my child be located within the school?**

It would be for the leadership of the school to determine the best use of the space available across the site should the proposal progress. As such there are currently no set plans. One option could be to remodel and utilise the existing CLC building for upper Key Stage 2 children in Years 5 and 6, giving them a dedicated provision that would support the transition from primary education onto high school. This proposal would help manage the transition onto high school education and appear less daunting for children going into Year 7. Lower Key Stage 2 children in Years 3 and 4 could remain on the current Moor Allerton Hall site with some additional accommodation added to the existing primary building.

Another option may be to extend the existing CLC building to create a dedicated Key Stage 2 building for Years 3 to 6, with its own hall and dedicated play space outside, amending the current PFI contract.

These are the options that we have begun to explore and we would work with the school to create a learning solution that works for the school. The safety and wellbeing of the children will be paramount in any proposal brought forward. We'd welcome any views or ideas you may have for the site.

### **What plans do the council have to ensure that children and parents can easily walk to and from the separate proposed KS1 and KS2 sites?**

All the building solution options are currently being considered. We would need to work with the school leadership to identify the best way of utilising the available space and that cannot be fully undertaken until the proposal is more likely to progress. However where through schools and multi-site environments have been delivered previously safeguarding and managing pupil movements have been at the forefront of effective design.

### **What provision will be made for the significant numbers of pupils who will be dropped off by car and also for staff/visitor parking?**

As part of any scheme, additional parking across the site would be a requirement. Highways will assess current traffic and will look at ways of mitigating increases. Highways will look at solutions across the whole site taking in all 3 buildings.

### **How can the sites be adequately linked?**

If the proposals were to progress, we will work very closely with the school to agree how children move around the site, ensure safeguarding and to look at ways of managing additional traffic.

### **How would the Moortown children's centre be preserved as part of a larger through-school?**

There are no current plans to change the facilities and resources that are provided via the children's centre and no plans to change the early years offer within the school. We will however continue to monitor the numbers of early years' places as part of our duty to ensure we have sufficient places in the area.

### **Other options & funding**

#### **How will funding be provided, if the proposal goes ahead, to recruit experienced as well as new staff for four form entry?**

Funding for schools is set by central government on a per pupil basis. However where we expand schools there is additional top up funding available for the first year to ensure the school has the support necessary.

#### **Why can the CLC not be used for a two form entry school?**

The CLC building is too small to accommodate a 2 FE primary school but the proposal will enable us to use it as part of a plan that takes in the whole site (primary, secondary and CLC). This will also allow us to develop options for traffic management across the whole site, rather than traffic being concentrated on a single road. Additionally, a 2 FE primary school at the CLC would double the need for the creation of outside space and a school hall for reception children. Using the whole site enables us to focus and concentrate expertise around the children. From a leadership and management perspective, it is better to have all foundation teachers together (for example) to develop one ethos, one culture and one curriculum supporting each other and the children.

#### **Why haven't we considered opening a through-school on the Allerton Grange site-and not involving Moor Allerton Hall at all?**

This proposal incorporates a more flexible approach to using the whole site allowing creative use of space; reduces potential negative impact on MAH by building on existing provision rather than opening competing provision; enables us to look at ways of mitigating highways/parking issues by considering distribution of traffic and solutions across the whole site rather than traffic and parking being concentrated on one road; ability to manage a bigger overall budget and staff, bringing flexibility and potentially enhancing stability in overall staffing levels; the High School is PFI and there would be a greater degree of complexity and cost, in creating a through school solely within the PFI boundary.

#### **There was a consultation for an all through school in 2010/11. This was not pursued due to highways and drainage concerns. What has changed in the intervening years? What is the environmental impact of this proposal?**

The previous consultation proposed the use of the Allerton Grange Fields which received significant objections and the North East Learning Centre was not available at that time. We accept that there will be Highways concerns however as this proposal looks at the site holistically we believe that there will be more scope for managing parking and traffic better across the whole site. If the proposal was to move forward following consultation, a feasibility study would be commissioned to understand the impact of the proposed expansion. The study would include any highways mitigation works required as a result of the proposal and the relevant surveys to understand the wider impact on the environment. This proposal, unlike the earlier consultation, does not seek to build on the Allerton Grange fields.

#### **Could the Free School still go ahead?**

If these proposals go ahead, there would no requirement to provide additional primary places in the area at the present time, however that would be for the Trust to discuss direct with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

#### **Will there be more before and after school provision provided?**

A private provider 'Child Seasons' currently runs the before and after school provision from within the primary school building. Additional primary aged children are likely to result in an increased demand for wrap-around care and if the proposals were to progress, we would discuss with the provider and the school to look at providing this service for more children.

### **Why are you proposing changes to this school when the community that have campaigned for a primary school in their own area has already been given the go-ahead by central government?**

The issues around the Free School acquiring a site and the Government changes to the funding for the Free School, make it unlikely that places would be available for children due to start school in 2018. As a council it is our statutory duty to provide additional places and for those families who live within the area of need, this proposal would provide accessible places. We understand that parents at the school may currently have concerns, however we do believe that this proposal would not only benefit families in the area of need, but all children currently attending the school who would have access to facilities, support and all of the benefits that a through-school can bring.

Whether the Regional Schools Commissioner and ESFA wish to proceed with the Free School is a matter for them to decide. The proposal we are consulting on is intended to deliver the school places we need at the time we need them, to ensure children have good accessible school places, remove the continuing uncertainty of delivering a site on land that would, as we have always been clear about with both the Trust applicants and government agencies, be difficult to secure for school use through the planning process.

We have been in regular contact and dialogue with other schools in the area. Having considered all the schools in the area there is little or no potential to make changes to any other schools. The free school proposal will have significant planning and/or highways issues beyond those connected with this proposal. On balance, we believe that the proposal put forward and the utilisation of the whole site offers the best option available to provide a good learning experience for all children in the area, both those currently attending the two schools and children who will attend the school in the future.

### **Alwoodley Primary School currently has a two year intake and is set within substantial grounds that would allow for the school to be expanded.**

Alwoodley primary school serves a different community and would be too far from the area of need to have any direct impact for a majority of families in this area.

### **Were other alternatives explored and what were the reasons why they were ruled out?**

A large range of options have been explored over the years to provide the additional places needed in this area. We believe this is the best option for providing the additional school places needed in the area, we believe it can work because the leaderships of the schools involved can make it work with our support. The obstacles to creating a single school solution have proved to be insurmountable with barriers outside the control of the local authority. The use of the combined Allerton Grange/Moor Allerton Hall 'site' rather than as individual schools allows for greater flexibility and opportunity to create a successful through school model using the larger site to accommodate the necessary learning provision.

### **Other considerations**

#### **If the two schools were to join together, where would the admissions point be and would that have an impact on the 'nearest' polygons?**

If the proposals were to progress, we would consider with the school where the most appropriate admission point (from which home to school distances are measured for admissions purposes) would be. This could be to either leave the Primary phase admission point where it is at the current Moor Allerton Hall Primary School, or move the whole new through school admission point to the current admission point for Allerton Grange School. We would consider the effect of this which could mean that for a small number of families, the school for which they may currently have a nearest priority for a place would change.

#### **How will parents know what school they are choosing if it goes to formal consultation?**

In the 'Invitation to apply' letters recently sent to parents/carers of children due to start school in 2018, we included details of this consultation to all parents whose nearest school is in the Roundhay Primary Planning Area, with details of the drop in on 18 November at which school admissions staff will be on hand to discuss. If the proposals were to progress, and a final decision to proceed was given at March Executive Board (before offer day), we would then write to all parents with offers of a place at Moor Allerton Hall PS to explain that in September the school would amalgamate with Allerton Grange School to become a through-school.

### **How can you be sure that the additional places will resolve the issues in the area of need?**

Our projections and data relating to numbers of children due to start school over the coming years indicates that an additional 60 places will be sufficient to meet the need in this area. Parents are however encouraged to positively preference their nearest schools to ensure that they receive the highest priority they can for local places.

### **Would numbers increase in the secondary school as a result of the proposals?**

As part of this proposal there are no plans to increase the number of secondary places at the school, however demographic information is monitored on a regular basis to ensure a sufficiency of places. Additional places have already been added with Roundhay Through-School increasing its year 7 intake by 50 places, and the Dixons Academy (Chapelton) will be providing an additional 112 places per year from 2018. A consultation has recently ended on a proposal to establish a new 8FE 11-16 free school in the Fearnville area of Seacroft.

### **The schools currently provide a range of cultural after-school enrichment activities, so children can access such clubs at different points in the year, could this be maintained?**

All after school activities would be looked at by the school leadership and as part of a through-school there may be greater opportunities for accessing facilities such as music rooms, sports and drama facilities, etc. across the site. Any access to after school clubs would continue to be managed with safeguarding as the paramount consideration.

## **Consultation / Timeline**

### **Consultations must include stakeholder engagement prior to launch. When did our stakeholder engagement occur?**

Stakeholder events are part of our informal process which is not statutorily prescribed. A stakeholder event was held in September 2015 at which primary places in the Roundhay area were discussed and options put forward. This informal consultation is an opportunity for us to engage with stakeholders prior to any formal consultation.

### **How has the Council fulfilled its duty to ensure engagement of all community members if documents have not been translated and translators only provided at certain events?**

There is no legal requirement to translate documents, there is however a duty to ensure information is accessible. In light of this the council has provided translators for those groups of parents with English as an additional language. This helps to ensure these parents can have a quality conversation with officers at specific events. In addition summary documents about the consultation have been provided in appropriate languages. We have worked with the school to ensure these parents have been engaged in the most appropriate way for them.

In addition to this, we have provided a BSL interpreter and will be contacting families of children accessing the Deaf and Hearing Impaired provision at both MAH and Allerton Grange to discuss further.

### **Can parents fill in the form more than once so that questions are logged as there seems to be no further avenue for questions to be asked and to have them logged?**

Yes. It is preferable to complete the on-line survey however if parents wish to re-submit a paper form they can do so highlighting that they are making changes.

### **The consultation document doesn't include much detail about the expansion or closure of MAH, why not?**

The consultation document notes that in order to join the two schools together, it would involve the technical closure of MAH as an institution. The document also states the proposed increase to the reception intake from 2018.

### **What is the status of this consultation?**

We are currently in the Informal consultation phase which will end 29 Nov, the outcomes of this are expected to be reported to Leeds City Council's Executive Board on 13 Dec 2017.

We anticipate that if approval is given to progress the Publication of Statutory Notice (stage 2) would take place in January 2018 which would mark the start of a four week formal consultation (stage 3). We would then anticipate reporting the outcomes of the statutory notice to Executive Board for final determination in March 2018 with a view to implementation in September 2018.

The full guidelines on making changes to schools can be accessed on the DfE website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/school-organisation>

The statutory process for opening<sup>5</sup> and closing<sup>6</sup> a maintained school has five stages:

Stage	Description	Timescale	Comments
Stage 1	Consultation	No prescribed timescale.	Informal / pre consultation. Recommended to last a minimum of 6 weeks. School holidays should be taken into consideration and avoided where possible. Likely to be no longer than 12 months.
Stage 2	Publication		Publication of the statutory notice and proposal
Stage 3	Representation	Must be 4 weeks, at least, from date of publication.	Formal consultation. As prescribed in the Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools Regulations and cannot be shortened or lengthened.
Stage 4	Decision	LA should decide a proposal within 2 months otherwise it will fall to the Schools Adjudicator.	Where permitted appeals must be made within 4 weeks of notification of the decision.
Stage 5	Implementation	No prescribed timescale.	However the date must be as specified in the published notice, subject to any modifications agreed by the decision-maker.

