

## Competition to Establish a new co-educational secondary school for 11-16 year olds at Howden Clough– Second

### Notice

In accordance with section 7(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Kirklees Council give notice that: (1) following their notice of 21st August 2009, inviting proposals for a new mainstream school at Windmill Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire WF17 0LD, the following proposals have been received, and (2) it is intended to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School on 31st August 2013.

### PART 1 – RECEIVED PROPOSALS

**PROPOSAL 1: Dixons City Academy Trust**, Ripley Street, Bradford, BD5 7RR has independently submitted a proposal to establish a new Academy. The proposer promotes a strong ethos of respect, self confidence and high aspiration. The proposer's ethos is founded on a strong three-way partnership between school, student and family; a highly effective and personalised pastoral system; and a distinctive use of outdoor education for personal development at three key points of a student's school career. All students are nurtured and challenged to achieve their full potential, and it is a distinctive feature of the sponsor school that no ethnic, social, ability or gender subgroup underachieves (DCA Ofsted Report 2007). The proposer believes that there is a real need for secular or non-faith schools with a strong ethos and moral core. It is the failure to find such schools that so often sends non-Christian parents in the direction of the nearest church school. One measure of an inner-city school is to what extent it delivers genuine success and real opportunity to every ethnic sub-group. In the proposer's experience in Bradford the challenges are especially some groups of white working class and Asian boys. For them especially, quality of opportunity and equality of opportunity go hand in hand.

At Dixons, staff achieve high value added across the board primarily by asserting collectively, consistently and strongly enough those shared values which are familiar to students from every background. In West Yorkshire, we have a particular need for successful, multi-ethnic, non-faith schools. In a largely mono-ethnic, white or Asian landscape, the proposer is proud that Dixons truly reflects the mix of cultures around us. And as a secular school they are not owned by any one of them, but by them all. The Academy's admissions policy will comply with admissions law, the School Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice as they apply to maintained schools. The Academy will have regard to, and have an independent appeal panel, which acts in accordance with the Secretary of State's guidance on exclusions. The admissions policy will ensure that the Academy meets the statutory requirements (i.e. "provides education for pupils of different abilities who are wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the school is situated"). The Academy will take up its place on the local Admissions Forum. Admissions will be fair banded. The main oversubscription criterion will be determined by what promotes the best ethnic mix of students: at Dixons City, for example, this is randomised selection; at Dixons Allerton this is distance. The sponsors will consult the Local Authority and other interested parties as to the appropriateness of a sibling rule. Looked After Children and students with Statements of SEN will be given priority. There is no intention for the Academy to select up to 10% of its pupils by aptitude for any specialism.

The sponsor will consult with the Local Authority on the pattern of specialism in existing schools in order to identify an appropriate one for the new school. The proposer notes the Local Authority's preference with interest: the proposer has particular strengths in Humanities and in Maths & Computing, for example, which are not reflected in their schools' specialisms so far. Either specialism (or both) would complement the proposer's own existing ones: Technology, Performing Arts and Applied Learning at Dixons City, and Science & Health at Dixons Allerton. The proposer will commit to the core offer in Extended Services working in partnership with others where necessary. The new school will make its facilities available beyond the school day to respond to the needs of the school and the local community. The proposer would wish to consult on details of the offer if the bid is successful. The proposer shall aim to build on its Health specialism at Dixons Allerton, including its partnership with the local PCT, and its Adult training arm at Dixons City, focussing on community and parent learning.

**PROPOSAL 2 - Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust (EACT)** Sixth Floor, 81 Oxford Street, London, W1D 2EU has independently submitted a proposal to establish a new Academy.

EACT's vision is to provide 'Excellence in Education for All' in the new Academy at Howden Clough by ensuring that the life chances of all students are enhanced. EACT will support the Academy to ensure its students become successful citizens who contribute fully and effectively to the Academy and to the social and economic well-being of the wider community. EACT's declared aims are to; develop Centres of Excellence through innovative approaches to teaching and learning to ensure that all students achieve their personal and academic potential, provide the highest quality of educational experience and widest opportunities for all, irrespective of ability, gender, faith or race, invest in the community to improve opportunities for everyone.

The Academy at Howden Clough will mirror the values of EACT itself and establish a distinctive innovative ethos which will underpin the drive to transform standards of learning and achievement. This ethos of the Academy will be identified by the following key features:

- A step change improvement in standards: The Academy will set high expectations for every student and member of staff, tailoring learning to particular needs, abilities and aspirations. It will be innovative in its curriculum and use the close links we shall develop with employers and the local community to motivate students.
- Personalised Learning: EACT believes that all students should be known, supported and celebrated as individuals. The structure and organisation of the Academy will support this.
- A Learning for All Culture: The Academy will strive to provide inspirational learning for all – students, staff and members of the wider community
- At the heart of the community: EACT believes that its Academies should be at the heart of the local community – serving it and accountable to it.
- Strong and effective partnerships: With parents, local schools, local universities and FE colleges, and local business and employers.

The vision of EACT is for the Academy to be the preferred choice of local parents for their child's education, thereby substantially reducing the number of young people travelling to secondary schools in other LAs such as Leeds. EACT will work with the Council in developing its new Admission Policy, resulting from the reorganisation of the current 3-tier system and the proposals for single sex schools. The Academy will adopt the proposed Priority Admission Area but from consultation appreciate that changes might be required in the future. The Academy will also adopt the Council's Inclusion Policy and Fair Access admissions arrangements, which include the criteria used for offering places in general and in response to oversubscription. Secondary transfer admissions will be processed through the Council in common with all other secondary schools. All of EACT's open Academies are inclusive, accessible and non-selective, (regardless of ability, gender, faith or no faith) - providing quality education for local children.

EACT will consult with stakeholders to determine the most appropriate specialisms for the Academy. EACT believes that parents/carers would welcome Mathematics and Computing as a lead specialism. In order not to replicate specialist provision developing in the immediate area, sports or languages would complement the lead specialism and, in the case of sports, maximise the opportunities afforded by the excellent standard of adjacent facilities available on site.

EACT is committed to the Academy becoming an asset for the local community, open out of hours (including weekend and holiday periods) and forming a focus for activities which relate to family needs, including education, training, health, fitness, recreation and social and cultural events. The Academy will provide; opportunities for adult/family learning, parent support programmes, extended school and Study Support activities for students (with a view to obtaining Quality in Study Support (QISS) status), community use of facilities, in response to identified local need in, for example, ICT and languages. The Principal and Local Governing Body will consider an extension of these services as the Academy becomes established.

**PROPOSAL 3: The Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education**, Church House, 1 South Parade, Wakefield, WF1 1LP has independently submitted a proposal to establish a new Voluntary Aided School. The Christian ethos and character of the school will offer a setting in which young people will be equipped to engage fully as citizens with those with

whom they live, work, and study in their neighbourhoods; it will encourage academic excellence and moral and spiritual development; and it will equip students for life beyond the school, to participate in further or higher education, training or employment and to make a positive contribution to society. Through its approach to admissions, the content and delivery of the curriculum, its pastoral systems and its provision of extended services, the school will promote community cohesion.

The school will be defined by its sense of "mission" to serve the local community and by creating a transformational education environment which will be founded on:

- a Christian ethos which provides an environment where relationships and behaviour are shaped by honesty, compassion, generosity, selflessness, forgiveness, reconciliation, care and respect for others. This ethos will equip each individual with the skills to engage fully as a citizen in both the local and the wider community.
- an ethos based on a clear set of values which will underpin every relationship within the school community and within the local community and create a distinct Christian culture
- a community of common values which will create an environment where every student and member of staff can develop his or her true potential and enjoy time within a learning centre of excellence
- a culture of high expectations which celebrates each others gifts and achievements
- an emphasis on the development of student responsibility and leadership, with students taking early responsibility for their own learning and success.

The ethos will be achieved by building on the good, and in some cases outstanding, practice of the schools which already serve the communities within the Priority Admission Area. The proposer recognises that a school ethos is not developed overnight, but grows from the work undertaken with students and their families over a period of time.

The ethos will be inextricably tied to the high aspirations the proposer has for every learner. The curriculum will be designed to achieve the educational outcomes appropriate to students aptitudes, interests and abilities. We believe the specialisms of Languages and Humanities will make a significant contribution to the ethos of the school.

The proposer wants students to leave the school having achieved to their full potential, and with a strong sense of excitement and hope for their future and the future of this newly forged community. The proposer does not underestimate the challenge that this presents both in the long and the short term. The long term challenge is one which faces all schools as we prepare our students to be successful, confident and rounded learners and responsible citizens.

There are currently 49 Church of England middle and primary schools in Kirklees, which is about one third of the total primary and middle provision with a proportionate number of primary and middle school enrolments. 82% of these Church of England schools are identified by OFSTED as good or outstanding. The Church of England schools are located in all parts of the authority, but there is no possibility of progression to a Church of England secondary school (except to a limited extent in one area, where there is a 9-13 Middle school) in any part of Kirklees. The Church will lose its only presence in the secondary age range educational provision in Kirklees with the closure of Gomersal Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Middle School. The provision of a new Church of England Voluntary Aided School at Howden Clough will maintain denominational provision in the Local Authority in line with provision expressed in the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) and will provide continuity church school provision from the primary to the secondary phase.

There are five Church of England primary schools in the Priority Admission Area for the proposed new school. The Local Authority has not recently consulted specifically on the possibility of increasing choice and diversity in its secondary estate by establishing a Church of England school as part of its reorganised provision, although it is understood that the wider consultations for North Kirklees suggested some interest in and support for the concept. The Diocese's own soundings in the community in the reorganisation area suggest that the possibility of a Church of England secondary school would be very well received. The Diocese has studied carefully the national evidence about what parents want for their children through the education system. The Diocese is also responding to the national parental demand for more secondary schools based on the Christian faith. Parents want more of these schools because of their emphasis on a set of moral and Christian values which guide behaviour

and lead to rounded individuals. The school will not proselytise, but will develop the spiritual dimension and will value and respect diversity. The proposed school will have a Church of England religious character and it is confirmed that the proposer intends to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character.

The Proposer does not intend to suggest any criteria in the admissions policy which would have the effect either of reserving a proportion of places for members of a particular faith group (in this case, practising members of the Church of England), or of giving priority to children who are, or whose parents are, regular churchgoers, or children who attend particular schools within the Priority Admissions Area. The Diocese envisages an admissions policy along the lines set out below. It will discuss with the Local Authority refinements to the policy to ensure that they meet the needs of children in the Priority Admission Area and that are appropriate to the demographic conditions applying when the prospectus for the proposed new school is prepared. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number the following criteria will apply in the order set out below: (After the admission of students with Statements of Special Educational Needs where the school is named on the Statement)

- Children in public care, (as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act, 1989)
- Children whose siblings attend the school, and who will continue to do so on the date of admission
- Children resident in the Priority Admission Area and who attend one of the following Primary schools: East Bierley CE (VC) J I & N School, Birkenshaw CE (VC) J I & N School, Batley Parish CE (VA) J I & N School, Birstall Primary School, St Peters CE (VA) J I & N School, Brownhill St Saviours CE(VA) Junior School, Carlinghow Princess Royal J I & N School, Fieldhead J I & N School, Healey J I & N School.
- Other children resident in the Inner Priority Admission Area
- Other children resident in the Second Priority Admission Area

Where a greater number of children have applied to the school than there are places available, children who live closest to the school, as measured by the "straight line" methodology as set out in the Kirklees Admissions Guidance, will have priority.

It is the Proposer's intention for the school to specialise in Languages and Humanities.

The Proposer recognises that much learning takes place outside a school's formal arrangements and will therefore actively promote a range of activities beyond the normal school day. The Proposer will develop a range of extended services based on an assessment of local needs, which will complement what is offered in other settings in the locality, and take account of the availability of transport to ensure that children arrive home safely. The Proposer is aware of the range of extended provision currently made at Birkenshaw Middle School and Batley Girls' High School. Following the assessment of needs the Proposer will determine whether the activities now offered can continue in the new school, and, where there is student and community demand, the proposer will expect to sustain them. The proposer will ensure that the school is open from 8.00 through to 18.00, five days a week and also open for a variety of activities at week-ends and during the school holiday periods to ensure all year provision. The Proposer will provide at least all the core services stipulated by the Government.

As the School will be at the heart of the Local Community it will be uniquely placed to act as a hub for local service delivery, providing services directly, in partnership, or by signposting to other services and resources in the community. The proposer will work with other providers to establish a tailored programme and to identify funding opportunities which will support this; the aim being to work closely to build partnerships with other providers in the locality, including other schools, in order to meet the needs of families in the community.

#### **No other proposals have been received.**

Kirklees Council confirms that there is no divergence in any of the proposals summarised from the characteristics specified in the invitation notice published on 21st August 2009. This notice is a summary of the proposals received. Complete copies of any of the proposals can be obtained from:

**School Organisation and Planning Team**, Kirklees Council, Children and Young People Service, Oldgate House, 2 Oldgate, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 6QW and are available on the website [www.kirklees.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/bsf).

Copies of the proposals can also be obtained direct from the proposers by contacting;

**Dixons City Academy Trust**, Nick Weller, Principal, Ripley Street, Bradford, BD5 7RR.

**EduTrust Academies Charitable Trust (EACT)**, Sue Ryall, 40 Eastwood Avenue, Droylsden, Manchester, M43 6BJ.

**The Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education**, Rev Canon Ian Wildey, Director of Education, Church House, 1 South Parade, Wakefield, WF1 1LP.

A public meeting has been arranged at **Batley Girls' High School, Windmill Lane, Batley, WF17 0LD on Tuesday 19th January 2010 at 7pm.**

This is an opportunity for parents and carers, staff, governors, members of the community and other stakeholders to find out more and ask questions about the bids submitted from the proposers who will be present at the meeting.

The proposals in Part 1 of this Notice are related to the proposals in Part 2 of the Notice and will be determined at the same time.

## **PART 2 – PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE BIRKENSHAW MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kirklees Council, Oldgate House, 2 Oldgate, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 6QW intends on 31st August 2013 to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School (Community School), Bradford Road, Gomersal, Cleckheaton, BD19 4BE.

The proposals would be implemented by Kirklees Council as the Local Authority in the following way;

- **September 2012** – Birkenshaw Middle School WOULD NOT admit Year 5 pupils and contain Years 6, 7 and 8 only. Pupils aged 9 (who would have transferred to Birkenshaw Middle School) would remain at their first school for Year 5 and in September 2013 for Year 6.

Under these proposals Birkenshaw Middle School would have a temporary change of age range from 9-13 to 10-13 for the period 1st September 2012 to 31st August 2013.

- **31st August 2013** – Birkenshaw Middle School would close.

- **1st September 2013** – Year 5 and 6 pupils who would have attended Birkenshaw Middle School would be retained in their primary school. Year 7 and Year 8 pupils at Birkenshaw Middle School would transfer to the roll of the new secondary school at Howden Clough (or any other secondary school with available places and within a reasonable travelling distance of the pupils' place of residence).

The proposals would have the following impact on travel for displaced pupils.

- For primary aged pupils who would have attended Birkenshaw Middle School there would be a positive impact on travel as they would continue to remain in their primary school until age 11 (ie the end of Year 6).
- When pupils are transferred to the new school at Howden Clough there would be some impact for former Birkenshaw Middle School pupils because of the distance between Birkenshaw Middle School and the Howden Clough site (approx 2.4 miles). The Local Authority will explore the possibility of enhancing the availability of public transport and dedicated bus services for displaced pupils.

There is currently no additional specialised provision for pupils with a specific special educational need at Birkenshaw Middle School and there would be no displaced pupils with a requirement for such provision.

This Notice of Discontinuance of Birkenshaw Middle School is related to the proposed new mainstream secondary school as described in the competition invitation published on 21st August 2009. Proposals received are detailed in Part 1 of this Notice and will be determined at the same time as the proposals in Part 2.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with.

Complete copies of the proposals in Part 2 of the Notice can be obtained from:

**School Organisation and Planning Team**, Kirklees Council, Children and Young People Service, Oldgate House, 2 Oldgate, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 6QW and are available on the website [www.kirklees.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/bsf).

Within six weeks after the date of publication of these proposals (ie no later than 19th February 2010) any person may object to, or make comments on, any of the proposals by sending their representations to Alison O'Sullivan, Director for Children and Young People, Kirklees Council, c/o School Organisation and Planning Team, Oldgate House, 2 Oldgate, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD1 6QW

**Signed:** Alison O'Sullivan – Director for Children and Young People

**Publication Date:** 8th January 2010

**Explanatory Notes:** These notes do not form part of the notice.

Kirklees Council is proposing to close Birkenshaw Middle School as part of the overall plan to change to a primary and secondary system of education with a single transfer at age 11 in the area currently served by Whitcliffe Mount – Specialist Business and Enterprise College (VC). We believe this is the best way to teach Key Stages 2 and 3 and will lead to the achievement of high standards. Please also refer to

- Public Notices for the primary phase of education for the area published on 30th October 2009. Under the proposals Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School would be expanded and change their upper age limit from age 9 (Year 4) to age 11 (Year 6) on 1st September 2012. Under these proposals, from September 2012 all pupils aged 9, who would have transferred to a middle school, will remain at their first schools for Year 5 and Year 6.

- The published specification for a competition to establish a new co-educational

Secondary School located at Howden Clough in Batley. This proposes that, on 1st September 2013, the new school will open for Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils only and will accommodate pupils displaced from Birkenshaw Middle School as well as admitting additional pupils up to the new admission number of 270 with priority given to pupils from the proposed priority admission area.

Kirklees Council proposes to use the opportunity provided by the national BSF programme to significantly improve and enhance the overall educational opportunities and achievements of all young people in Kirklees. Kirklees Council is taking a strategic Authority wide approach to ensure that all future secondary schools will:

- offer high quality education to all
- provide a full broad curriculum
- be financially viable and therefore have future security
- have high quality facilities
- be welcoming and comfortable for all students and community users
- strengthen community cohesion
- enhance carbon efficiency as much as possible

The underlying principles supporting the proposals are that:

- the optimum size of future 11-16 schools should be 1200-1500 pupil places
- secondary schools in Kirklees should be in the best possible locations to serve the communities of Kirklees taking into account site availability, building suitability and the best value investment of capital resource provided by government BSF funding.
- change will be managed to ensure safe and well planned transitions whilst maintaining quality and standards for pupils and families. The above proposals to establish a new secondary school at Howden Clough and to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School are integral to the strategic plan for provision in north Kirklees.