

Kirklees new secondary school competition

Your opportunity to
comment on the
proposals to establish a
new school in Howden
Clough, Batley, Kirklees

The new school

The new school

Kirklees Council has identified a need for a new secondary school following the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School on 31 August 2013, and the reorganisation of schools as part of the Building Schools for the Future plans for the area.

The school will be situated in significantly upgraded, existing single site premises at Windmill Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire WF17 0LD, and will provide places for 1,350 boys and girls aged 11-16 years.

There is currently no additional provision for pupils with a specific educational need at Birkenshaw Middle School, and therefore no specialised provision will be required for the new school.

It is proposed that the new school will open on 1 September 2013 for Years 7, 8 and 9 only. The school 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. The school will reach its full capacity in 2017 when five Year 7 cohorts of up to 270 pupils have been admitted.

The proposals

In line with the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Kirklees Council published a notice on 21 August 2009 inviting proposals from organisations interested in establishing the new school.

Three proposals were submitted by the due date of 21 December 2009. These were then published by Kirklees Council on 8 January 2010. Publication of the proposals triggers a six week representation period which will end on 19 February 2010.

This is your opportunity to comment on the proposals received. Comments will be taken into account by Kirklees Council's Cabinet who will approve one of the proposals.

A summary of the three proposals received appears on the following pages.

Kirklees Council is required to hold at least one public meeting, and more will be arranged if necessary, during the representation period to provide members of the community with the opportunity to hear more about the proposals and ask questions. The meeting will be chaired by DTW who has been appointed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to support school competitions.

After the representation period

At the end of the representation period Kirklees Council will collate and take into account all of the comments or objections received.

As Kirklees Council has not submitted a proposal, the outcome of the competition will be decided by them.

Bid summary for Dixons City Academy Trust: New academy

Dixons City Academy Trust 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.

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 percent of its pupils by aptitude for any specialism.

The sponsor will consult with the Local Authority on the pattern of specialisms 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 and 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 and 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.

Bid summary for Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust (EACT): New academy

EACT's vision is to provide 'Excellence in Education for All' at the new academy at Howden Clough. It is proposed that the academy 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
- personalised learning
- a learning for all culture
- at the heart of the community
- strong and effective partnerships.

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 local authority areas.

EACT will work with the Council in developing its new Admission Policy, resulting from the reorganisation of the current three-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.

Bid summary for The Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education: New Church of England voluntary aided school

The Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education proposal states that 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 create an education environment founded on:

- a Christian ethos
- an ethos based on a clear set of values
- a community of common values
- a culture of high expectations
- an emphasis on the development of student responsibility and leadership.

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.

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 Diocese will discuss with the Local Authority refinements to the admissions 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, criteria will apply (for more details, see the full proposal).

It is the proposer's intention for the school to specialise in languages and humanities.

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.

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.

Providing Comments

Kirklees Council wants to know your views about the proposals it has received for the new school. You can provide your comments in the following ways:

You can attend the public meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 19 January 2010 at Batley Girls' High School, Windmill Lane, Batley WF17 0LD

You can send written comments to:
Alison O'Sullivan,
Director for Children and Young People,
Kirklees Council,
c/o School Organisation & Planning Team,
Oldgate House,
2 Oldgate,
Huddersfield,
West Yorkshire
HD1 6QW
using the attached form.

Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from the address above, or downloaded from www.kirklees.gov.uk/bsf

The closing date for responses is 19 February 2010.

Contacts

DTW has been contracted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to support school competitions in the north of England. If you have any questions about the competition process, please get in touch with us.

Telephone: **01287 610404**

Email: **office@dtw.co.uk**

Write: **DTW,
Bank Chambers,
Market Place,
Guisborough
TS14 6BN**

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Response form

Which proposal do you prefer?

- Dixons City Academy Trust
- Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust (EACT)
- The Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education

Comments

Are you?

- A pupil Please name your school _____
- A member of staff at a school Please name the school you work at _____
- A governor Please name your school _____
- A parent Please name the school your child/children attend _____

- A local community representative Please name your organisation _____
- A local resident Please indicate where you live _____

Please return this form 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**. The closing date for responses is **Friday 19 February 2010**.

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