



Brook Mead Academy

Section 10 Consultation Report

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Section 10 Consultation Report

Executive Summary

The Mead Educational Trust (the Trust) was successful in its bid to establish a new secondary school in Leicester. The new school, Brook Mead Academy, will be a free, non-selective, all-ability, 11-16 secondary school.

As part of the process for establishing Brook Mead Academy, the Trust undertook a Statutory Consultation, as required by the Academies Act 2010. The consultation sought to capture public feedback on the proposal to enter into academy arrangements with the Secretary of State.

The consultation took place over a seven-week period, starting on Monday 21st July 2020 and finishing on Friday 8th September 2020, and involved a range of consultation methods and communication channels.

The overall response from the public consultation period indicates that the majority of respondents support the proposals to establish Brook Mead Academy.

Consultation Overview

Introduction

The Mead Educational Trust (The Trust) was successful in its bid to establish a new secondary school in Leicester. The new school, Brook Mead Academy, will be a free, non-selective, all-ability, 11-16 secondary school.

With a proposed opening date of September 2021, Brook Mead Academy will open with an intake of 240 Year 7 students, growing year on year to full capacity of 1500 students by 2023. The school will have a yearly intake of 300 once the new permanent school building is in place in 2023.

Brook Mead Academy will form part of the Trust's growing partnership of primary and secondary academies. The school will replicate the outstanding provision offered by Rushey Mead Academy and will provide its students with a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum with a special focus on EBacc subjects. The school will draw on first class leadership and outstanding teaching and learning practices to support each learner, making sure that they have every opportunity to achieve.

Underpinned by a moral purpose to improve the life chances of young people, Brook Mead Academy's vision is to provide outstanding secondary education and to inspire its young people to be the best that they can be, so that they become successful, well rounded and confident members of the global community.

As part of the process for establishing Brook Mead Academy, the Trust is legally required to hold a consultation exercise (under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

The consultation took place over a seven-week period, starting on Tuesday 21st July 2020 and finishing on Tuesday 8th September 2020.

The consultation was developed to enable stakeholders (local residents, staff and governors from

local schools, parents, students, councillors, community groups and any other interested parties) across Leicester to learn more about Brook Mead Academy and share their views. Due to Covid 19 restrictions in Leicester, consultation events had to take place virtually on digital platforms and therefore, the consultation period was extended.

If the Secretary of State accepts and approves the proposal, then Brook Mead Academy would open in August 2021.

Consultation documentation

An online consultation form was made available which outlined the school's vision and values, curriculum and admissions process. Our website outlined details of the consultation process. This included: dates of the consultation period; feedback mechanisms; information about consultation events; a link to an online version of the questionnaire.

The consultation questionnaire featured three questions:

1. Do you agree that opening the proposed Brook Mead Academy will provide extra choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places in Leicester? (yes; no; unsure)
2. Should The Mead Educational Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education in order to open this school? (yes; no; unsure)
3. We want the school to be an important part of the local community. Are there any services you would like the school to offer the local community?

Consultation methods and communication channels

Website

Details of the proposed Brook Mead Academy and the nature of the consultation process, including a link to the online version of the consultation questionnaire, were published on the school's website.

Information available on the website included:

- Vision and values
- Track record of Rushey Mead Academy
- Admissions arrangements
- Location
- Governance
- Curriculum offer
- Frequently asked questions
- Information about the Trust

Social Media

Information about the Statutory Consultation was publicised via the school's social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter). To maximise the number of people reached, targeted online advertising (Facebook Ads) were employed and reached 13606 Facebook users over the span of the campaign. The Brook Mead account has 62 followers on Twitter.

Email

Prior to the consultation taking place, an email outlining the nature of the consultation process was distributed to key stakeholders, which included: city headteachers; teaching and support staff union representatives; City school improvement groups and trust staff.

Those who had previously expressed an interest in the school, and had registered for email updates, were also notified of the consultation process.

Public consultation events

The Trust held public consultation events on Tuesday 25th September 2020, from 5.30-6.30pm, online on Zoom and on Saturday 29th September 2018, from 11.00am-12.00pm, online on Zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions in Leicester. The events were publicised on social media and via the distribution of the consultation pamphlet.

The presentation included a standard set of topics, as set out below:

Contextual information:

- Introduction to the Trust, including its vision and values
- Track record of Rushey Mead Academy
- Information about the Teaching School and SCITT
- Demand for secondary pupil places in Leicester

Ethos, Vision and Values

- School's purpose
- School vision and values – Building a Community of Excellence

Curriculum

- Broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum with a special focus on EBacc subjects
- Extended school day
- Enriched curriculum
- Extra-curricular activities

Admissions

- Admission arrangements

Site

- Location of permanent site
- Description of permanent site's building design

English Baccalaureate Specialism

- Introduction to Ebacc
- Benefits of studying Ebacc subjects

After the presentation, those who attended the events had the opportunity to discuss the proposals with representatives of the school project team, which included the Trust's Chief Executive Officer, Project Manager and the Principal Designate.

Consultation Responses

Public consultation events

The consultation events were attended by 4 people, and were staff from local schools, members of the community and an MP. There was also communication with a local councillor.

An overview of the questions asked and answers provided is listed below.

Question	Response
Originally this project was supposed to be an all through primary and secondary school with 1200 students, now it is a secondary only school with 1500 students. Why has it changed?	<p>TMET originally bid for a secondary free school. When we were successful, the LA, having looked at their pupil forecasting, asked us to offer an all-through school which we were happy to support. Following further analysis of pupil places in the city, we have now been asked by the DfE and LA to offer a secondary only school.</p> <p>This is in part because the proposed Learning without Limits Leicester Metropolitan secondary school, which was planned to be on Abbey Lane, is no longer opening. Forecasting pupil numbers and place requirements can be very complex, analysing the impact of people moving in and out of the area and Brexit adding complexities. We have done all we can to be supportive and respond to what has been requested of us in this bid. The LA school needs forecast is available in the presentation slides.</p>
How have you published that you are opening the school when you do not have planning permission yet?	<p>The process for opening a school requires the Trust to publish an opening date around which the consultations take place. This is separate to the consultation process required for planning permission.</p> <p>Planning permission will be sought for the development of the proposed site at Groby Road, along with permission to open the school on a temporary site currently being used by Castle Mead Academy.</p>
Will you be applying for planning?	Yes, a planning application will be submitted to Leicester City Council in the usual manner. This application will be subject to the statutory processes and public consultations.
Have you completed a traffic assessment? We are concerned that 1500 pupils arriving from all over the city will have a big impact on local residents, especially around Groby Road, Woodgate & Garland Crescent. Fosse Primary	Currently initial surveys are being undertaken on and around the site to support the development. This will include a preliminary Traffic Impact Assessment. This information will be used by the designers in agreement with the Highways Authority to determine the scope of

<p>has on-going problems. What plans have you made for drop offs and pick-ups?</p>	<p>further detailed traffic surveys to support the design of the school. The current design is at a very early stage, but the need for on site parking, pick up and drop off, and multiple pedestrian accesses has been identified</p>
<p>Will there be further public consultations?</p>	<p>This is the initial Section 10 consultation which aims to explore if the school should open in principle and whether the trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State. We also have open events planned which are specifically aimed at parents and families who are considering sending their children to Brook Mead Academy. Other events will be held for staff who are considering applying for jobs. The Brook Mead Academy will go through a full planning application process which will require both informal pre application consultation with the local community and the formal planning consultations during the determination period,</p>
<p>Is there a reason why this school is being located on the west side of the City? It seems like we will have over 5000 secondary placements within a few miles, such as English Martyrs, Beaumont Leys, etc.</p>	<p>The location of the school is based on demand for school places. The City Council is also looking at how we can keep more children who live in the city being educated within the city. Presently a large number of families are choosing to send their children to county schools such as in Oadby and Market Bosworth, and those schools are also becoming full.</p>
<p>Will low numbers in primaries mean there is no need for these additional secondary schools?</p>	<p>Local city secondaries are full, and many have been operating in temporary accommodation to provide places. New housing in the Ashton Green area has created new need and Lionheart Academies Trust will be opening the other new secondary school there.</p>
<p>Are you aware of the road works project planned to improve the 5-way junction? It has been talked about for the last two years. We would like the two projects not to happen at the same time as it would cause great disruption to local residents</p>	<p>We will share this information with the DfE and technical team, although we do not have any influence over such matters.</p>
<p>Will you be recruiting from within the Mead schools, and when is that likely to happen?</p>	<p>We will be holding a recruitment event in December which is likely to be shared with Castle Mead. Adverts will start to go out in January 21 and will be open to all Mead employees as well as people outside of the trust.</p>

The questions raised at the consultation events, and their answers, have been incorporated into the Frequently Asked Questions page upon the school's website.

Consultation questionnaire

62 questionnaires were completed in total (online). The responses received came from a broad spectrum of the community including parents and carers, local residents, staff from local schools, governors from local schools, local business owners, members of the community, local business employees and Local Authority councillors.

A detailed breakdown of the questions and responses is as follows:

Question 1

Do you agree that opening the proposed Brook Mead Academy will provide extra choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places in Leicester?

Responses:

Yes:	58
No:	2
Unsure:	1

Question 2

Should The Mead Educational Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education in order to open this school?

Responses:

Yes:	50
No:	4
Unsure:	7

Question 3

We want the school to be an important part of the local community. Are there any services you would like the school to offer the local community?

Responses:

Use of sports facilities/auditorium	32
Use of community spaces:	22
Other:	4

Email enquiries

Stakeholders also provided an opportunity to feedback via email. One email was received from a local MP asking about information planning and consultation stages.

Conclusion

Throughout the Statutory Consultation there has been a high level of support for the proposed Brook Mead Academy in relation to the vision of providing excellent academic opportunities.

The feedback received at consultation events, by email and through social media has been very positive, with only two areas of concern: planning permissions and traffic management. Early indications suggest sufficient possibility to provide outdoor sports facilities within the site boundaries, that Brook Mead Academy would aim to supplement with partnerships with organisations that have outstanding sports facilities. The Trust will continue to communicate updates throughout the pre-opening process and beyond, ensuring that stakeholders are kept up to date and informed.

The feedback received indicates that there is sufficient support for the Trust to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.