



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Public Consultation

Sinfin Community School: Proposal to close and re-open as an Academy in September 2009



November 2008

Introduction

Derby City Council recognises the progress that has been made at Sinfin Community School in recent years, but now proposes to establish an Academy to achieve further, rapid improvement and wider opportunities for Sinfin students.

The Council is therefore consulting on a proposal to close Sinfin Community School in order for it to be re-opened as an Academy in September 2009. The proposal forms part of our Building Schools for the Future Programme to transform secondary education in Derby.

Running alongside this consultation document is a separate, but linked, document outlining in more detail the proposal for the new Academy. This is being put forward by Derby College, the proposed sponsor of the new Academy. The proposals are closely linked as the Academy can only be created if Sinfin Community School closes. Similarly, Sinfin Community School will only close if it is to be re-opened as an Academy.

Our intention is to continue to provide education for secondary age pupils on the Sinfin site and to ensure that it is of the highest quality through the Academy proposal. Please take time to read this consultation document and let us know what you think of this proposal.

Your views are important and all comments received will be carefully considered.



Councillor Les Allen
Cabinet Member for Children
and Young People



Andrew Flack
Corporate Director for
Children and Young People

Background - Building Schools for the Future

1. In October 2007, Derby City Council joined the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. BSF provides us with an opportunity to transform our secondary schools into 21st century learning environments for young people and local communities.
2. A significant investment of around £205m is expected which offers a unique opportunity to transform secondary school education in Derby. BSF will provide 21st century learning spaces, technology and design that will enable us to enhance the opportunities, choices and life chances for young people. A condition of BSF funding is that there will be a wider choice and diversity of school types available, including academies and trusts.
3. Sinfin Community School has already been rebuilt through a BSF pathfinder project following a major fire in March 2006. The proposal is to close and then re-open Sinfin School as an Academy in September 2009, with the aim of transforming teaching, learning and the curriculum for pupils at the school and further improving standards. The Academy proposal includes provision of a sixth form centre at Sinfin School.
4. The proposed admission number for the Academy is 221 for year 7, the same as for Sinfin Community School and is appropriate for future forecast numbers. If new housing developments are approved in South Derbyshire the number may change.
5. Further details on the Academy proposal are contained in a separate consultation document which sets out the Sponsor's vision for the school and should be read alongside this one. That document can be accessed via the following link:

www.thederbyacademy.org

Why are we consulting?

6. The proposal upon which we are consulting is the closure of Sinfin Community School which is a necessary step to re-open it as an Academy. Sinfin School will only close if it is to be re-opened as an Academy. The Academy will remain on the same site in the existing, newly rebuilt building. This document sets out reasons for the proposal and the timeframe for the consultation period. **Please use the attached consultation response form to put forward your views on the proposal.**

What is an Academy?

7. An Academy is an all-ability independent state school which is managed by independent sponsors and funded by the Government at a level comparable to other schools. No fees are paid by parents. The sponsor's role is to transform education in the school and raise aspirations and standards. Sponsors can challenge traditional ways of thinking on a school's curriculum and organisation and what they should be like for students.

8. All Academies are bound by the same School Admissions Code, Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and exclusions guidance as all other state funded schools. All new Academies are also required to follow the National Curriculum programmes of study in English, maths, science and ICT. Academies, like a large majority of secondary schools, have specialist school status, and have a specialism in one or more subjects.
9. Academies aim to:
 - improve education outcomes for young people;
 - improve learning and future job prospects through 21st century education and training;
 - act as a way of attracting business investment and regeneration to the area;
 - provide a facility for the community to access learning and activities.

What is the proposal?

10. The proposal is to close Sinfin Community School in order to create an Academy sponsored by Derby College. The College is the most significant provider of post-16 education in the city and achieved outstanding grades for its 'Capacity to Improve' and for 'Preparation for life and work' in its recent OFSTED inspection. It also received Good grades in all other categories.
11. The proposed Academy is a replacement for the existing 11-16 Sinfin Community School and it is proposed that Sinfin Community School will close and re-open as an Academy in September 2009. The Academy will open in the new buildings which were completed in September 2008. This will be an 11-18 Academy, which will make a contribution towards raising standards of achievement and participation at each age range and particularly at post-16.
12. As well as providing the best opportunities for its students, the Academy will have a key part to play in the regeneration of the local community. The new Academy will not only be a significant focus for learning for its students, but also for their families and other local people.

View of the Governors

13. The Governors of Sinfin Community School have been supportive of further exploration of the academy option with Derby College.

Staffing Arrangements

14. Derby City Council is committed to working with staff and professional associations. It recognises that the best way to achieve the vision and

ethos for the Academy is by everyone working together to provide the quality of education that pupils deserve.

15. Where an Academy replaces an existing school, there will in many cases be a transfer of undertakings under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (TUPE). In such cases, staff of the closing school who have a substantive contract at the point of closure will have a right to transfer to the Academy largely on their existing terms and conditions, as set out in the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document or contracts of employment for support staff. For all other staff not covered by TUPE, the Academy can negotiate openly regarding their Pay and Conditions of Service.

Next Steps

16. A public consultation event is also being arranged and details will be confirmed shortly. The six-week consultation period for responses to this consultation will end on **15 December 2008**. The outcomes will be reported to Council Cabinet for consideration and a decision on progression to the next stage. Subject to the Council's approval, a formal public notice will be published in January, with a further six-week statutory consultation period as required under legislation.
17. Following the statutory consultation period, the Council will then consider any representations made in response to the statutory notice and make a final decision on the closure of Sinfin Community School. It is anticipated that this decision will be taken at the Council Cabinet meeting in March or April 2009. If a decision is taken to close Sinfin Community School, this will be subject to the school re-opening as an Academy. The Government will then take the final decision on the Academy proposal. If the proposal receives approval, the existing school will close on 31 August 2009 and the new Academy will open on 1 September 2009. All current students of Sinfin Community School would transfer to the Academy at that point.

Contact information

18. In setting up an Academy and closing a school, two consultation processes are taking place:
 - Consultation by Derby City Council on the proposed closure of Sinfin Community School in order to re-open it an Academy.
 - Consultation on behalf of the sponsor, Derby College, and the Department for Children Schools and Families on the proposed new Academy.
19. We are very interested in your views and welcome your comments. Please respond to us on the proposal to close Sinfin Community School in order to re-open it as an Academy by using the response sheet attached to this paper or by emailing Stephanie Moore: Stephanie.moore@derby.gov.uk

Should you wish to discuss any specific aspects of this proposal, please contact:

Hayley Millward, School Place Planning Officer,
Building Schools for the Future Team,
Children and Young People's Department,
Derby City Council,
Tel: 01332 716827.

20. If you would like to comment on Derby College's vision for the proposed new Academy, please access their consultation document by using the link below:

www.thederbyacademy.org

Closure of Sinfin Community School to re-open as an Academy in September 2009 - Consultation Response Form

We are very interested in your comments on this proposal. Please use this response sheet to let us know your views. **The consultation closing date is 15 December 2008.**

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes No Undecided

Parent/ Carer of a pupils at Sinfin School

A member of staff at Sinfin School

A Governor of Sinfin School

A pupil at Sinfin School

Other interested party

Comments

Signed.....

Date.....

Completed forms to be returned to **Stephanie Moore** , Children and Young People's Department, Middleton House, 27 St Mary's Gate, Derby DE1 1NN or E-mail: **Stephanie.moore@derby.gov.uk**

Continuation sheet...

We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on: 01332 716827, minicom: 01332 716709.

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku.
Prosimy o kontakt: 01332 . 716827 . Tel. tekstowy: 01332 716709

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ 01332 716827 ਮਿਨੀਕਮ 01332 716709 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

01332 716827 یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرم
منی کام 01332 716709 پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔