



GREENWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

Consultation Report - Post-16 provision

Purple Oaks Academy

This report summarises the findings of the public consultation about the proposal to develop a satellite site for Post-16 provision.

The proposal being consulted on is that from **15th April 2024**:

- I. The physical size of Purple Oaks will be extended to accommodate existing pupil numbers through a developed satellite provision for Post-16 students on the current Green Oaks Primary Academy site.
- II. The planned number of Purple Oaks Academy is increased to 120 to increase places and accurately reflect the increased physical capacity of the academy.

The consultation ran for a period of four weeks from 21st November 2023 to 21st December 2023.

The process involved the circulation of a letter (see Appendix 1) to a wide range of stakeholders including:

- All parents of Purple Oaks Academy
- All parents of Green Oaks Primary Academy
- All staff at Purple Oaks Academy
- All staff at Green Oaks Primary Academy
- all local special schools via email
- Newsletters

All information was published on The Purple Oaks Academy website as well as the Greenwood Academies Trust website.

The letter included an email address to respond to the consultation and there was also an opportunity to attend a consultation event on Monday 27th November at 4pm.

Results from email respondents

We received a total of 4 responses to the consultation by email. Below gives a summary of issues raised by the responders:

Parent of Green Oaks Primary Academy

Opposed due to parking and drop off and pick up already being chaotic. Worried that Green Oaks will be losing much needed sensory area and additional rooms. Does not believe this has been well thought out and would like my opposition to this officially documented.

Parent of Green Oaks Primary Academy

A parent of an SEN child who attends Green Oaks Primary Academy has expressed disappointment at this proposed plan. Green Oaks as a whole has a high ratio of SEN pupils on roll both with and without EHCPs in place. Also raised that the loss of space would be of huge detriment to not only these children but also the staff. The space is also used for children to complete their exams. Also, raised that the car park is stretched for space and at capacity.

Unknown

Wrote in support of the proposal. Very keen to find out more information about the post 16 building and provision. Think it's an exciting opportunity. Looking forward to receiving more information and seeing plans.

Parent of Green Oaks Primary Academy and Local Resident

Seen how the two schools have impacted the local residents and community as well as parents and children, since were built.

Raised issue of losing the space as has seen how this space is important to the children and staff at Green Oaks and most definitely will impact the children if they will no longer have access to extra space. Raised congestion leading to both schools and safety concerns.

The Trust's response:

The responses regarding the perceived loss of space to Green Oaks children are based on a misunderstanding over which space is to be repurposed. The proposed space is not currently being used by children at Green Oaks; their classroom and sensory room facilities will not be affected by this proposal. A communication is being prepared to be sent to parents to clarify this position.

We are also considering start times to alleviate the parking issues. However, as there are currently 118 pupils already on roll at Purple Oaks and there will only be a total of 120 in the proposal, there will not be any increase in traffic.

Consultation Event – 27 November 2023

One person attended the meeting; a parent of a student who currently attends Purple Oaks Academy. They asked some questions about how leaders planned to support the students and families placed in the proposed Post-16 to feel part of the Purple Oaks Academy community when they were based on a different site. They also asked how staffing would be managed on a different site in the case of staff illness. Finally, they asked whether behaviour would be managed in the same way on a different site as it is at Purple Oaks and whether there would be support for staff working in the Post 16 if there were to be challenging behaviour.

The parent was informed that staffing and behaviour would be managed in the same way on the satellite site as within the existing building. Staff would receive the same training input and the same support from leaders. Levels of staffing would also be managed in the same way and would be overseen by the Post-16 leader with support from the Senior Leadership Team. In terms of building a community, it is anticipated that there will be opportunities for students to access provision within the existing building where appropriate e.g. for some PE activities and to participate in academy events such as open mornings, summer fair etc. Families within the satellite will be encouraged to be part of 'Acorns' the families who work together to support events and fundraising at the academy.

Conclusion

Only received 4 responses and 3 raised concerns/opposed the proposal and 1 supported the proposal – therefore, The Trust has agreed to proceed with submitting a significant change proposal to the Department for Education.

Next Steps

The consultation report will be added to the Purple Oaks Academy website and a letter will be sent to parents of Green Oaks Primary Academy to reassure them about the facilities that will not be lost.

A significant change business case will be submitted to the Department for Education – this will then be reviewed by the Head Teacher Board who will make the final decision.

Updates will be published on the Purple Oaks Academy website.

Julie Molde
Operations Manager/Project Manager
15 January 2024