

Annex 3

DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: PARKLANDS GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction

This booklet contains information about the challenge to raise standards for young people in East Leeds. It includes a proposal to close Parklands Girls' High School and replace it with an academy sponsored by the Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust (EACT). We are holding a public consultation between 7 January 2010 and 5 March 2010 to find out what you think about this proposal. This public consultation will help the executive board of Leeds City Council make a decision about the proposal.

Please read this booklet. You can also attend the public meeting. We want to know what you think about this proposal. Details of how you can tell us your views are at the end of this booklet.

What is the proposal?

To close Parklands Girls' High School in August 2011 and replace it with a co-educational (that is girls and boys) academy sponsored by the EACT, opening in September 2011 on the same site.

What are Academies?

"Academies are all-ability, state-funded schools established and managed by sponsors from a wide range of backgrounds, including high performing schools and colleges, universities, individual philanthropists, businesses, the voluntary sector, and the faith communities. Some are established educational providers, and all of them bring a record of success in other enterprises which they are able to apply to their Academies in partnership with experienced school managers.

Academies are set up with the backing of their local authority, which also has a seat on the academy's governing body. Academies are not maintained by the local authority, but they collaborate closely with it, and with other schools in the area. Academies are funded at a level comparable to other local schools in their area.

Sponsors challenge traditional thinking on how schools are run and what they should be like for students. They seek to make a complete break with cultures of low aspiration which afflict too many communities and their schools."

Source: Department for Children Schools and Families website 2009

The proposed academy

The proposed academy will be sponsored by the EACT who already sponsor the Leeds West Academy and six other open academies across the country. EACT will ensure that:

- current progress is consolidated and accelerated, to ensure that all students achieve their personal and academic potential

- extra capacity is made available in the academy in the form of resources and professional expertise so that continuing improvement is sustained
- the academy is challenged and supported to become a 'Centre of Excellence' and a beacon for learning throughout the community
- the life-chances of every single student are enhanced and that they are equipped to become successful citizens, who contribute fully to the academy and to the social and economic well-being of the wider community

Why do we want to close Parklands Girls' High School and replace it with a co-educational (that is girls and boys) Academy sponsored by the EACT?

There are 74 girls in year 7. Parklands Girls' High School is able to take 140. Parklands Girls' High School does not have many pupils on roll from elsewhere in Leeds. Not enough parents are choosing single sex education for their daughters. In the east of Leeds the population of young people is growing, and all the other local schools in the area are full or nearly full. Parklands is also at the heart of the EASEL regeneration area, which will deliver more family homes to this area of Leeds. We need more school places in the East of Leeds to meet the needs of a growing population and ensure that more young people are given the best chance to achieve their potential in a thriving and increasingly successful school.

The school has just recorded its best ever GCSE results with 33% of students gaining at least five GCSEs including English and mathematics, for the first time beating the government's minimum 'national challenge' target of 30%. Because of the way schools are funded, the fall in the number of girls attending the school puts pressure on Parklands' budget and its ability to continue making the progress required.

We are not confident that the leadership; attendance; standards; achievement; and the budget can improve quickly enough to benefit girls in the school now and in the future. This is in part because the number of girls attending the school is reducing and it will be harder to keep the school's best staff and that will make continuing improvements very difficult.

With the input from EACT we are confident that all these issues will be addressed and continuous improvement will be secured by:

- the consolidation of an ethos which is focused on learning and achievement, which fosters unity and citizenship, and which is based on respect for people from diverse backgrounds
- providing an educational experience of the highest quality and the widest opportunities for all, irrespective of ability, gender, faith or race
- establishing partnerships with local employers and businesses, colleges of further education and universities to ensure the effective progression of students, to maximise opportunities and to provide a rich and rewarding learning experience for students at the academy.

- welcoming the new academy into the EACT family of Academies across the country to provide further support and to ensure the identification, celebration and exchange of best practice
- the work of the EACT Education Team, which will provide regular, experienced and high-quality support and challenge, fulfilling an essential quality assurance function
- establishing the new academy at the heart of its community and ensuring that it is an asset to the community. The facilities and resources will be available for use by the community after school hours, throughout weekends and school holidays

What will this mean for young people in East Leeds?

Parklands pupils will transfer to the academy automatically. Parklands Girls' High School will close on 31 August 2011. The new academy will open on 1 September 2011.

Parents of Year Six children who want to choose the academy will be able to apply through the normal admissions process starting in 2010. Boys will be able to apply for places in every year group that has a space.

What happens to staff?

The EACT will appoint a new leadership team and establish a shadow governing body for the new academy. Once this has been done, they will develop a staffing structure for the academy. Throughout the transition staff will be encouraged and supported to continue the development of their career within the academy and to support the process of change. All staff permanently employed at Parklands Girls' High School will benefit from employment protection legislation and will automatically transfer into the new academy.

What other options have been considered?

The other options we have considered are :

- Relocate Parklands Girls' High School to a city centre site.

The city council has not got the money to relocate Parklands into the city centre where it might attract girls from a larger area. Even if the city council could do this, the growing school population in the East of Leeds would mean that there would still need to be a mixed secondary school to replace Parklands.

- Close Parklands Girls' High School and expand provision at other schools in the area.

We need more school places in the East of Leeds to meet the needs of a growing population. Transferring young people to other schools would not secure sufficient school places. This option doesn't build on the schools recent improvements and therefore would be unnecessarily disruptive to both young people and to staff.

- Leave Parklands Girls' High School unchanged.

There is a need to act quickly so that Parklands Girls' High School delivers high quality education - both now and in the future - and effectively meets the needs and aspirations of the community it serves. Leaving the school unchanged means that not enough young people will succeed and reach their potential.

How to comment on these proposals

This consultation runs from Thursday 7th January 2009 to Friday 5th March 2010. If you want the council's Executive Board to consider your views, we must receive your comments no later than 4pm on Friday 5th March 2010.

We will be consulting with the Inner East area committee at the meeting on 4 February 2010 at 6.30pm and with the Outer East area committee at their meeting on 9 February at 4pm.

We are holding a public meeting on 24th February 2010 at 7pm, at Parklands Girls High School, where you will have the opportunity to debate the proposal and let us know your views.

Responses need to be in writing, or verbally at the meeting. We minute all public meetings and place the minutes on our website: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. It is important that, if you can, you give reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposals so that as much information as possible is available to the Executive Board when making their decision.

Written responses can be made:

- Using the form in this booklet, which includes details of where to send it.
- By letter, to school organisation team, 9th Floor West, Merrion House, Merrion Way, Leeds LS2 8DT,
- By email: educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk

Responses can be anonymous, but if you require an acknowledgement please include your name and address.

In addition further copies of this booklet and the response form are available on the Education Leeds website at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. It has also been widely distributed to many interested people and groups, including local councillors, MPs, the Catholic and Church of England Dioceses, and trades unions.

What happens to your comments?

All your views will be summarised and presented to Leeds City Council's Executive Board, which will decide whether to proceed with the proposal or to change it in any way. We expect the Board to make this decision at their meeting on 7 April 2010.

Your comments are treated equally, whether you put them in writing or say them at the public meetings.

If the Executive Board decides to proceed a statutory notice confirming the details of, and inviting comments on, the final proposal is likely to be published after Monday 12 April 2010 in the Yorkshire Evening Post, and at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation.

If you want to make sure the Executive Board considers your comments when making their final decision, you should make them again at this stage. This applies even if the comments are the same as you have contributed to this consultation.

The Executive Board must make its decision within two months of the statutory notice period, so the final decision on this proposal is likely to be made at their meeting in June 2010.

The School Organisation Advisory Body is made up of representatives from the area's education community. It has been established by the council's Executive Board to consider responses and make recommendations on the final decision regarding any proposals to change the size or organisation of schools. If objections are received, the School Organisation Advisory Board will sit ahead of the Executive Board meeting to make its recommendation on the proposals.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please read the consultation booklet on the proposals and tell us what your views are. The questions on this form are provided to help you do so, but you do not have to respond to all of them. If you prefer not to use this form, you can also put your views in a letter. Letters and forms should be sent to the address at the bottom of this form. Extra copies of this booklet and response form are available at www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. You may also respond by e-mail to educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk

Responses must be received by 4pm on Friday 5 March 2010. All responses will be reported to a meeting of the Executive Board of Leeds City Council in April 2010.

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE PROPOSALS

1. What are your views on the proposed closure of Parklands Girls High School in August 2011?

2. What are your views on the proposed Academy? For example, do you have any views on the sponsor or its proposal?

3. Have you found this booklet useful?

--

4. Have you found the consultation process useful?

--

5. Do you have any other comments or views?

--

Your personal details (if you would like your response can be formally acknowledged):

Name:

Address:

e-mail address:

Parent/Carer of present pupil(s)
Parent/Carer of primary school child
Other adult relative
Pupil
Governor

Member of staff
Local Resident
Elected Member
Community Representative
Other

Data Protection Act 1998

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following. Education Leeds and Leeds City Council are seeking your views to help inform the decision on this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge your response personally.

Please send your reply to:

The Chief Executive, Education Leeds, FAO School Organisation Team
9th Floor West, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT

Appendix 1 Facts about Parklands Girls High

Capacity 918 (was 805 before 2007) Numbers on roll

Year	No on Roll	% surplus
2005	798	1
2006	821	-2
2007	787	14
2008	766	17
2009	728	21

Parental preference

Year	Year 7 Capacity	First pref	Second pref	Third pref	% 1 st pref of capacity
2007	140	90	15	11	64.2
2008	140	68	11	6	48.57
2009	140	63	6	5	45

Achievement

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
5A*-C incl English and maths	22.0	16.3	23.5	19.0	32.6
5A*-C	36.6	27.0	32.2	26.0	42.0
5 A*-G	78.9	72.3	77.2	81.0	86.2
1+ A-G	96.0	94.0	93.0	97.0	94.9

Attendance

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Attendance	85.2	87.1	88.3
Authorised absence	6.88	8.07	5.73
Unauthorised absence	7.94	4.63	5.99