

Houghton Kerpier Sports College

STATUTORY PROPOSAL

1. School Details

This is a proposal for Houghton Kepier Sports College to raise the upper age limit to provide sixth form education.

Houghton Kepier Sports College - A Trust School
Dairy Lane
Houghton Le Spring
Tyne & Wear
DH4 5BH

2. Dates

The proposed implementation date is 1 September 2010.

3. Objections and Comments

Objections and/or comments should be submitted within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any persons may object to or make comments on the proposals by writing to the Director of Childrens Services, Sunderland City Council, Civic Centre, PO Box 101, Sunderland, SR2 7DN

4. Alteration Description

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Houghton Kepier Sports College intends to make a prescribed alteration to Houghton Kepier Sports College - A Trust School (Foundation), Dairy Lane, Houghton Le Spring, DH4 5BH.

The proposed alteration is to:

Raise the upper age limit to provide sixth form education.

5. School Capacity

The current net capacity of the school is 1368, as calculated under the net capacity arrangements and the proposed capacity will be 1548. The current admission number is 225 and the proposed admission number will be 225. The proposed admission number for year 12 will be 100 and the proposed capacity for the sixth form will be 200. At the time of publication the number of learners on roll is 1171. As a Trust School we are our own admissions authority. Admissions arrangements for sixth form learners will adhere to statutory regulations.

6. Implementation

The Governing Body will implement the proposal. No additional capital funding is required for the sixth form as the College has made provision from its annual capital grant and positive cashflow/resources to fund all the necessary building works, ICT investment and teacher training.

7. Additional Site

No new or additional site will be required should the proposals be implemented.

The existing College building has a Gross Internal Floor Area (GIFA) of 11,078m² and is spread over a single storey. By utilising the available classrooms and re-scheduling the timetable HKSC is able to accommodate the new sixth form curriculum in the existing building.

8. Objectives

As a Trust School, Houghton Kepier Sports College is proposing to increase its upper age limit to 19 in order to provide sixth form education on site. This will provide the opportunity for learners within the Houghton Le Spring area to engage in local post sixteen education, raise their aspirations and promote improved standards both in school and the wider educational community. This proposal aims to:

To provide first-class post 16 provision at Houghton Kepier Sports College.

To meet clearly expressed parental wishes

To increase diversity of post 16 provision and parental choice.

To raise learner aspirations to continue into further education (FE) and higher education (HE) Widening participation in FE and HE.

To provide outstanding pastoral support post 16 to assist learners to progress through the education framework and achieve their potential.

To reduce the percentage of learners falling into the NEET (not in education, employment or training) classification.

To increase numbers of young people from low income backgrounds progressing into 14-19 provision and then in to higher education.

9. Consultation

A great deal of consultation has taken place with regard to these proposals.

- i) Prior to issuing our consultation document it was checked by a sample of staff to ensure it was clear and understandable.
- ii) The consultation document (copy in Appendix A) and feasibility report (copy in Appendix B) was issued on 19 June 2009 to all consultees listed in section 8 of the consultation document and published on the school website. Learners were informed of the consultation through assemblies and tutorial time, letters and consultation documents were sent to all parents and posters were displayed in the school. The offer was made to make the document available in alternative formats.
- iii) Approximately 1350 consultation documents were distributed. There were separate staff and public meetings at the schools. Additional copies of the consultation document were available from the website www.houghtonkepier.org and copies of the consultation document were also available in school for collection.
- iv) Simultaneously with the public consultation learners in the school were consulted through tutorial time.
- v) The closing date for responses was 3.30pm on 17 July 2009.
- vi) There were 223 response forms returned from parents with 220 supporting the proposal. Only 1 response indicated they were not supportive.
- vii) There were 56 responses from members of staff of which all were supportive. In the response forms and during the staff meetings there was overwhelming support for the proposals.
- viii) There were 621 response forms returned from learners in years 7 to 10, with 438 supporting the proposal. 84 learners indicated they were not supportive and 99 were undecided.
- ix) There were 17 response forms returned from other stakeholders with 12 supporting the proposal and 5 indicating they were not supportive.
- x) Eight written responses were also received.
- xi) The consultation feedback is available as Appendix C.

As the information provided in this section demonstrates, all statutory requirements about consulting on these proposals have been met. The Governing Body met separately to consider the consultation responses on 9 September 2009 and considered the issues raised.

10. Project Costs

There is zero capital funding requirement for the provision of the sixth form.

Through careful and considered investment of annual funds HKSC has managed to maintain a positive financial position and achieved the national financial management standards award, as noted in the Ofsted report dated January 2009. HKSC's robust financial management ensures consistent value for money resulting in the ability to absorb all the costs associated with setting up the new sixth form facilities within the existing buildings by September 2010. Should there be a transitional funding gap then HKSC will use its own positive resources/cashflow to cover any shortfall. The only increased funding that HKSC will receive will come from the increased revenue stream that additional learner numbers in the sixth form will generate.

HKSC has undertaken a high level survey of the existing premises and developed a budget estimate for the works required to prepare the College for the delivery of sixth form education. An amount of work will be undertaken as part of the planned annual refurbishment/maintenance programme and an indicative cost is set out within Appendix B.

11. Age Range

The current age range of the College is 11-16; this proposal would increase the age range to 11-19.

12. Sixth Form Provision

Houghton Kiepier Sports College aims to expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area by offering provision on-site post 16. We intend to improve the educational or training achievements of learners by providing first-class provision, to increase participation in education or training post 16 in line with DCSF intentions and further reduce the number of learners in our area who do not continue in education or training post 16.

The Houghton Kiepier Sports College Sixth Form will provide diversity and choice for families living locally, in an area where there is currently no existing post 16 provision. It will provide an alternative to existing models of sixth form and FE provision. Having post 16 provision on site will contribute to raising the standards of provision available to those in our area.

We will use our highly qualified staff and our Trust partners to lead learner achievement post 16 and provide a more diverse, varied and relevant learning experience. Personalised learning will be at the centre of this experience. Our Trust partners will help to motivate our learners in order to raise aspirations and ensure that standards continue to rise. They will also help to improve access to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and engage learners to think about their future learning. We will motivate and encourage learners to participate in education and training post 16 who might otherwise have opted out at 16.

A System Shaped by Parents

- a) The HKSC proposed sixth form is in response to pressure from parents to provide local, high quality teaching of a full range of A-Level and other post-16 qualifications, including a range of Diplomas. This is in line with the Government's aim, as set out in the Five Year Strategy for Education and Learners and the Schools White Paper *Higher Standards, Better Schools for All*, to create a schools system shaped by parents which delivers excellence and equity.
- b) The HKSC proposed sixth form helps to fulfil the new duties placed on Local Authorities to secure diversity in the provision of schools by adding a new type of school, an 11 - 19 non denominational Specialist School.
- c) The HKSC proposed sixth form helps to fulfil the new duties placed on Local Authorities to increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of schools in their

areas. By approving HKSC proposed sixth form, the Local Authority will be fulfilling its specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of schools, particularly the request to make changes to existing schools.

- d) The HKSC proposed sixth form helps to fulfil the Government's aim to secure a more diverse and dynamic schools system which is shaped by parents.

Standards

- a) The HKSC proposed sixth form is aimed at boosting standards by increasing local opportunities for young people. The crying need to raise aspiration in the local area is well documented and is one of the key reasons for the stakeholders to support the consultation.
- b) The HKSC proposed sixth form will match pupils' needs and wishes and will be a response to parents' and learners' wishes, as expressed in unsolicited comments during earlier consultation. The response to this consultation will inform any Proposal.
- c) The HKSC proposed sixth form plans to raise standards across the whole cohort of learners in the Houghton Area.
- d) The HKSC proposed sixth form will raise local standards by filling a significant gap in provision.
- e) The HKSC proposed sixth form will lead to improved attainment for children and young people. Post-16 potential learners from deprived backgrounds perceive an added cost in travelling significant distances to attend courses, are unable or unwilling to pay the increased costs and therefore do not enrol. By attracting these groups, the HKSC proposed sixth form will help to narrow the attainment gap.
- f) Since local provision may displace some learners from existing providers, it is important to note the guidance at Para 4.30 of the Decision Makers' Guidance that it is for the Local Authority to manage any such displacement. However, the HKSC proposed sixth form meets the statutory SEN improvement test in that
- g) Takes account of the preferences of the parents of our existing SEN pupils to be given continuity as they can make a smooth transition to post-16 in a familiar environment in which they can continue to access the support to which they are accustomed
- h) Offers a range of courses which respond to the needs of individual young people
- i) The HKSC proposed sixth form will enable young people with special needs to have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and to participate in their school and community, which some are unable or unwilling to do at a distance, but which will now be provided locally.

Diversity

- a) The HKSC proposed sixth form helps to fulfil the Government's aim to transform our school system by offering an excellent education to every young person in Houghton Le Spring, whatever their background and wherever they live.
- b) The HKSC proposed sixth form creates a more diverse school system in the local authority area, where there is no non denominational school sixth form provision.
- c) By establishing a new type of school in Houghton Le Spring, the HKSC proposed sixth form contributes to local diversity.
- d) The HKSC proposed sixth form also establishes a more diverse post-16 system. Within the City, there will be an FE College, three new Academies, three denominational Sixth Forms and one non denominational Sixth Form.
- e) The HKSC proposed sixth form will further widen diversity by establishing the only non denominational post-16 provision in Sunderland.
- f) The HKSC proposed sixth form will help to meet the aspirations of parents and the whole local community, whose response has shown a genuine yearning for such provision.

Every Child Matters

- a) HKSC was rated Good by OfSTED in its most recent inspection of personal development and well being, and also in care guidance and support. The Proposal now seeks to offer that quality provision and support to a wider community of post-16 learners. Through collaboration, a wide mix of academic and vocational options will be available.
- b) HKSC will offer opportunities for the personal development of students; for example, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme currently undertaken at Bronze and Silver Level will be extended to Gold Award. Most importantly, it will offer local access to the wide range of extra-curricular activities which "contribute effectively to students' personal development and develop a sense of belonging to one community" (OFSTED 2009); whereas the need to travel long distances outside the area at present effectively denies much of this provision to many existing post-16 students.
- c) Individual support for students, rated by OFSTED as Good and for which the school is well-known and popular, will be extended to students in the Sixth Form. For example, our Inclusion Department will offer specialist academic and pastoral mentoring.

Equal Opportunity Issues

- a) The HKSC proposed sixth form is to offer Equal Opportunities to all students.
- b) The HKSC proposed sixth form addresses the financial difficulties of potential post-16 learners from deprived backgrounds who perceive an added cost in travelling significant distances to attend courses, are unable or unwilling to pay the increased costs and therefore do not enrol. Local provision within walking and cycling distance will help to equalise opportunities for this group.