

Hungerhill School

Academy Consultation Process

**Frequently asked questions/concerns from
the Hungerhill School community, with
responses**

September 2011

Introduction

The following document sets out the questions/concerns that were posed by members of the Hungerhill School community as part of the Academy consultation process. It also provides responses to these questions/concerns.

Please can we express our thanks to all those who provided feedback and attended the consultation meeting.

- 1. The extra money seems attractive; however, what services do the local authority currently offer for the money retained? How will Hungerhill ensure that these services are maintained to the same standard in the future?**

Response

The school has thought very carefully about the services that we get for the £500,000 we may receive if we were to become an academy and finds it hard to identify them. We have also asked the LA to clarify this and they have not been able to do so. The school already does its own payroll, gets human resources support privately and employs its own cleaning staff. Other services the LA offers, such as admissions and governors support we have to pay for now, in addition to the 10% of the budget the LA keeps.

If the school does become an Academy we will have to look carefully at the additional services we would need to buy and what other staff we may need to employ to enable us to carry out all our functions **e.g.** educational welfare support. The local authority is clarifying this with all schools, but at present we receive very little support, largely because we are a successful school. In reality the local authority does not provide many free services for the budget share that they presently keep. We already have to pay for many of the services provided by the local authority and currently we buy back many services from a variety of providers. If we do become an Academy we will have the choice to either continue with this model or provide services in-house, always taking into account the best value and service for the school, and monitoring standards utilising systems that are currently in place.

- 2. Would the school build a sixth form?**

Response

We do know that there will not be sufficient money to build a sixth form block. It is also very unlikely that capital funding will be provided by the DfE for the school to build a sixth form block. The governors are always looking for funding streams which may be accessed for a capital build and this will continue.

3. If the school changed the curriculum in the future what would that mean?

Response

The school can currently change its curriculum as a community school although it is statutorily bound to provide the national curriculum. However, there is flexibility within that to enable the best provision for our pupils. For example the current model of pupils in Year 8 being able to have some choice of subjects in Year 9.

This would not change if the school became an Academy. Even though an Academy is not duty bound to follow the national curriculum, there are currently no major plans for change. There are, and there will continue to be, regular reviews to ensure we are providing the best courses for our pupils.

4. Admissions policy

Response

Our catchment area will not change should we become an Academy and our admissions policy will stay the same. Pupils who are currently educated within feeder primaries who are part of the Brighter Futures Learning Partnership receive priority when places are allocated at Hungerhill in Year 7.

The admission numbers depends on the size of the intake from our feeder primaries. If we were unable to fill Year 7 in this way, admissions would be opened up to out of catchment pupils. We are currently oversubscribed because of our success as a school and many parents show a preference to Hungerhill for their children.

5. What sort of school would we have? Would it be secondary?

Response

The school would become an Academy, receiving its funding directly from the DFE. It would be run by an Academy Trust, very similar to the current Governing Body. The school would still provide secondary education and be classed as an 11-16 or 11-18 school.

6. Would the school still be a foundation trust?

Response

If the decision is made to convert to Academy status the school will transfer to the Academy Trust and would no longer be a foundation trust school. However it would remain as an associate member of the Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust and continue to work in the same way with its partners.

7. Would the uniform change?

Response

There are currently no plans to change uniform if the school were to convert to Academy status. If there were to be any proposals for change there would be a full consultation process with the views of stakeholders being taken into account by the Governors.

8. Where will pupils who are permanently excluded from other academies go?

Response

Pupils who are permanently excluded from an Academy become the responsibility of the local authority. These pupils can either be placed in another school or in a pupil referral unit. This whole area is currently being reviewed.

9. What will happen to pupils who will need to stay on longer at school?

Response

Young people will be required to stay in school, training or workplace training until the age of 18 from 2013. This will not mean that pupils have to stay in the classroom or continue with academic lessons - but they will have to continue to receive training e.g. apprenticeships

10. Is Edenthorpe Hall looking at becoming an Academy?

Response

We are unable to comment about the specifics of other schools and their plans to move to Academy status.