



Nethergate Academy

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7 June 2019

Dear Stakeholder

Re: Proposal to expand the SEND provision at Nethergate Academy, Clifton, Nottingham

I am writing to inform you that we are consulting on a proposal to expand the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) provision at the Nethergate Academy. Please find below further details about the proposal.

The proposal

Nethergate Academy, part of the Greenwood Academies Trust, is a co-educational academy in the City of Nottingham which provides high-quality education for children and young people with special educational needs from age 5-19. Nethergate Academy has highly experienced and dedicated teaching and support staff who deliver an exciting and varied curriculum which ensures that learners have every opportunity to reach their full potential and learn the key skills to succeed in life. The academy is divided into 4 distinct phases: Primary (3 classes), KS3 (3 classes), KS4 (3 classes) and 6th Form (3 classes).

The proposal is to provide an additional 48 places for pupils with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) from 1 September 2020. This will include the construction of a new building which will be fully funded by Nottingham City Council as part of their SEND Strategy. The Local Authority are planning to admit 8 additional pupils per year until at full capacity, by 2024.

The academy currently offers places for pupils with moderate and complex learning difficulties; many have additional needs (including Autism, social and emotional, communication, sensory and/or medical needs).

Background to the proposal

Following extensive consultation, Nottingham City Council has published a strategy for improving the outcomes for children with SEND. This strategy identifies a number of priorities, including providing additional places for children with ASD that reflects an increase in need across the City. Following a detailed place planning exercise and having reviewed a number of options, it has been determined that there is a requirement for an additional 48 special school places for young people with Autism and complex learning difficulties. There is currently only one provision in Nottingham that caters for this group of young people and this is currently oversubscribed. Without the development of additional provision, these young people will need to be placed in schools at a significant distance from their home address. This will impact on their emotional well-being as they will spend significant periods on transport and will not be enabled to make friends in their local communities.

In determining the most appropriate school to develop provision, the Local Authority has taken into account current Ofsted judgements, commitment of leadership and governance, staff expertise and the availability of a suitable site. On this basis, the Nethergate Academy was determined as the most appropriate local school to host the new provision. Nethergate has a very experienced senior management team and any changes to leadership would be mitigated by the strength and depth of the wider management team.

We are working with the Local Authority to look into having adjusted school opening and closing times for the new group of young people, should the proposal be approved, to minimise the impact of a busy start and end of the day and to enable the Local Authority to deploy transport more effectively.

This will ensure that the transport remains affordable and mitigate the need for additional vehicles coming into the site which could impact on the local community. The local community will be engaged during the design process to ensure that local issues are understood and the project will include improvements to the parking and vehicle movement on-site so that the impact on local roads is minimised.

Nethergate Academy is also very close to a well-run and efficient tram system and has staff trained in Independent Travel Training which supports young people's preparation for adult life and as part of the project, the academy will be required to develop a school travel plan setting out how young people and staff travel to the academy to encourage a sustainable approach.

Impact on staffing

The expansion will require an additional 5 teaching staff and 10 support staff to be appointed over the next 5 years. The academy and the Trust are confident that we have the skills and expertise to be able to recruit, train, support and retain the talent needed for this expansion. There is no requirement to restructure the leadership of the academy as a result of this expansion.

New build

Plans for the new building have been developed and will be submitted to the NCC Planning Department imminently. The local community, parents and all interested stakeholders will be able to view the plans at the consultation meeting which is being held on Monday June 24th.

Consultation period

The consultation period will be 4 weeks and will commence on Monday 10 June 2019 at 9am and end on Friday 5 July 2019 at 5pm and we look forward to receiving your views.

How to give your views

Your views are very important to us and you are therefore invited to a parents/carers and community consultation event on Monday 24 June 2019 at the Nethergate Academy at 3.45pm. At this event you can hear more about the proposal, be able to let us have your views and raise any potential concerns you may have.

If you are unable to attend the consultation event and wish to submit your views, please email them to admin@nethergateacademy.org by 5pm on Friday 5 July 2019.

Information and updates will be posted on the www.nethergateacademy.org and www.greenwoodacademies.org websites under the news sections.

Decision-making following consultation

Following the consultation period, the Greenwood Academies Trust will submit a Full Business Case Significant Change proposal to the Department for Education (DfE) which will require Secretary of State for Education approval.

If the DfE approves the proposal then the relevant planning permission and appropriate consents will be sought.

Yours sincerely



Tracey Ydlibi
Executive Principal

The Nethergate Academy is part of the Greenwood Academies Trust