



**Dales Academies Trust
Oakbridge CofE Primary School Master Collective Feedback from
Consultation Meetings
October 2023**

**Councillors Consultation Meeting
10 October 2023**

X 1 present

- Question** **Is the building on Schedule?**
Answer Yes. Currently there is a small delay that the contractor hopes to claw back with the handover due at the end of June 2024.
- Question** **Is the address Brompton or Northallerton?**
Answer Northallerton. Alvertune Road, DL6 2FQ
- Question** **How will you work with other schools?**
Answer From when we first got involved at the application phase we have engaged with local primaries, secondaries and nurseries to ensure we engage as much as we can. Dales is very much a collaborative Trust which wishes to work with all schools and partners. We hope to share best practice and learning experiences for example we will not have older children in our school for many years, enabling our younger children to play / meet older children will be key to their learning experience. We also hope to be part of the local Headteachers cluster in Northallerton.
- Question** **How strongly will the CofE character of the school influence admissions, collective worship etc?**
Answer The admissions policy does not include religious beliefs the school will be a church school for all. As a church school, there will be a daily act of Collective Worship using resources recommended by the Diocese. The school already has a diocesan adviser in place. The school’s vision has been established and is available on the school website. The vision will drive all leadership decisions.

Local Community Consultation Meeting 10 October 2023

X 2 present (Vicars)

- Question** **Will you have a specific SEND focus?**
Answer There is a significant increase nationally on the level of SEND need in all schools and we envisage Oakbridge will be no different. We will be a small school with nurture at our core. All support structures needed for children will be in place at Oakbridge.
- Question** **What will be available outside/on-site?**
Answer Initially there will be a discreet play space for Reception, a habitat area and lots of different landscaping and play equipment. We will develop our outdoor space as we familiarise ourselves with our new surroundings.
- Question** **What SEND provision will the school offer?**
Answer There will be a Trust SENDco to coordinate provision and support for pupils with SEND. The Early Years Lead is a very experienced teacher and will bring expertise to the new team. The Trust are proactive in their approach to supporting children with SEND and committed to working with other agencies.
- Question** **What are expectations of pupil recruitment in first year of opening?**
Answer We can take a full class of Reception pupils up to 30. It is unlikely in year one we will be full as we are a new school and it takes time to establish yourself in the community. Numbers and interest is growing and we hope this will continue so we can be as close to full as possible in year one.
- Question** **Are staff attracted to working in a new school?**
Answer So far yes! We have appointed an Executive Headteacher and our Early Years Lead starts full time employment in January 2024. Other staff will be recruited in the summer term when we have clarity on pupil numbers for year one.
- Question** **Is the school in Northallerton or Brompton?**
Answer Northallerton

Parents Meeting One Consultation Meeting 10 October 2023

X 5 sets of parents

- Question** **A concern was raised about North Moor Road and the speed traffic goes at is high. Will this reduce when the school is open?**
- Answer** Thank you for raising this point as children’s safety is paramount. This is a matter which highways would need to consider and something we will explore with them over coming months.
- Comment** **Speeding traffic on main road is a concern**

Parents Meeting Two Consultation Meeting 19 October 2023

- Question** **Will children have the opportunity to visit All Saints Church for events/services?**
- Answer** Yes and we would like to visit other areas of significant interest. We have already established connections with All Saints church, including one member of our governing body. We are currently investigating establishing a worshipping community in the school building for the benefit of the local community.
- Question** **What will the outdoor provision be like?**
- Answer** See page 2
- Question** **What challenges will the first cohort face as a result of always being the oldest in school?**
- Answer** This is a common concern of parents considering a new school. There are other Trust schools locally and we plan to collaborate with them on various projects, including a buddy system with older children. The first Oakbridge cohorts will have opportunities to play with older children through these projects. We hope to establish a link with Northallerton Secondary School to ensure a thorough transition programme is in place as the children move into Key Stage 2.
- Question** **Will there be regular school trips?**
- Answer** Yes. Curriculum and Enrichment activities will be built in to our offer. Examples range from farm and beach trips in the early years to a progressive plan for residential trips in Key Stage 2, including outward bound activities and a visit to London. We are developing our ‘Oakbridge Oath’ which will clarify the wider opportunities that will be available for our children.

Question **What wraparound provision will be on offer?**
Answer We are committed to ensuring that there is wraparound provision. This will either be on site or provided by a local out-of-school care provider. The decision will be based on numbers and demand.

Question **How did you come up with the name?**
Answer We explored a variety of options, local places of interest, important people from the area, researched other school names etc. We chose Oakbridge because there is a big Oak tree near to the site and a bridge nearby. We also plan to plant an Oak tree when the school opens to grow with the school community. The two parts of the name signify growth and a coming together which are key aspects of our vision and values.

Heads and Chairs Consultation Meeting 19 October 2023

X 3 schools represented (2 heads and 3 chairs)
 Applegarth School, Romanby (chair only), Alverton School

Question **How will the relationships work with other schools?**
Answer We hope to be included in the local cluster, through headteacher meetings and sporting events. We would also be keen to work together around the local SEND challenges.

Question **How much interest have you had?**
Answer We have had interest in the new school from families with children who would start school in 2024, 2025 and 2026. Pupil numbers in 2024 are likely to be lower than PAN as the school establishes itself.

Question **How will you work with other schools? Just EY networks in first year?**
Answer See above

Comment **No Northallerton schools are at capacity in R class - there is a concern the free school will make things worse for them**

Comment **If the new school had a catchment area, it might mitigate competition for places**

Comment **The presence of the free school will make it more difficult for school leaders/Gov bodies to plan for the future**

Question Were pupil number projections adjusted to take into account the impact of the pandemic?

Answer We acknowledge there is a nervousness about whether there is a need for a new school when existing schools may not be full however, North Yorkshire Council are clear there is and have evidenced that demand with the Department for Education.

Question Northallerton desperately needs more SEND provision, could local schools collectively find a way of meeting this need in the new school?

Answer Yes definitely, we would love to be part of the solution. The Trust CEO chairs the locality board and as a Trust we place a significant emphasis on SEND in terms of Trust priorities. We would be happy to start doing this now even before the school opens.

Online Google Survey

Comment I think children closer to the school or who are actually Church of England should be prioritised

We are a Church school for all children

Comment Further sporting opportunity would be good for example a swimming pool, no school in Northallerton has one and it would be great for the children and wider community

Sporting opportunities are already being considered for the new school, including a partnership with a high quality local sports provider. There is a swimming pool close to the school for children to access swimming lessons.

Question Will a nursery be added for FS1 ages 3-4?

Answer Not at this stage but it is something we will re-visit in future years.

Comment Children from the new estate should have priority over other children in the areas. Many families chose to live on the estate for the school and have suffered years of construction disruption and disturbances so we are close to the school.

Distance is one of the preference criteria on the admissions policy

Comment Admissions should take into account parent needs regarding accessibility

Accessibility has been considered in building plans

Question Please keep me on list for open days xxxxxx, are you open this year, is there a nature garden?

Answer We will have a habitat area and are committed to including outdoor learning within our curriculum in line with our vision.

- Question** *Do you agree with our safeguarding policy?*
Is CP Safeguarding? Again a very long policy so not that accessible to many perhaps?
- Answer** Policy includes all statutory safeguarding requirements and reference to Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Comment** *Do you agree with our SEND Policy?*
It is very long, review date not included, the use of acronyms is potentially confusing- a summary list might help
Thank you, we will look to include a summary list as you suggest
- Comment** *Is the proposed curriculum offer engaging for the pupils who may attend the school?*
The information about the curriculum is brief and does not match the admissions criteria which prioritises SEND pupils as there is nothing about SEND
The curriculum statement is brief at this stage. We are currently devising more detailed curriculum plans based on research and best practice. Special Educational Needs are considered at all stages of curriculum development.
- Question** *Our permanent site is situated on Alvertune Road, Northallerton and will be easily accessible for pupils. Do you agree this is an appropriate location?*
Too late to ask this question perhaps as the building is well underway but it does seem like a good location. However are there footpaths from Northallerton town all the way to the School?
- Answer** We believe so and will be checking with the local authority.
- Comment** *Should the Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to open our school?*
I am not sure what the alternatives are so it is hard to judge if this is the best option
- Comment** *Do you agree with our Admissions Policy?*
The policy makes provision for children who have a sibling at the school. As there is only a reception class this cannot yet take place. If we submit an application for our eldest for reception class now we would require a split year as child is currently in reception and we would also like to apply for our youngest who is two years younger and so this would fit the requirements of a sibling already attending.
- Question** *Do you agree with our Admissions Policy?*
Why can't the new school's catchment just be their area?
- Answer** The Local Authority determined the admissions principles when we applied to set up the school and did not want to compromise any other schools locally by defining a specific catchment.

- Comment** *Our permanent site is situated on Alvertune Road, Northallerton and will be easily accessible for pupils. Do you agree this is an appropriate location?*
And an appropriate location for parents which is pertinent in our case as one parent with a responsibility to drop off has a mobility disability.
- Comment** Please take further consideration to split years and parent access as a place at this school for my eldest would assist with my wife's disability issues.
- Comment** Northallerton needs a Special School, not another Primary
- Comment** *Do you agree with our Admissions Policy?*
Religious reasons should be a factor
- Comment** I live in Brompton and work at North Moor house. I'm delighted that the school will be opening opposite North Moor House. It will be wonderful to see healthy happy children attending school and growing up.