



Oakbridge CofE Primary School Consultation Report

December 2023



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1. Introduction

In May 2021 North Yorkshire Council and the Department for Education approved the application for Dales Academies Trust as the preferred academy trust to deliver a new Primary Free School in North Northallerton for children aged 4-11. Following approval of the feasibility and outline plans for the capital build project the Trust were able to move forward with the statutory consultation.

The following report summarises the key information and data which was shared as part of the consultation and informs stakeholders of the outcomes and actions resulting from this consultation period. Consultation ran from 9 October 2023 to 24 November 2023.

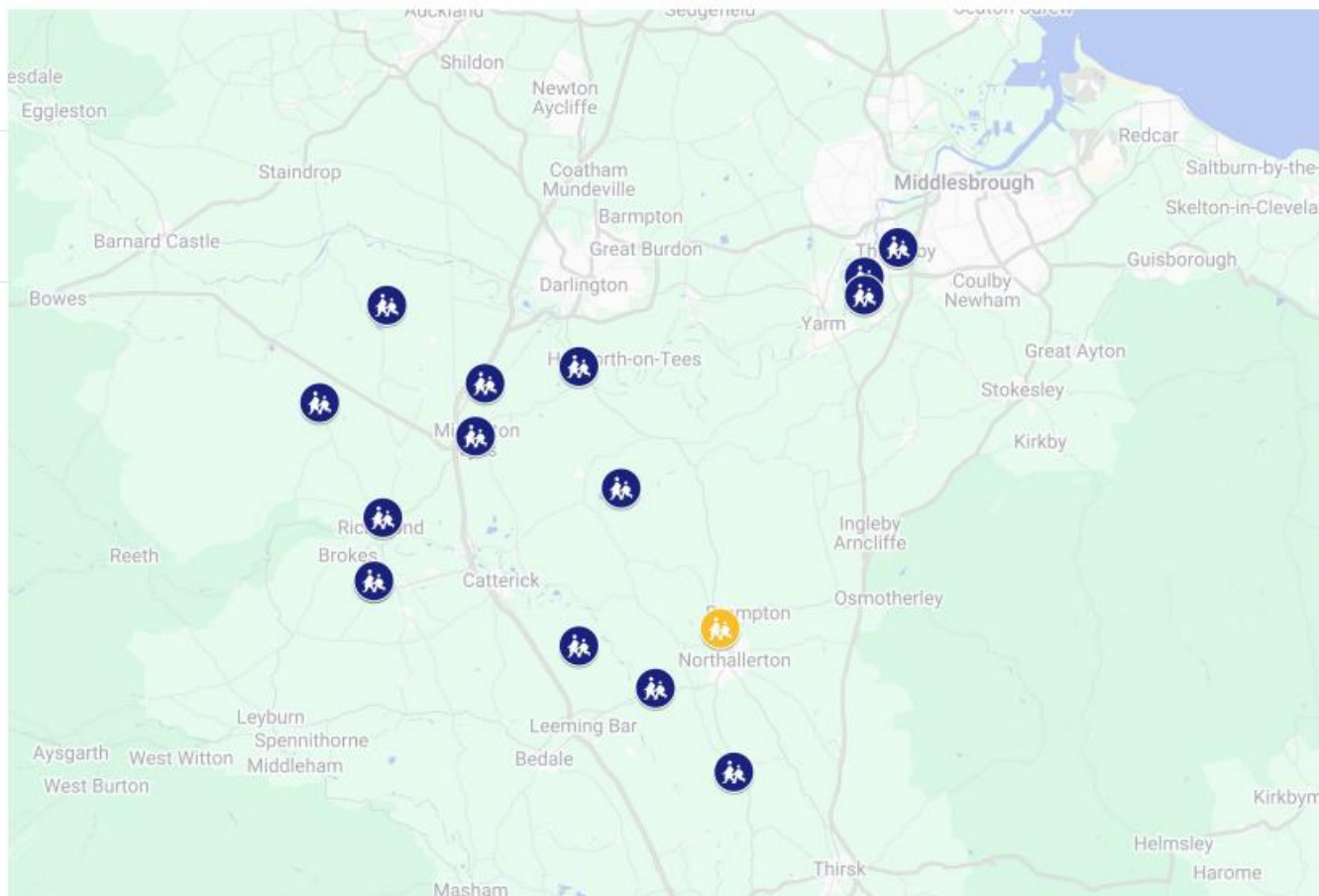
1.1 Geographic position of the school(s)

The map below shows where Oakbridge CofE Primary School is to be located in the region alongside other Dales Academies Trust schools. The ability to facilitate joint working across the Trust is key to delivering sustained improvements and improved outcomes for learners.

Dales Academies Trust Schools



Oakbridge Church of England Primary School



2. Consultation Methodology

The overall aim of the consultation process was to ensure that everyone who has a stake in the development of the new school had the opportunity to hear about the proposals and to share their views and ideas about the plans.

The objectives of the process were to:

- Provide relevant background information and context for stakeholders
- Explain the reasons for the new school
- Share key detail including key policies linked to admissions, safeguarding and SEND, site information and curriculum plans
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to hear / read more and ask questions

The principles laid down by the project team for the consultation were that it should be:

- An open and transparent process
- Accessible to all stakeholders in terms of:
 - The times of the events
 - The ability to meet virtually or physically
 - The language used (jargon-free wherever possible and acronyms fully explained)
 - Well-publicised and advertised
 - The venues being DDA compliant

A variety of media were used to consult including:

- Direct letters to all schools in North Allerton, the Local and Neighbouring Authorities, residents near to the new school, Colleges, parent/carer forum
- Press releases / Media content
- Leaflets and posters distributed
- Publicised meetings involving presentations and questions and answer sessions
- Frequently asked questions and comments slips
- Online Survey
- Dedicated consultation email account
- Website / Social Media
- Emails

2.1 Direct letters

A letter and/or email introducing the consultation were sent electronically to the following groups and an example is included at Appendix 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e and 1f:

- Parents/Carers
- Community Member
- Local schools, colleges, universities and training providers

- Partner Agencies
- Local Authorities
- Key stakeholders in the region

2.2 Online survey

Throughout the consultation Google survey was used to capture a response to 9 key questions, these included:

1. Please tick the box which best describes the type of stakeholder you are?
2. Do you agree with our Admissions Policy?
3. Do you agree with our Safeguarding Policy?
4. Do you agree with our SEND policy?
5. Is the proposed curriculum offer engaging for the pupils who may attend the school?
6. Our permanent site is situated on Alvertune Road, Northallerton and will be easily accessible for pupils. Do you agree this is an appropriate location?
7. Should the Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to open Oakbridge CofE Primary School? To understand more about what is a Funding Agreement log onto <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>
8. Any further comments or questions?
9. If you would like to receive a copy of the final report and findings and/or would like a response to any question asked whilst completing this survey, please complete the details below before submitting your form

There was also an opportunity with all 9 questions to leave additional comments should the stakeholder wish to do so.

2.3 Social Media

Oakbridge CofE Primary School have their own Facebook page providing details on the plans for the new school and upcoming events. An example of the Facebook page can be found in Appendix 2. If you would like to follow their Facebook page please search Oakbridge CofE Primary School.

2.4 Website

<https://www.oakbridge.dalesmat.org/> was live throughout the consultation period. The site was aimed at providing detailed information about Oakbridge CofE Primary School and the proposals with an opportunity to email questions or comments or to conduct the online survey. A screen shot of the site can be seen below in Appendix 3.

2.5 Publicised meetings

The following meetings were communicated to stakeholders and carried out during the consultation period:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
10 October	2:30pm	Local Councillor	The Forum, Bullamoor Road
10 October	3:45pm	Local Community	The Forum, Bullamoor Road
10 October	5:00pm	Parents of prospective pupils	The Forum, Bullamoor Road
19 October	1:30pm	Parents of prospective pupils	The Forum, Bullamoor Road
19 October	2:45pm	Education agencies	The Forum, Bullamoor Road
19 October	4:00pm	School Headteachers and Chairs of Governors	The Forum, Bullamoor Road

2.6 Leaflet

Copies of the leaflet issued to stakeholders can be found in Appendix 4. These were distributed with all letters.

2.7 Email – newschool@dalesmat.org

The email address above was used to enable anyone who wished to be able to post a question or a comment about the proposals. At the end of the consultation period these questions and comments were collected to be responded to as appropriate.

2.8 Community, LA, Partner Agencies, Schools, Councillors and Parent/Carer Presentations

At each of the consultation meetings a presentation was given with information about Dales Academies Trust and why they are looking to open a new school in North Northallerton. A copy of the presentation can be found in Appendix 5.

3. Overview of the Feedback received

Appendix 6 contains all the questions, comments and feedback received from the various media used throughout the consultation period. Numbers of participants in meetings and surveys are below.

3.1 Attendance at Consultation Meetings

Date	Event	Venue	Number in attendance
10 October	Local Councillor	The Forum, Bullamoor Road	1
10 October	Local Community	The Forum, Bullamoor Road	2
10 October	Parents of prospective pupils	The Forum, Bullamoor Road	5
19 October	Parents of prospective pupils	The Forum, Bullamoor Road	2
19 October	Education agencies	The Forum, Bullamoor Road	0
19 October	School Headteachers and Chairs of Governors	The Forum, Bullamoor Road	5

3.2 Online Survey

We received 15 completed surveys online. Full detailed feedback is attached in Appendix 6 and a summary of the feedback is highlighted on the following page:

Please tick the box which best describes the type of stakeholder you are	Do you agree with our admissions policy? - our policies can be found on our website https://www.oakbridge.dalesmat.org/policies/	Do you agree with our safeguarding policy? - our policies can be found on our website https://www.oakbridge.dalesmat.org/policies/	Do you agree with our SEND policy? - our policies can be found on our website https://www.oakbridge.dalesmat.org/policies/
Parent	I think children closer to the school or who are actually Church of England should be prioritised.	Yes	Yes
School staff member	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parent	No - If no please state why and how it could be further improved in "Other"	Yes	Yes
Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community member	Yes	Is CP Safeguarding? Again a very long policy so not that accessible to many perhaps.	It is very long, review date not included, the use of acronyms is potentially confusing- a summary list might help
Parent	Don't know	Yes	Yes
Parent	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.	Yes	Yes
Community member	Yes	Yes	Yes
School staff member	Why can't the new school's catchment just be their area?	Yes	Yes
School Governor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local resident	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grandparent	Religious reasons should be a factor.	Don't know	Don't know
Community member	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community member	Yes	Yes	Yes

Please tick the box which best describes the type of stakeholder you are	Is the proposed curriculum offer engaging for the pupils who may attend the school?	Our permanent site is situated on Alvertune Road, Northallerton and will be easily accessible for pupils. Do you agree this is an appropriate location?	Should the Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to open our school? To understand more about what is a Funding Agreement log onto https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust	Any further comments or questions?
Parent	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	Yes	Don't know	Will a nursery be added for FS1 ages 3-4? Thanks
			Yes	Children from the new estate should have priority over other children in the area. 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.
School staff member	Yes	Don't know	No	
Parent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Admissions should take into account parent needs regarding accessibility.
Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Community member	the information about the curriculum is brief and does not match the admissions criteria which prioritises SEND pupils as there is nothing about SEND	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?	I am not sure what the alternatives are so it is hard to judge if this is the best option	
Parent	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
Parent	Yes	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.	Yes	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.
Community member	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
School staff member	Don't know	Don't know	Yes	Northallerton needs a special school, not another primary.
School Governor	Insufficient information available on the website to answer	Yes	Yes	
Local resident	Don't know	Yes	Don't know	
Grandparent	Don't know	Yes	Don't know	
Community member		Yes	Don't know	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.
Community member	Difficult to say as there I couldn't find more than a short statement.	Yes	Don't know	

A summary of all the responses, themes and the messages contained therein, is provided below in section 3.4.

3.3 Themes and Key Messages

Overall feedback was generally extremely positive about the new school proposals. The themes stakeholders are most interested in are:

- Admissions
 - Can parents of older children apply to join the school?
 - How do parents apply for a place for 2024?
 - Will the new school de-stabilise other primary provision in the area?
- Community engagement
 - Will the building space be accessible to the wider community?
 - How can the community support the new school?
- Collaboration with local schools
 - Will there be opportunities to work together before and after school opens on specific projects?
 - SEND is a real pressure in schools at the moment, is this something Dales may be able to help/support with?

4. Trust response to the consultation feedback

Dales Academies Trust have reviewed the feedback provided as part of the consultation and are delighted with the quality of feedback although the numbers of those participating in the consultation was smaller than anticipated/hoped.

The Trust is looking to commence detailed work around community engagement from February 2024 by forming a Friends Committee that will be responsible for fundraising and community hires/engagement.

We will work with local schools and Headteacher forums to support on SEND and have also opened up a dialogue with a specialist Academy Trust who we hope can add further capacity and expertise to our offer.

As a result of the feedback received the Trust will be ensuring that the points raised are considered both as we continue in pre-opening and when open later in 2024. We are sharing feedback widely via online methods , with all those who participated / contributed and with the Local Authority, Department for Education and our Board.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, no objections to the proposals have been presented throughout the consultation and it has been a constructive and engaging process with those who participated. Many stakeholders still have questions which we hope will be answered as we move forward with pre-opening and further planning takes place.

Dales will continue to engage with all stakeholders and keep them updated on progress by ensuring clearly and timely communications both before opening and beyond.

The Trust and School leadership look forward to working with all in North Northallerton to provide the very best opportunities for children, families and the community.

6. List of Appendices

Appendix 1a – 1f	Direct Letters
Appendix 2	Social Media
Appendix 3	Website
Appendix 4	Leaflet
Appendix 5	Presentation
Appendix 6	Feedback comments and questions and answers