

Alsop High School Sixth Form Consultation



Proposal: Closure of Alsop High School's Sixth Form Provision

Consultation Opens	Monday 24 November 2025
Consultation Closes	Monday 5 January 2026
Review by Governors and Trust Board	Joint Extraordinary Meeting: Alsop High School's Interim Executive Committee & Omega Multi-Academy Trust Board of Trustees: w/c 12 January 2026 (TBC)

It is proposed that the Sixth Form provision at Alsop High School, will no longer accept students from September 2026. Students currently enrolled into Year 12 or Year 13 will continue to receive the same high standards of teaching and care that have always characterised our Sixth Form.

What are the reasons for this proposal?

The reasons for this proposal are:

- The school in Years 7-11 has been allocated numbers in line with/above its Published Admission Number (PAN) of 270 for the last five years. The school was judged to Require Improvement in all areas when it was last inspected in May 2023. Since then, significant improvements across the school have been undertaken, which has demanded substantial investment and resource from both the school's budget and the supporting Trust (Omega Multi-Academy Trust).
- Despite consistently strong student numbers in Key Stages 3 and 4, the Sixth Form numbers have declined significantly. The low numbers of students on roll in Years 12 and Year 13 makes the Sixth Form unsustainable.
- Continuation of the Sixth Form would have a long-term negative school impact as the Government funding provided for Sixth Form students would not be sufficient to fund the resources required to teach the Sixth Form courses. Therefore, resources required for teaching would have to be subsidised by the funding received to deliver education to Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, reducing the capacity for continuous improvement and success.
- It is calculated that the extent to which the Sixth Form at Alsop High School is subsidised by the funding received for Years 7 to 11 is in excess of £120,000 Year 2026/27 and approaching £150,000 in 2027/28.
- Due to the large subsidy the Sixth Form is placing on the school budget, it is financially unsustainable to continue running the provision.

The School Context

The Published Admission Number for the Alsop High School Sixth form is 200 students, however, the number actually admitted over recent years has been significantly lower than this number. The Department for Education recommend a minimum intake of 100 students in each year, for a sixth form provision to be sustainable. The table below details the admission number over the last six years.

Academic year	Number of Year 11 students admitted into Y12	% full
2025/26	29	14.5%
2024/25	46	23%
2023/24	120	60%
2022/23	78	39%
2021/22	130	65%
2020/21	150	75%

Students living in Liverpool and the surrounding areas are fortunate to have access to several Post-16 provisions in the local area. Post-16 offers in Liverpool include a variety of academic and vocational options at school sixth forms and colleges, including specific programs for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These options range from A-levels and T-levels to skills-based courses and apprenticeships.

There are several specialist Post-16 providers within easy reach of Alsop High School (within 5 miles), as detailed below. The majority of Alsop students enrol at either Hugh Baird College or City of Liverpool College, both of which offer both a combination of academic and vocational pathways. In addition to the specialist Post-16 providers there are several secondary schools within 5 miles of Alsop High School, who currently offer sixth form provision. These are detailed in the table below:

College	Ofsted grading
Hugh Baird College 1.1 miles away	Outstanding
City of Liverpool College 3.7 miles away	Good
Sefton Sixth Form College 3.1 miles away	Outstanding

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COMMUNITY

School	Ofsted grading
North Liverpool Academy 1.9 miles away	Sixth Form: Good
St John Bosco Arts College 3.1 miles away	Sixth Form: Good
Archbishop Blanch CofE High School 4.3 miles away	Sixth Form: Good
Archbishop Beck Catholic College 2.1 miles away	Sixth Form: Good
Belvedere Academy 4.9 miles away	Sixth Form: Good
Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School 4.3 miles away	Sixth Form: Good
Notre Dame Catholic 1.9 miles	Not yet inspected
Liverpool Life Sciences UTC 4.9 miles	Sixth Form: Good
Kings Leadership Academy (Wavertree) 4.8 miles	Not yet inspected

In addition, there are many training providers that are able to provide work-based training/apprenticeships. Financial support, such as the 16-19 Bursary Fund and transport contribution, may also be available to help with costs, depending on individual circumstances.

Financial Model – Alsop Sixth Form

Using the ASCL methodology (Association of School and College Leaders), the analysis below suggests the Sixth Form will be subsidised using Key Stage 3 and 4 funding by **£124,000 in Year 2026/27**, based on the current number of students in the Sixth Form.

This is based on the current curriculum which has average class sizes of 7. If no action is taken, and a similar number of students is recruited for September 2026, this subsidy will at least double the following year, perpetuating year-on-year.

If the decision is taken to close the sixth form, admitting no more students from September 2026, the subsidy would reduce to £146,500 by 2027/28 and would be removed entirely by 2028/29.

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COMMUNITY

Alsop Sixth Form – Subsidy Calculation

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Total Income (excl Capital)	£ 11,428,932	£ 11,077,127	£ 10,760,481
Sixth-Form Income	£ 528,747	£ 222,227	£ 0
Main school funding	£ 10,984,478	£ 10,854,900	£ 10,760,481
Contact Periods	3046	2974	2875
Contact Periods (11-16)	2872	2875	2875
Contact Periods (Post-16)	174	99	0
% Budget 11-16 income	95.37%	97.99%	100%
% Budget post 16 income	4.63%	2.01%	0%
% Contact time (11-16)	94.3%	96.7%	100%
% Contact time (post 16)	5.7%	3%	0%
Comparative % - Post 16 - Income	4.63%	2.01%	0%
Comparative % - Post-16 - Contact	5.71%	3.33%	0%
Variance	-1.09%	-1.32%	0%
Comparative % - 11 16 - Income	95.37%	97.99%	100%
Comparative % - 11-16 - Contact	94.29%	96.67%	100%
Variance	1.09%	1.32%	0%
Student Numbers Funded (1 Year Lagged)			
Year 12	29	0	0
Year 13	40	29	0
Total	69	29	0
Financial Subsidy - Post16 (Actual)	£ 124,120	£ 146,513	£0

Have Your Say

We would like to hear what you think about the proposed closure of our Sixth Form. If you have any comments, queries or concerns about the proposals, please complete the form using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/JR69iMf7u3>

Feedback provided through this consultation will be treated confidentially and will be considered by the Governors (Interim Executive Committee) and Trust Board in deciding the final arrangements.

AMBITION

RESPECT

COMMUNITY

Next steps

This consultation will run for a period of four weeks (not including school holidays). Following the consultation, a report summarising the details of the responses to the consultation will be produced for Governors (Interim Executive Committee) and Trustees, who will then meet to review the consultation feedback and will make their decision. The consultation report and the subsequent decision will then be published on the school's website and circulated appropriately.

If the decision of Governors (Interim Executive Committee) and the Board of Trustees is to proceed with the closure of the Sixth Form, a business case including all the feedback from the consultation and the Trust Board decision will be sent to the Department for Education for approval.

We expect the final outcome to be available mid-end January 2026.

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RESPECT

COMMUNITY

FAQs

Q: What impact will this have on students currently enrolled at the Sixth Form?

A: The closure will have no impact on the students currently enrolled in the Sixth Form. The school will continue to deliver the high quality of education for our existing Sixth Form students.

Q: If this proposal goes ahead, does it mean that the sixth form will close to current Y11 and all subsequent year groups?

A: Yes

Q: How can current students find out about alternative sixth form options?

A: The school will continue to invite colleges/sixth forms from across the Liverpool and surrounding areas, to speak to our Year 11 students to ensure they are fully informed of their Post-16 options. The school has always provided unbiased and objective information about all Post-16 provision. Alsop runs a careers programme every year and has already delivered mock interviews with Year 11. We invite sixth forms and colleges to various evening events in our calendar and will plan to offer a careers event in 2026. We ensure all Year 11 students have 1:1 guidance interviews with Careers Connect and will prioritise especially those who may have expressed an interest in Alsop 6th form.

Q: Some students prefer the small nature of the sixth form. What support will be provided if they move into a larger college?

A: The students in Liverpool and the surrounding areas will have a large range of excellent Post-16 options available to them. The school will look to collaborate with smaller Sixth Form provisions in Liverpool and the surrounding areas, in addition to larger provisions to ensure every student has an offer which includes excellent pastoral care to support students.

Q: Could the closure of the Sixth Form be detrimental to the quality of education provided by the school?

A: No. We do not believe this will be the case. Whilst it has been a privilege to teach across three Key Stages, concentrating solely on Years 7 to 11 will enable us to sharpen our focus on these crucial years of education. This will allow us to direct even more energy and expertise towards ensuring students achieve the very best outcomes.

Resources that are currently directed towards the Sixth Form can be reinvested into Years 7 to 11. This will bring clear benefits for students, including additional curriculum opportunities, targeted academic support, and access to wider enrichment activities. A dedicated focus on Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 will also allow us to further strengthen transition into secondary school, build firm foundations at Key Stage 3, and maximise progress and achievement at Key Stage 4.

By refining our provision in this way, we believe that students will not only continue to thrive but will also benefit from a more tailored and ambitious experience throughout their time at Alsop High School.

Q: Does this potential change present any opportunities for the school?

A: There is potential for the school to review how it could expand on the breadth of offer to students at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 when removing sixth form, providing a widening of curriculum and enrichment opportunities to students.

Q: Who decided on this proposal, the school or Omega Multi-Academy Trust?

A: This proposal was put forward by the leadership of the school/Trust, which is reviewed and supported by Governors (Interim Executive Committee) and Trustees of Omega Multi-Academy Trust.

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RESPECT

COMMUNITY

Q: What steps will the school take to mitigate the financial impact if this proposal goes ahead?

A: Staffing and curriculum decisions are always reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the school can manage the budget effectively and this includes planning around the school, if the Sixth Form closes.

Q: Will there be any job losses/redundancies as a result of this proposed closure?

A: As outlined above, staffing and curriculum decisions are always reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the school can manage the budget effectively and this includes planning the staffing of the school (teaching staff and co-professionals). If the Sixth Form closes, we will do everything possible to protect staff from redundancy, but ultimately, we will need to ensure we are not over-staffed.

Q: Who should I contact with any queries regarding the consultation if I cannot find an answer in the FAQs section or I want to record my views?

A: You can either:

- Send any thoughts, questions or queries via the linked form: [Alsop High School Sixth Form Consultation – Fill out form](#)

or

- Send a letter to **Alsop High School**, Queens Drive, Liverpool, L4 6SH

Q: What happens after the consultation period closes?

A: Following the consultation, a report summarising the details of the responses to the consultation will be produced for Governors (Interim Executive Committee) and Trustees, who will then meet to review the consultation feedback and will make their decision. The consultation report and the subsequent decision will then be published on the school's website and circulated appropriately.

Q: Who makes the final decision about this proposal?

A: The Governors (Interim Executive Committee) and Omega Multi-Academy Trust Board of Trustees will make a decision to either close or retain the Sixth Form provision. If a decision is taken to proceed with the closure, the business case will be submitted to the Department for Education for their approval.

Q: When will the outcome be announced?

A: The consultation period will run for four weeks from 24th November until the 5th January (not including school holidays). Governors (Interim Executive Committee) and Trustees will then meet to review the consultation feedback and to make their decision. We expect the outcome to be available by the end of January 2026.