



Consultation Responses

Summary and analysis

“Proposed increase in capacity of Framwellgate School Durham to a 1600 place school from a 1300 place school”

Introduction

The Excel Academy Partnership undertook a six week period of consultation between 18th September 2023 – 23rd October 2023 to consider opinions around the proposed increase in capacity of Framwellgate School Durham to a 1600 place school from a 1300 place school.

Responses were sought from:

- Parents and Carers
- Local Authority Director of Education
- Local Authority Head of Admissions and School Place Planning
- Local Schools

Breakdown of responders

At the point of closing the consultation on 23rd October, we received 17 responses.

Responders	Number	%
Parent/Carer	12	70.6
Local School	3	17.6
Local Authority	1	5.9
Other	1	5.9
TOTALS	17	

The distance from school by the responders are as follows:

Distance from School	Number	%
Within 1 mile	4	23.5
Within 3 miles	4	23.5
Within 5 miles	4	23.5
Greater than 5 miles	3	17.6
Did not say	2	11.9
TOTALS	17	

Summary of responses

Of the 16 responses the answers to the specific questions were as follows:

Do you agree that providing space for an additional 300 students will provide extra choice for parents and carers, and meet a need to provide additional school places in the area?

Answers	Number	%
Yes	11	64.6
No	2	11.8
No answer given	2	11.8
Unsure	1	5.9
Other	1	5.9
TOTALS	17	

Should The Excel Academy Partnership Trust (Framwellgate School Durham) increase the capacity of the building from 1300 to 1600 in order to support the Local Authority in fulfilling basic need in the area for school places?

Answers	Number	%
Yes	10	58.8
No	4	23.5
No answer given	1	5.9
Unsure	2	11.8
TOTALS	17	

We feel the new build will also provide additional opportunities to support the local community above what we provide now. Are there any specific services you would like the school to offer above those currently available?

Suggestions
All weather field, gym, sports hall
Football hub, theatre, holiday clubs
Use of sports facilities
Use of climbing wall, sports hall - badminton, all weather pitches, gym.
Sports facilities, Use of rooms.

The majority of the above is already available and heavily used by the community and will continue to be so in the new building with additional facilities being made available after opening including a lecture theatre.

Categories of comments and responses

Any other comments	Trust Response
<p>My main concern links with pastoral care and SEN, the school is already stretched with regards to this. Will the volume of staff increase? Teachers, TAs, caretakers, kitchen staff, cleaners, SEN, pastoral staff?</p>	<p>The gradual expected growth in student population will be matched by a gradual expected growth in the staff population across all relevant areas to ensure the curriculum need is matched and support functions, including those listed, continue to function with more students.</p>
<p>Questionnaire not completed - "Unable to edit the word document you have attached. Utterly opposed to this proposal though based solely on the local infrastructure and how badly it already fails to cope with traffic. To add another potential 300 cars a day into the mix is a disaster waiting to happen. If it were to go ahead, I would suggest no parking to be a requirement on Aykley road and for traffic lights to control the exit at this location."</p>	<p>The Academy is not in a position to influence the local infrastructure. Opportunities to present concerns about local infrastructure will come through the formal planning process once planning applications are submitted through the local authority.</p>
<p>The LA would fully support the expanded school to ensure that secondary school places are available at the school nearest to the proposed Sniperley Park development and in so doing helps us meet the statutory responsibility to ensure the sufficiency of school places.</p>	
<p>One of the main things that attracted us to choose the school for our children was the slightly smaller size (at the time) compared to other local secondary schools. It felt like the school was somewhere where there was less of a scrum between lessons etc, and more space. Secondary school can already be a very stressful and overwhelming experience for students who are more introverted - it feels like making it bigger will only increase that problem.</p>	<p>The school will be built to accommodate up to 1600 students with a gradual increase in PAN to the point where the school is full.</p> <p>The current school was not built to accommodate the number of students we now have and, having a building actually reflective of the potential capacity of 1600 students, will create a calmer and more pleasant environment in both classroom spaces and corridors/open spaces.</p>

It is important that the availability of sport and physical exercise increases too. The build should be up rather than out to allow an expansion of the outdoor sports areas (and allow different sports and facilities for disabled sports).

Would have liked a bit of definition of what you mean by wide choice and how you can provide it. Also you should not ask double questions i.e. do you agree A and B. I agree with A and disagree with B so logically would have to disagree to the whole statement.

This is a welcome addition to the area, with school places in high demand at good schools this will provide more opportunity for children not only in Central Durham but in neighbouring villages.

As a parent and local resident happy to support this proposal.

As the new school would be built to house any potential increased capacity, there would be growth in physical spaces including outdoor sporting facilities and other facilities.

The proposed increase in admissions for the school as stated in the consultation letter is dependent on an increase in local housing capacity over the coming years. Will the increase in admissions be introduced as the local authority confirm the increase in children following the completed housing, thus ensuring that the school meets the needs of the local communities as opposed to potentially impacting negatively on other local secondary schools. If intake is increased prior to the number of 11-18-year-olds in the area being confirmed then surplus spaces will be created in the Secondary School sector. Is the increase in admission numbers directly related to the opening of the new school. If there is a delay in the opening as identified in the consultation letter, then will the admission numbers remain as they currently are based until the school is open. If the school is not completed for the planned opening date of September 2025, then will the admission for the school remain static for the academic intake 2023-2024? Is the admissions number based on the central Durham City area where the school directly serve the local community, or does it include the rural and semi-rural communities that are able to be served by other Secondary Schools but are identified by the school with subsidized transport provided? If the increase in admissions includes the additional communities, then will an process be undertaken to justify the requirements of the additional capacity and increase in PAN?

The purpose for the growth in student roll is not to impact negatively on other schools in the area but instead to fulfil the basic need in Central Durham as identified by the local authority. The increase in admission numbers will only be introduced at the point of confirmation by the local authority of completed housing developments and likely student intake. The PAN will be introduced over a gradual and phased basis so as not to create surplus places in the area.

<p>Having just been made aware of this proposal/build whilst living extremely close by I feel that you should approach all neighbours living in Newton Drive, Aykley Road, Carrside and the surrounding area to ask our opinions on the overall proposals. We all have had 0 contact thus far!</p>	<p>The Academy is not in a position to influence the local infrastructure. Opportunities to present concerns about local infrastructure will come through the formal planning process once planning applications are submitted through the local authority.</p>
<p>I'm very supportive of this measure in principle – but there is a key piece of information missing which is what will the impact be on class sizes. If this proposal was to mean an increase in average class sizes I would be against it. Fram is an excellent school with good teachers and I'm delighted my kids have chosen to attend, but manageable class sizes are key to successful education.</p>	<p>The gradual expected growth in student population will be matched by a gradual expected growth in the staff population across all relevant areas to ensure the curriculum need is matched and support functions, including those listed, continue to function with more students.</p>