

11th February 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

Consultation on proposed changes at QEGS Blackburn Academy Trust

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (QEGS) has a heritage of over 500 years of providing education and care to the children of Blackburn with Darwen and wider Lancashire.

Since becoming a Free school in 2014, QEGS has been committed to supporting and collaborating with other Schools to improve education outcomes for all children in Blackburn with Darwen and wider Lancashire. Our Senior Leadership Team and Senior Teachers are providing support to other schools in the Blackburn with Darwen area and beyond through leadership, specific subject support and development, early career training and financial guidance.

We currently offer quality, experience, and expertise in all 4 phases of provision: Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form - to over 1400 pupils.

Over the last 2 years we have been in very positive discussions with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and Department for Education (DfE) about the next stage in the development of the Trust.

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School is currently a Single Academy Trust. Moving forward, we would like to further develop the Trust into a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

We now have in-principle approval to convert the Trust into a Multi Academy Trust.

As part of the process of creating a MAT we also been given approval to split (de-amalgamate) our current school into two schools:

- Queen Elizabeth's Primary School; and
- Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (including the Sixth Form).

As part of the final decision-making processes the DfE have asked that we consult with all our stakeholders (Parents, carers, staff and the wider education community) regarding this change.

The reasons for creating a Multi Academy Trust and the de-amalgamation of the current School are:

1. It will allow the two Queen Elizabeth's schools to continue to offer excellent education and further thrive by being able to fully focus on the key stages that they are delivering.
2. It will allow both schools to develop further opportunities to work collaboratively with other schools both in Blackburn with Darwen (BwD) and also in the wider area.
3. It will create opportunities for the new Multi Academy Trust to support other schools and share the good practice that we have developed over the last 500 years.

What will not change:

1. We are not making any changes to our Admissions Policy other than to create 2 separate policies, one for each school. Draft versions of these policies are available by clicking the following link: <https://www.qegsblackburn.com/admissions/> These policies follow what is in the current policy and therefore children in Queen Elizabeth's Primary School will still have automatic entry into Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School. All other factors regarding admissions will be the same as stated clearly in the current policy for each admissions point.
2. The Trust will continue to be fully committed to delivering excellent education to all.
3. The Trust will continue to work closely with the DfE, BwD and all our other stakeholders to ensure that we always strive to be the very best that we can be.

We are therefore asking for comments on the following issues:

1. The de-amalgamation of the current School into 2 separate Schools
2. The variation of the current Admissions Code

If you wish to comment or have any questions regarding the above proposed changes then please email them to MATconsutation@qegsblackburn.com by Monday 14th March 2022.

Your responses will be taken into consideration when taking the final step to create the MAT and de-amalgamate the School.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs CY Gammon