

## MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

### **Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

#### **Contact details**

1. The name of the local education authority or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Leeds City Council, C/O Chief Executive, Education Leeds, FAO School Organisation Team, 9th Floor West, Merrion House, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT is publishing the proposal to discontinue Parklands Girls High School. The discontinuance is conditional upon the making of an Agreement between the Secretary of State for Children Families and Schools and the Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust to open an Academy on the same site.

#### **Implementation**

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

Parklands Girls High School would close on 31 August 2011. The new Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust Academy would open on 1 September 2011.

#### **Consultation**

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

In accordance with current statutory requirements and Department for Children Families and Schools guidance an eight week consultation period on the proposed closure of Parklands Girls High School was held from 7th January to 5 March 2010. Responses were duly recorded and considered by Leeds City Council Executive Board, which has decided to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice to discontinue Parklands Girls High School from August 2011.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
  - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
  - (c) the views of the persons consulted; and
  - (d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

Details of who was consulted and how, how the consultation document was distributed, and the responses to the consultation can all be found in the report to Leeds City Council Executive Board on 7 April 2010 "Outcome of consultation on the future of Parklands Girls High School". The report, alongside the consultation document, and the minutes of the meetings can all be found at

[www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation). Alternatively you can obtain a copy from School Organisation Team, Education Leeds, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor West, Merrion House, Merrion Centre, Leeds, LS2 8DT.

## Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objective of the proposal is to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in east Leeds. The proposal aims to accelerate improvements in outcomes for children and expects the establishment of a new Academy following the proposed closure to sustain and build upon the Academy's contribution to the wider education community of Leeds, and to use its expertise in involving local partners to improve opportunities and outcomes for children and young people.

## Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

The proposal to discontinue Parklands Girls High School is driven in large part by a response to the National Challenge to improve standards. It is expected that the additional resources provided by an Academy should enable standards to be improved. The establishment of a co-educational Academy would ensure sufficient local places are available in the area. Academies draw on the expertise of their sponsors to help develop their own distinctive ethos and mission.

Parklands Girl's High School has 700 places for 11-16 year olds. The January 2010 Annual School Census indicated 540 11-16 year olds on the school roll. Taking parental preference in year 6 as key data parents and carers in Leeds are not expressing a strong preference for girl's only education. In the academic year 2003/04 there were 127 first preferences dropping to 49 by the academic year 2010/11. The quality of education and a more accessible central location appeared to be more important factors for the majority of parents who responded to a recent consultation upon the future of Girl's only provision in Leeds

## Provision for 16 -19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

- (a) the educational or training achievements;
- (b) participation in education or training; and
- (c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

The proposed Academy is expected to continue to operate a sixth form, details of which are to be agreed between the Secretary of State and the Edutrust Academies Charitable Trust. The broader 14-19 needs across the city are currently under review, and the new Academy would also be expected to participate fully in these plans.

## Need for places

**8.** A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

It is intended that pupils will transfer to the new Academy in accordance with pupil admission arrangements of the new Academy or seek admission to other schools that have places available.

**9.** Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Not applicable

## Current School Information

**10.** Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

Parklands is a single sex girls school. The current school has an admissions limit of 140, providing an 11-16 capacity of 700. The overall net capacity is 918. At the Annual School Census in January 2010 it had 540 11-16 year olds on roll, and 127 post 16. It had 6 children (0.89%) with statemented SEN and a further 84 (12.5%) pupils on school action and 70 (10.4%) pupils on school action plus

## Displaced Pupils

**11.** Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- (a) any interim arrangements;
- (b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- (c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

It is intended that pupils will transfer to the new Academy in accordance with pupil admission arrangements of the new Academy or seek admission to other schools that have places available.

**12.** Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

It is intended that the proposed academy will offer 300 co-educational places per year.

## Impact on the Community

**13.** A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The new Academy is expected to draw from the same community, and no adverse impact is anticipated

**14.** Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

The school is part of the Seacroft/Manston extended services cluster. It would be for the new Academy to consider whether to remain a part of the cluster or provide access to extended services through alternative partnerships.

### **Travel**

**15.** Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

The new academy will be on the same site and will not alter journeys to/from school.

**16.** The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

The Education Leeds Policy for the Provision of Home to School or College Transport for Children and Students Prior to their nineteenth birthday current at the time of transfer will apply as appropriate to pupils attending other schools. This includes provision for girls to attend the nearest girls' only school.

### **Related Proposals.**

**17.** A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

The discontinuance of Parklands Girls High School is conditional upon the making of an agreement between the Secretary of State for Children, School and Families and the Edutrast Academies Charitable Trust to open an Academy on the same site on 1 September 2011 and to which pupils will transfer in accordance with pupil admission arrangements of the new Academy or seek admission to other schools that have places available.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

**18.** Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

- (a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;
- (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

Not applicable.

### **Maintained nursery schools**

**19.** Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

- (a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- (b) the local education authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- (c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable

### **Special educational provision**

**20.** Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Not applicable