



Sir Graham Balfour Multi-Academy Trust

Proposal to build a new four classroom block

Consultation Ends

Friday 24th April 2020 at 4pm

For a copy of this document please visit
www.sirgrahambalfour.co.uk

Mrs L Beck
Headteacher

Mr S Smith
Chair of MAT Board

Mr M Winkle
Chair of Local Governing Body

If you would like this document in another format, e.g.,
large text, please contact

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or write to

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c/o Sir Graham Balfour School

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Stafford

ST16 1NR

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

1. Staffordshire County Council is responsible for ensuring that there are sufficient school places in the county. They have been in discussion with the School over the last 15 months to provide additional capacity until the proposed new secondary school in the north end of town is built and open.
2. The Governing Body and the MAT Board of the school wants to hear the views of local families, local community, school staff, governors and parents and other bodies on the proposal to provide:
 - A new block with four new classrooms, toilets and a small office.
 - Additional car parking spaces.
3. It is important that you make your views known by Friday 24th April at 4pm.

WHY ARE MORE SCHOOL PLACES NEEDED?

4. The County Council is committed to providing the best possible start for young people, which means ensuring that every child who needs a school place in their area has one available.
5. For the last two years of intake the School has exceeded its admission number to provide additional capacity for students living within the catchment area. As a result, there is now significant pressure on teaching spaces with the school unable to accept additional students in future years without the provision of additional teaching spaces.
6. The proposal to provide additional teaching spaces will enable the school to assist the local authority in providing additional capacity ahead of the delivery of the new secondary school and enable catchment students to be admitted. It is anticipated that up to 30 additional students could be admitted into bulge classes for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

SIR GRAHAM BALFOUR SCHOOL

7. Sir Graham Balfour is a popular secondary school in Stafford. It was inspected by OFSTED in May 2019 as a short inspection and assessed as a “Good” school.
8. The current Published Admission Number (or PAN) is the number of Year 7 places offered to students transferring from Year 6 (primary phase) to secondary school. Sir Graham Balfour School currently has a Published Admission Number of 170.

9. The school have again agreed to accept a small number of additional students into Year 7 in September 2020 to accommodate additional students from its catchment area.
10. The school are unable to accommodate additional students in the longer term without adding to the existing accommodation to provide additional general teaching capacity.
11. The proposed building work will enable the school to admit bulge classes of up to 30 students in 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.
12. An area of the school grounds close to the sports hall has been identified as a suitable location for the additional accommodation to be provided.
13. This will not impact on the sports field or any existing open access area.
14. Staffordshire County Council is fully supportive of the proposal as it would provide more places for local students.

HOW WOULD THE SCHOOL BE IMPROVED?

15. A scheme has been agreed with all relevant parties and Staffordshire County Council that would include:
 - A new block with four new classrooms, toilets and a small office.
 - Additional car parking spaces.
16. The build works to provide the additional accommodation will be funded by developer contributions and, if required, a contribution from the Basic Need Capital Programme. Staffordshire County Council will seek Section 77 consent and planning permission for the building project on behalf of relevant parties.
17. Work would start as soon as the necessary permissions are in place. The County Council, School, MAT Board and contractors would work together to minimise any disruption, such as completing some works during school holidays.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL GROW?

18. Once the build is complete additional students would be able to be admitted in bulge classes for further two years in 2021-2022 and 2022/2023.
19. There are no current proposals to permanently increase the admission number after the above date: i.e. it is anticipated the school will return to its current PAN of 170 from 2023/2024.
20. The additional accommodation would be used for teaching the additional classes.

HOW WILL IT AFFECT THE STUDENTS IN SCHOOL?

21. Students at the school would not be affected with learning and teaching continuing as normal throughout the build process.
22. There will be no substantial changes to the way in which students are taught as a result of these changes. Students will continue to be taught as they are now according to the policies in place.

HOW DO I MAKE MY VIEWS KNOWN TO THE GOVERNING BODY?

23. Please send the school your views by 4pm on Friday 24th April 2020
 - **Email** your views to consult@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk
 - **Write** to Mrs L Beck, Sir Graham Balfour School, North Avenue, Stafford, ST16 1NR
 - **Attend** the public consultation meeting
24. The public consultation meeting on this proposal will be held at Sir Graham Balfour School on **Tuesday 31st March 2020 between 4pm and 6pm**
25. All the views received will be considered by the Governing Body.