

ANNEX 3**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 LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

<p>Proposal published by Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND</p> <p>Proposal to close Oxford School, Glanville Road, Oxford</p>
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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.

31 December 2010

Consultation

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

All applicable statutory requirements to consult have been complied with.

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.

<p>a) Informal consultation for this school's closure was run in parallel with the consultation on the nature of the subsequent academy. Consultation was carried out with the following stakeholders:</p>
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In School

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head • Teachers • Support Staff • Admin staff |
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CA6

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IEB
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing • Prospective (feeder schools/catchment area)
Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing • Prospective (feeder schools/catchment area)
Politicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Oxford Labour MP • Other relevant MPs • County Councillors • East Area Committee
Unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NUT • COTO • ATL • NUT • NASUWT • NAHT • Unison
Schools	<p>Oxford City Secondary Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheney School • St Gregory the Great • The Cherwell School • Matthew Arnold School • The Oxford Academy <p>Local primary schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Oxford Primary • Larkrise Primary • SS Mary & John Primary • St Christopher's Cowley Primary • Wood Farm Primary • Windmill Primary • St Andrew's Primary, Oxford. • St Francis CoE Primary • Orchard Meadow Primary • Windale Primary • Pegasus Primary • Church Cowley St James Primary • Rose Hill Primary • St Ebbe's CoE Primary <p>Local Higher Education Establishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford University • Oxford Brookes • Oxford Business School
Pressure Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save Oxford School • Anti Academy Alliance • Independent Working Class Association
Local Employers and Representative groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMW (UK) • Unipart Group • Oxfordshire PCT and local health centres • Oxfordshire Economic Partnership;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxfordshire Business Enterprises; • Oxfordshire Chamber of Commerce; • Oxfordshire Co-Operative Development Agency; • CONNEXIONS; • Community Action Groups (CAGs) Oxfordshire
Interested parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mark's Academy, Merton • Oxfordshire Secondary School Headteachers Association • The Children and Young People's Trust Board • East Oxford and Cowley Community • Oxford City Council • Family Support Workers • YPLA
Sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CfBT Education Trust • Oxfordshire County Council • OCVV • DfE

b) There were two public meetings held, and issues raised are summarised in Appendix 1.

c) Those agreeing with the proposal considered that it would give the school a better chance of further improvement; would attract more resources; would create useful links with partner organisations; and help “rebrand” the school to encourage recruitment.

Reasons for disagreeing with the proposal are summarised below (percentages are of written responses to the consultation):

Issues of accountability and responsibility:	37 (56%)
○ Lack of parental/staff/community influence in governance	19 (29%)
○ Schools should be locally accountable	15 (23%)
○ Credibility and experience of sponsor	12 (18%)
○ Education should be the local authority's responsibility	12 (18%)
Issues of school improvement	37 (56%)
○ School already improving/successful	26 (39%)
○ No (independent) evidence that academies improve standards	15 (23%)
○ School already doing /could do everything suggested in the brochure	8 (12%)
○ Proposal not sufficiently innovative	4 (6%)
○ Academy status not necessary/useful in order to further improve	2 (3%)
○ Sponsors' interests may skew the curriculum	1 (2%)
Issues of cost and resource use:	19 (29%)
○ No additional resources are guaranteed	10 (15%)
○ Land will be sold to finance project/given away to private sponsor	4 (6%)

○ Proposal is just cost-cutting	4 (6%)
○ Closure would be more cost-effective	1 (2%)
Criticisms of the decision making process	18 (27%)
○ Inadequate consultation	14 (21%)
○ Other options not sufficiently explored	8 (12%)
○ Academy not wanted by local community/parents/staff/students	4 (6%)
○ Lack of information from sponsors	1 (2%)
Impact on specific groups	9 (14%)
○ Academy status will worsen staff conditions	4 (6%)
○ Reduced provision for special needs	4 (6%)
○ Exclusions will rise	2 (3%)
Impact on wider education provision	8 (12%)
○ Will make collaboration between schools harder	6 (9%)
○ Schools opting out of local authority services will make those services more expensive/less effective	3 (5%)
○ Replacing local authority services from private providers will be more expensive	2 (3%)
Choice and diversity	5 (8%)
○ Don't want a religious school	4 (6%)
○ Reduction in choice as there is already an academy	1 (2%)

d) The consultation leaflets provided by the county council and the academy sponsors are attached as Appendices 2 and 3. These were sent via pupils to parents of existing pupils at the school, and posted to parents of incoming pupils for September 2010. Copies were also sent to other local schools and stakeholders, as above. The leaflets were also available on the county council's website and the specific website for the Academy consultation.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

It is intended to close Oxford School on 31 December 2010 to enable an Academy to open on 01 January 2011, initially in the same buildings and on the same site continuing to serve the local community.

The new academy would be an independent state-funded school run jointly by the CfBT Education Trust, Oxford & Cherwell Valley College and Oxfordshire County Council.

The sponsors have the following vision for the Academy:

- International focus
- Uncompromising expectations
- Mastery of core skills
- Development of the whole person
- Guaranteed progression for every individual.

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.

Oxford School is currently large enough for 1279 pupils but the number on roll at the January 2010 pupil census was only 1015. The total number of pupils at Oxford School has been falling for several years, from a peak of 1151 in 2006. The current published admission number is 210, but in Year 7 there are 113 pupils, of whom 80 chose the school as their first preference. For September 2010, 65 pupils have chosen Oxford School as their first preference. The number of families making Oxford School their first choice has fallen from a peak of 142 in 2006.

In 2008, Oxford School was included by the Department for Children, Schools and Families in a list of “National Challenge” schools, because the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (including English and Maths) had been consistently below the 30% minimum target set for schools, dropping to 23% in 2008. As a National Challenge school, Oxford School has since benefitted from additional support, and in 2009 GCSE results (including English and Maths) rose to 35%. Initial results for 2010 are that GCSE results fell back to 31%.

Although the school has made progress in improving the education offered to its students, the county council believes that a radical change in structure is needed to sustain this improvement, and to reverse the trend of declining student numbers. This is why we are now proposing that Oxford School should be closed and replaced with an academy.

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.

16-19 provision will be reprovided in the new Academy. The involvement of Oxford and Cherwell Valley College as a sponsor will allow for a broader offer of courses to this age group.

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.

The places currently provided by the school will continue to be provided by the new Academy. Secondary pupil numbers across Oxford city are expected to start rising again after a number of years' decline, and it is important that high-quality provision is 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.

n/a

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.

The school is currently large enough for 1279 pupils but the number on roll at the January 2010 pupil census was only 1019. The school is co-educational and provides for the 11-19 age group. In 2009 12.3% of pupils had an SEN statement compared to an LA average of 2.6%; 44% of pupils had English as an additional language compared to an LA average of 7.0%.

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or FE 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 LA 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 LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

Provision will be continued through the new Academy.

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

n/a

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.

This closure will have no adverse impact on the local community, as provision will continue through the new Academy. In strengthening educational standards, the new Academy will have positive impact on its local community.

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

Extended services will be continue and enhanced by the new Academy.

Travel

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

n/a

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

n/a

Related Proposals

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

This proposal is related to the proposal to open an Academy on the same site.

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, a statement that the LA or ghe 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 LA, 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)

n/a

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 LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of 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.

n/a

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA 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.

n/a
