

28th September 2021

To: Parents, Carers and Other Stakeholders

**TRUST IN LEARNING (ACADEMIES)
CONSULTATION STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED SITE CLOSURE, TRANSFER OF PUPILS AND RELATED
CHANGES TO THE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AT FILTON AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

This proposal is published in compliance with the Department of Education 'Making significant changes to an open academy and closure by mutual agreement' (Departmental guidance for all types of academy trust), November 2019.

Specific Proposal

- Trust in Learning (Academies) propose to close the primary provision based at a satellite facility of the school at Orchard Campus and relocate all current children (Years 1 through to 5) onto the larger Lockleaze Road site. This is to take effect from September 2022
- It is also proposed that the school reduces its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 120 to 90 pupil places from September 2023

Background and reason for the proposed change

Trust in Learning (Academies) and Filton Avenue Primary School opened the Orchard Campus facility in September 2012 in order to support the Local Authority's (LA) statutory duty to provide sufficient primary school places. Subsequently primary numbers have reduced to a point whereby the continuation of primary provision at Orchard Campus is not viable. Financially, the Trust is subsidising provision on the site, despite sufficient capacity to educate all of the school's pupils on the much larger Lockleaze Road site. It is clear from the Local Authorities' pupil forecasts that the falling roll situation is only going to deteriorate further over the next five-year period.

Data from the LA indicate that by 2025 there will still be a surplus of primary places in this area of North Bristol. With a current Pupil Admission Number of 120 Filton Avenue Primary School, operating on two sites, is the largest provider in the area and will therefore be more susceptible to falling numbers than other neighbouring academies and schools that are smaller.

Financially, the school due to its two-site operation with reducing pupil numbers is not financially viable. Taking into account pupil numbers, continuing to open the Orchard Campus will mean a deficit of over £200,000 within two years. Clearly the Trust, and the school, have an obligation to ensure its

monies received are spent to the benefit of all children equally and the continuation of primary learning on the Orchard Campus site would make this object impossible to deliver.

The Lockleaze Road site has the capacity to accommodate all the pupils currently at Orchard Campus and there are sufficient outdoor spaces.

Data evidencing the need to consolidate all pupils onto one site

The following figures represent the Local Authorities’ primary school forecast of numbers in the Horfield and Lockleaze area. In addition to Filton Avenue the other schools in this area include: Glenfrome Primary School, Horfield C of E, St Teresa’s, Stoke Park and Upper Horfield. The total Published Admission Number (PAN) for the area is 330.

Horfield and Lockleaze	
2020/21	300
2021/22	284
2022/23	290
2023/24	307
2024/25	257
2025/26	249

The forecast is showing that by 2025/26 there will be 81 fewer pupils serving the area and its schools. The two tables below demonstrate how the fall in primary numbers is affecting Filton Avenue Primary School, which currently should be admitting 120 pupils with a total capacity of 840:

Number on Roll (NOR)

Year	NOR
2017/18	773
2018/19	735
2019/20	700
2020/21	684
2021/22	680

Reception Place Forecast (from LA)

Year	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
+/-	88	90	95	80	77

The above figures clearly show the challenge that the Trust and the school are trying to tackle.

Impact upon Learning

The Trust and the school’s leadership are very confident that this proposed transfer of pupils will not have any detrimental effect to the quality of education provided and there will be continuity of teaching with teaching staff transferring alongside pupils. It is not envisaged that the transfer of pupils and the closure of Orchard Campus will require any significant loss in staffing apart from those via natural wastage.

Implementation

If this proposal is supported, then all children in Year 1 through to Year 5 will move to the Lockleaze Road site in September 2022. Their education on the Orchard Campus site will not be affected in this academic year (2021/22). The school leadership will work to ensure that all pupils/parents are supported in the transfer in order for the transfer to be as smooth as possible

Changes to the Schools Admissions Criteria

Alongside this proposal is another consultation exercise requesting that the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Filton Avenue Primary School is reduced from 120 pupils on entry to 90. Further information on this consultation can be found on both the Trust and the school's websites.

How to make your views known

The consultation will run from Tuesday 28th September 2021 until midday on Friday 12th November 2021. All stakeholders are invited to submit their views via an electronic response form which can be found by following the link below: -

[Response Form for Site Closure of Orchard Campus](#)

Alternatively, comments can be made in writing about the proposal to:

Orchard Campus Consultation
Trust in Learning (Academies)
Teyfant Road
Bristol
BS13 0RG

For the duration of the consultation the Trust in Learning (Academies) and Filton Avenue Primary School websites will display the following:

- Parent/Stakeholder letter
- Consultation statement
- Stakeholder Response Form
- Question and Answer page about the proposed changes

School website: www.filtonavenue.com

Trust website: www.tilacademies.co.uk

Stakeholders are deemed to be:

- Parents and carers of children aged between 3 and 11 years of age
- All other admission authorities within the relevant area
- Bristol City Council Local Authority
- Any adjoining local admission authorities where the admission authority is the local authority
- Other persons in the local area who may have an interest in the proposed new arrangements

As set out in the 'Making significant changes to an open academy and closure by mutual agreement' (Departmental guidance for all types of academy trust), November 2019, we are entering into a period of consultation that will run from Tuesday 28th September 2021 and end at midday on Friday 12th November 2021.

There will be a ***Parent/Stakeholder meeting on Tuesday 5th October at 7 pm*** in the hall at Orchard Campus.

Following the consultation, the directors of the Trust will apply to the Regional Schools Commissioner to make a decision, on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Further information about Trust in Learning (Academies) can be found at: www.tilacademies.co.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark J Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Mark J Davies
CEO, Trust in Learning