



ESTEEM SOUTH ACADEMY CONSULTATION ON SIGNIFICANT CHANGE PROPOSAL

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Introduction

Esteem South Academy is seeking views on a significant change proposal that will see the academy double in size following the repurposing of its current space. This change aims to better meet the needs of students and stakeholders by expanding the provision for 5-16-year-olds in line with local authority demand for Alternative Provision (AP). Crucially, as part of this significant development, the centre will be looking beyond the local authority it is based (Derbyshire CC) for direct commissioning from local schools and neighbouring local authorities meaning we are not seeing base funding from the local authority (Derbyshire CC) as this will be covered by commissioning schools.

Purpose of the Consultation

We are consulting with key stakeholders to gather feedback on the proposed changes before submitting a formal application to the Department for Education (DfE). Your views are essential in ensuring the proposal is fully informed and considers the needs of students, staff, parents, and the wider community.

Proposed Changes

- **Increase in pupil capacity:** The academy will double its current student intake, offering more places for pupils requiring AP support.
- **Repurposing of existing space:** Adaptations will be made to facilities to ensure a high-quality learning environment.
- **Enhancement of curriculum and support services:** Expansion of vocational, therapeutic, and academic provision to better serve students' needs.
- **Additional staffing and resources:** Recruitment of additional teaching and support staff to maintain a high level of educational provision.

Rationale for the Change

- **Growing demand for AP places** from local authorities and schools requiring specialist intervention for students who benefit from small-group, targeted education. To further address this and broaden our impact, the centre will be actively pursuing direct commissioning opportunities with local schools and neighbouring local authorities, extending our reach beyond Derbyshire County Council.
- **Improved student outcomes** through a broader curriculum, additional therapeutic interventions, and enhanced pastoral support.
- **Alignment with local and national strategies** to strengthen Alternative Provision and support vulnerable learners.
- **Exclusion rates** are above average in Derbyshire and this provision will be a preventative measure.

Potential Impacts and Mitigations

Educational Impact

- Increased curriculum options and specialist support services.
- More flexible learning spaces tailored to students' needs.

Staffing and Workforce

- Additional recruitment to ensure adequate staffing levels.
- Continued professional development to support the expansion.

Operational and Logistical Considerations

- Adaptations to the school environment to accommodate additional students.
- Revised safeguarding and behaviour management protocols to reflect the larger cohort.

Transport and Accessibility

- Engagement with the Local Authority regarding any necessary transport adjustments.
- Clear travel and access arrangements for students and families.

Stakeholder Engagement

We invite views from:

- **Students**
- **Parents and carers**
- **Staff and governors**
- **Local authorities and commissioning partners**
- **Neighbouring schools and community groups**

How to Share Your Views

You can provide feedback in the following ways:

- **Complete our online survey** [ESA Significant Change Consultation Survey](#)
- **Submit written feedback via email:** vbroad@esteemsouthacademy.co.uk

Next Steps

- Consultation opens: **14th April 2025**
- Consultation closes: **12th May 2025**
- Review of responses: **13th May 2025**
- Submission of application to DfE: **1st June 2025**
- Implementation of approved changes: **21st July 2025**

We appreciate your time and engagement in this important consultation process. Your feedback will help shape the future of Esteem South Academy and ensure we continue to provide high-quality education and support for our students

Esteem South Academy
Consultation Survey

