



ESTEEM NORTH ACADEMY CONSULTATION ON SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

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HUNLOKE CENTRE



Introduction

Esteem North Academy is part of Esteem Multi-Academy Trust (EMAT). It provides education to pupils from reception to year 11 who are permanently excluded (PEX) from school. It currently has 3 sites over the north of Derbyshire and is commissioned to take pupils to roll at Day 6 of their PEX. Derbyshire County Council is the main commissioner of pupil places at the academy. The Local Authority has a duty to provide education at Day 6 of a PEX and DCC commission Esteem North Academy to provide these places in the north of the county.

Secondary schools are also requesting high quality alternative provision and dual registered places as a preventative measure to try to prevent a PEX. The purpose of the academy is also to be able to offer such places. However, priority must be for PEX pupils. The academy have not been able to offer more than 1 secondary dual registered place in the Chesterfield area during 2024-25 due to the high demand for Day 6 PEX places.

Esteem North Academy is seeking views on a significant change proposal that will see the academy increase in pupils numbers by acquiring an additional site. This change aims to better meet the needs of PEX pupils by expanding the provision for 11-16-year-olds in Chesterfield in line with local authority demand for Day 6 places.

This change also aims to expand the dual registration offer for preventative places for pupils aged 11-16 by direct commissioning to 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 pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community. This consultation refers to the Hunloke Centre in Chesterfield.

Proposed Changes

- Increase in pupil capacity in Chesterfield: The academy will provide further additional places for pupils requiring a place at Day 6 of a PEX for pupils aged 11-16. This change will provide an additional **65** places for PEX pupils at Day 6. This is in addition to the significant change consultation for the Spire Diagnostic Centre which will provide 45 places.
- Ability to offer dual registration preventative pupil places for pupils in years 11-16.
- Provision of vocational qualifications – to provide a further enhanced bespoke educational offer to the pupils on roll at Esteem North academy rather than out sourcing of this.
- Provision of vocational qualifications – offer of paid for places to mainstream schools via a service level agreement.
- Additional staffing and resources: recruitment of additional teaching and support staff for the vocational offer which will be developed over a period of time.

Rationale for the Change

- Demand for pupil places in the academy has risen significantly since 2022. The academy is creative with bespoke timetables and pathways to meet as many pupil's needs as possible. Each of the 3 Esteem North sites have been developed over the past few years to increase pupil capacity as far as possible. However, demand is greater than the current secondary space in Chesterfield can provide due to the continued number of pupils that are subject to a permanent exclusion in this area. The Hasland site has been to capacity since December 2023.
- Esteem North academy took to roll approximately an additional 60 pupils in Chesterfield aged 11-16. These pupils have been provided with bespoke timetables, all of which having some time over their week on site at the Hasland base. These timetables may include on site learning, online learning, home tutoring on a one to one basis, work experience or off site commissioned vocational alternative provision.
- From Jan 25 onwards the academy offer was to capacity in the Chesterfield area and it was not able to take to roll any more pupils in years 7 to 11 in the Chesterfield area. This created a waiting list for academy places. The Local Authority remain responsible for the education of these PEX pupils.
- The Hasland site has accommodated additional pupils since January 2024 for part of the day to ensure that the pupils had access to a school site. However, this has affected the pathway 4 offer for the Hasland pupils. Pathway 4 offers vulnerable pupils with additional needs more space on site and possible one to one learning. The additional pupil numbers have made pathway 4 a challenge to offer as more pupils have accessed the site.
- This additional site should be able to allow Esteem North Academy to take all PEX pupils to roll in the north of the county at Day 6. Therefore, all PEX pupils should have a school place as long as trends remain as they have over previous years.
- This will therefore, allow the pupils to have the same core educational offer as the other secondary age pupils on roll at Esteem North Academy as there will be physical space for them.
- Based on historical PEX trend data, we predict that Esteem North academy will be required to offer circa 350-380 pupil places for Day 6 pupils. We predict that a further 40 pupils may be PEX in the summer term 25.
- Growing demand for AP places from local authorities and schools requiring specialist intervention for pupils who benefit from small-group, targeted education as a preventative measure to prevent a PEX. To further address this and broaden our impact, the site will actively pursue direct commissioning opportunities with local schools and neighbouring local authorities, extending our reach beyond Derbyshire County Council through dual registration places.
- Exclusion rates are above average in Derbyshire and this provision will be a preventative measure.
- This larger additional site and change will allow for the curriculum to be expanded with vocational qualifications. This will broaden the academy's offer for the pupils on roll, but also offer opportunity for schools to commission Esteem North via a service level agreement. This will benefit mainstream pupils by providing further preventative places.
- The additional space and wider vocational offer will allow more pupils at one time to be timetabled to attend site.

Esteem North Academy Pupil Places	Commissioned pupil Places from DCC	Starting Pupil numbers	Additional pupils taken to roll	Total number of Pupils who were on roll at some point throughout the year	Total pupils off roll	Maximum pupils on roll at one point
22-23	100	93	128	221	34	187
23-24	135	188	198	386	56	330
24-25 (by 5th May 25)	250	246	74 (with 25 pupils on the waiting list)	320 (plus 25 on waiting list)	34	286 (plus 25 on waiting list)

Potential Impacts and Mitigations

Educational Impact

- PEX pupils will be provided with an on- site curriculum offer where they can achieve GCSEs and Functional skills
- All PEX pupils will be offered a school place at day 6 so that they can engage in education with their peers.
- All PEX pupils will achieve outcomes which will have a positive impact on post 16 options and their future careers.
- All PEX pupils will be on a school role and have full support from a level 6 careers advisor and pastoral team who provide wrap around holistic support including safeguarding.
- All PEX pupils will be on a school role and have a place in a physical building rather than being at home which may affect parents ability to work. Pupils will be supervised and safeguarded in school.
- Pathway 4 pupils at Hasland will have more space to learn and be provided with one to one learning where this meet their needs.
- This larger site at Hunloke will allow for Esteem North to offer all pathways for all of its secondary age pupils regardless of which site they are on roll at. This will positively impact pupils by meeting need as there will be more flexible learning spaces tailored to pupils needs.
- Increased curriculum options for more pupils. Vocational offer suggested to include: hospitality & catering, woodwork/joinery/enterprise, public services, sport, hair & beauty, childcare, health & social care.
- Potential for a nurture provision for secondary age SEND pupils based on a primary model with a life skills curriculum in a safe space.

Staffing and Workforce

- Some final recruitment required to ensure this new site is staffed to offer the same educational package as the other secondary sites including pastoral, phonics, administrative and careers support.

- Increased size of the safeguarding team to account for the increase in cohort.
- Much of this recruitment is currently already in place as the academy has been educating additional pupils with lack of physical space since January 2024.

Operational and Logistical Considerations

- Consideration has already been made to allow for a revised Senior Leader structure to ensure the new site has high quality leadership and oversight.
- Operational site leader has been recruited to.

Transport and Accessibility

- Engagement with the Local Authority regarding any necessary transport adjustments.
- Clear travel and access arrangements for pupils and families
- Communication with surrounding stakeholders around the impact of increased transport during academy start and finish time.

Approval needed from the Department for Education

When an academy trust proposes changes to a school's characteristics, as outlined above, the Department for Education requires specific criteria to be met, including a formal consultation process. This process must be completed before any changes can be implemented, in accordance with the Academies Act 2010. The publication of this document marks the beginning of the consultation process led by the Esteem Multi Academy Trust, ensuring that all stakeholders can share their views on the proposal. The guidelines for the process are set out in Making significant changes to an open academy.

The Consultation

This marks the beginning of the consultation process, offering stakeholders an opportunity to share their views on the proposal.

The consultation process will follow these steps:

1. Launch of Consultation

a. This document will be distributed on Friday 9th May 2025, and a notice of consultation will be published on the Esteem Multi-Academy Trust website.

2. Consultation Period

a. The consultation period will run for three weeks, closing Friday 30th May 2025.

b. During this time, stakeholders are invited to review the proposal and submit their feedback.

3. Review Feedback

- a. At the end of the consultation period, the Trust will review and consider all submitted comments.

4. Submission to the Regional Schools Commissioner

- a. Once all feedback has been considered, the Trust will submit the proposal, along with the consultation responses, to the Regional Schools Commissioner as part of the significant change process.

Stakeholder Engagement

We invite views from:

- Pupils
- 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

[Esteem North Academy Significant Change Consultation - Hunloke Centre](#)

- Submit written feedback via email: janine.dix@esteemnorthacademy.co.uk

Next Steps

- Consultation opens: 9th May 2025
- Consultation closes: 30th May 2025
- Review of responses: 2nd June 2025
- Submission of application to DfE (Fast Track): 16th 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 North Academy and ensure we continue to provide high-quality education and support for our pupils.