

Consultation on Proposals for Partnership Learning to set up a new secondary Free school provision in the Gascoigne area of Barking.

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**1.0 Introduction**

Following a successful application to the Department for Education to set up a new secondary Free school in the Gascoigne area of Barking, Partnership Learning are proposing to open Greatfields School. Greatfields School’s permanent accommodation will be a new-build on the regenerated Gascoigne Estate.

This document sets out the opportunities for interested parties to give their views on the proposals outlined above.

**2.0 Partnership Learning**

Partnership Learning brings together a range of local partners, including parents from the local community, local headteachers and the voluntary sector training provider, Lifeline.

Partnership Learning already runs five schools in Barking and Dagenham:

The Sydney Russell School - a mainstream 4-18 all-through converter academy in Dagenham

Riverside School - a mainstream 11-18 secondary Free school on Barking Riverside

Riverside Primary School – a mainstream 4 -11 primary Free school on Barking Riverside

Riverside Bridge School – a 4-18 special Free school on Barking Riverside

Thames View Junior School – a mainstream 7-11 junior sponsored academy on Barking Riverside

In its work in Barking and Dagenham, Partnership Learning is:

* Focused on improving the educational opportunities and life chances of the young people of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
* Committed to working as a full member of Barking and Dagenham’s existing family of schools and in partnership with the Local Authority
* Committed to providing a high quality range of flagship educational provisions to enable families to access mainstream and special education for all ages in their own local community.

**3.0 Background**

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has one of the fastest-growing school-age populations in the country: overall pupil numbers in the Borough are set to rise by 50% between 2015 and 2020. Based on student numbers already in primary schools, there will be a need for the equivalent of four new 10 form-entry secondary schools in the Borough within the next seven years.

Parents of Year 6 pupils living in the Gascoigne and central Barking areas are having increasing difficulty securing places at local secondary schools and this difficulty is being further exacerbated by the rapidly growing population as new-build housing becomes available.

Partnership Learning responded to this local need by submitting an application to the Department for Education to establish a secondary Free school – Greatfields School - on the regenerated Gascoigne Estate, offering families an accessible, high-quality learning pathway for children growing up in the local area.

The proposed school will cater for 1,824 pupils aged 11-18 years, with ten forms of entry to each year group. There will be extended opportunities for lifelong learning and personal development through wide-ranging community provision, dual use of facilities and direct links to enhanced opportunities in further and higher education and employment.

**4.0 Our Proposals for Greatfields School**

Our motto “Excellence for All” sums up our aims. Greatfields School will deliver outcomes significantly above the national average for pupils on all key measures, will support development of the personal qualities of confidence and resilience essential for a successful life, and support development of the skills and strategies for lifelong learning.

Greatfields School will make full use of the freedoms its status will bring to be innovative and develop a personalised curriculum that suits the needs of all its pupils. The school’s governance arrangements will enable fast, flexible decision-making at school level, enabling resources to be used efficiently and effectively to continually raise achievement.

The school will benefit from experienced leadership through being a part of Partnership Learning, in particular through close links with successful Partnership Learning secondary schools– The Sydney Russell School and Riverside School - to ensure that Greatfields School gets off to the best possible start.

We believe in provision of the same high quality learning opportunities, teaching and facilities for all, whilst rigorously tailoring learning to meet the distinctive needs of different groups of pupils. Greatfields School will ensure pupils are able to achieve their full potential and experience a wide range of appropriate challenges.

**4.1 Curriculum**

Greatfields School will be dedicated to ensuring excellence for all students. Our innovative curriculum model is based on the concept of three distinct pathways within the school, providing appropriately and inclusively for students of differing aptitudes and abilities:

We will ensure maximum flexibility for students to transfer between pathways as their needs change and develop.

Although innovative, this model has a proven track record in Partnership Learning’s successful local secondary schools – Sydney Russell and Riverside - and is very popular with parents.

The curriculum will offer three different pathways for different students, to match the needs of each individual:

• Accelerated Pathway - Approximately 60% of each year group - a traditional academic curriculum, with the expectation that students will achieve the very highest GCSE grades, studying three separate sciences and at least one language, moving on to A’ Levels in the Sixth Form and the best universities.

• Standard Pathway - Approximately 25% of each year group - a mixed academic and vocational/applied curriculum. At age 14-16, students will study the core GCSEs and then choose at least one applied learning or vocational course alongside additional GCSE options, which will enable students to choose the pathway best suited to their aspirations and abilities whether moving on to university, college and/or work based learning.

• Supported Pathway - Approximately 15% of each year group - tailored to the needs of those who need extra help in reaching a good standard of education. From 11-14 they will have one teacher for half their week, to develop literacy and numeracy. From 14-16 they will have an individual programme which might include college or work-based learning alongside vocational qualifications, leading to employment or further training.

We believe that delivering the curriculum at Greatfields School through differentiated pathways offers the best opportunities for:

- achievement to be maximised

- each pupil to have a personalised curriculum appropriate to their needs

- teachers to deliver lessons at an appropriate pace

- expectations and targets to be set and reinforced

- pupils to be challenged and supported at the right level

- a positive learning environment to be nurtured and maintained

- pupils to develop confidence and self-esteem, whilst competing with their peers

- allowing efficiently for smaller group sizes for those needing additional support

**4.2 Pupil Allocation to Pathways**

On entry to Year 7 pupils will be placed in one of three pathways, based on their Year 6 scores and our aspirational targets and expectations.

For the purposes of planning, the assumption will be made that on average approximately 60% of pupils will be placed in the Accelerated pathway, 25% in the Standard pathway and 15% in the Supported pathway.

However, these proportions are not fixed and can be adjusted each year according to the needs of the actual cohort.

For pupils with specific barriers to learning we will decide placement in a pathway based on their underlying overall ability and ensure that they are provided with additional support to succeed.

For academically gifted pupils there will be further opportunities for extension and enrichment within the Accelerated pathway.

**4.3 Movement between Pathways**

There will be ample flexibility for pupils to move between pathways as their needs and aptitudes develop and change. Once a term pupils and their parents will receive a formal assessment of their progress against their targets.

These progress reports will be analysed to identify any pupils who would benefit from a change of pathway, either because they are performing above the expected level for their current pathway or are showing signs of needing additional support. Movement between pathways will mainly take place at the start of a new academic year but may sometimes be appropriate at the start of a new term within the year.

**4.4 Sixth Form**

It is intended that the Sixth Form will be part of the highly successful Southern Consortium, which brings together the Sixth Forms of Jo Richardson, Eastbury, Sydney Russell, Dagenham Park and Riverside schools, enabling the maximum number of students to progress to university entrance and professional qualifications.

**4.5 ICT**

Greatfields School students will have access to the creative and innovative use of computers and new technology. The very highest standards of uniform, discipline and mutual respect will be expected of all who study at Greatfields School.

**4.6 Extended Provision: before and after school hours**

It is envisaged that the school will operate as an ‘extended school’ for pupils both before and after the school day, with a wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer. It will also be available for wider community use at weekends and during school holidays.

Local groups and organisations will be encouraged to participate in the planning of activities and the wider aspects of the school’s life. It is intended that the new school will contribute to community cohesion through its work with local schools and community organisations

**4.7 Pupil Numbers and Accommodation**

Greatfields School’s permanent accommodation will be a new, purpose-built building on the regenerated Gascoigne Estate.

On the opening of Greatfields School, places for 120 Year 7 pupils will be available and the school will then grow year on year until it reaches capacity at 1,824 places in 2025.

The proposed accommodation arrangements are subject to final approval from the Department for Education.

**4.8 Admissions**

Our admissions process is administered and co-ordinated on the school’s behalf by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, using the Pan-London Coordinated Admissions scheme.

Pan-London Coordinated Admissions scheme Timetable for Admissions to Year 7:

**Saturday 31 October 2015** - Statutory deadline for receipt of applications (closing date)

**Tuesday 1 March 2016** - National offer day for on-time applicants

Number of children to be admitted (Pupil Admissions Number)

The number of pupils to be admitted to Year 7 in Greatfields School for the first academic year will be 120.

How to apply for a school place

The admissions process is co-ordinated by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) who electronically publish a copy of their admissions booklet ‘Moving to secondary school’ on their website www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/admissions

Parents or carers should normally apply for a place at Greatfields School by using an online Common Application Form (CAF) available online at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk). For further information,please visit the Barking and Dagenham website on www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/admissions

**Admissions/Over-subscription criteria for Greatfields School**

Greatfields School will have an admission number of 120 pupils for entry in year 7. The academy will accordingly admit at least 120 pupils if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 120 or fewer apply.

The school will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming Greatfields School.

Priority will then be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in order:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (Note 1 below)

2. Other children

**Tie-breaks**

Proximity to the school will first be applied if the school is oversubscribed in criteria 2 above, with those living closest to the school having priority for admission.

Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child’s home to the front gates of the school.

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between a child’s home and the school is equidistant in any individual case.

However, if children of multiple birth (twins and triplets) are tied for the final place, those siblings will be admitted over PAN.

*Greatfields School’s full admissions policy is available on the school’s website:* [*www.greatfieldsschool.com*](http://www.greatfieldsschool.com)

**5.0 The Consultation Process**

**5.1 Key Dates for the Consultation**

Consultation Period Starts: Monday 8th February 2016

Drop-in Consultation Event:

Gascoigne Primary School, Gascoigne Road, Barking IG11 7DR

Wednesday 24th February 2016 6.00 – 8.00pm

Consultation Period Ends: 12 noon on Friday 18th March 2016

**5.2 Actions following on from the Consultation**

Partnership Learning will read and consider all responses received.

The Trust will produce summaries of the responses to the consultations, which will be published on their website: www.partnershiplearning.com

The Trust hopes to be able to address comments received and will explain in the summary on their website how they have tried to do this and how they intend to take into account in their plans the comments received.

The summary will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education in order to inform her decision on whether to enter into a funding agreement with Partnership Learning to set up Greatfields School in central Barking.

**6.0 How to contact us and find out more**

You may find out more about the proposals of Partnership Learning by visiting their website www.partnershiplearning.com - or by emailing Partnership Learning, at:

office@partnershiplearning.com

You are also invited to attend an informal drop-in Consultation Event, to give your views or ask questions, at Gascoigne Primary School, Gascoigne Road, Barking IG11 7DR on Wednesday 24th February 2016 at any time between 6.00 – 8.00pm

**7.0 Consultation Questions**

The purpose of this consultation, carried out under the requirements of the Academies Act 2010, is to ascertain the views of interested persons on the proposal of Partnership Learning to set up Greatfields School.

You are therefore invited to give your views on the questions of:

1. Do you think it is a good idea that the proposed School – Greatfields School - should be set up?
2. What are your views on the proposed location of the school?
3. The Trust that will run Greatfields School is required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, an example of which can be found on the DfE website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>

Do you agree that Partnership Learning should sign a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to set up Greatfields School in central Barking.?

1. Do you have any further comments on any of the proposals outlined in this consultation document?

You may send your views and comments at any time during the consultation period to the following email address:

[office@partnershiplearning.com](mailto:office@partnershiplearning.com)

or by post to:

Chief Executive,

Partnership Learning,

c/o The Sydney Russell School,

Parsloes Avenue,

Dagenham, RM9 5QT

You may also give your views in person at a drop-in Consultation Event at Gascoigne Primary School, Gascoigne Road, Barking IG11 7DR on Wednesday 24th February 2016 at any time between 6.00 – 8.00pm.

Alternatively, or in addition, you may wish to respond by answering the questions in the Consultation Questionnaire below and sending your answers by email or post to the addresses above.

**8.0 Consultation Questionnaire**

1. ***Do you think it is a good idea that the proposed School – Greatfields School - should be set up?***

**Yes □ No □**

**Further Comments:**

1. ***What are your views on the proposed location of the school?***

**Comments:**

1. ***Do you agree that Partnership Learning should sign a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to set up Greatfields School in central Barking.***

**Yes** □ **No** □

Note; The Trust that will run Riverside Special School is required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, an example of which can be found on the DfE website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>

**Further Comments:**

1. ***Do you have any further comments on any of the proposals outlined in this consultation document?***

**Appendix 1 Consultation Summary**

***This is a summary - for full consultation document visit:*** [*www.greatfieldsschool.com*](http://www.greatfieldsschool.com)

**Consultation**

A consultation is currently underway regarding proposals to set up new secondary school provision in central Barking, following an application to the Department for Education by Partnership Learning.Partnership Learning intends to establish Greatfields School, in central Barking. The school will be a co-educational secondary Free school for 1,824 young people between the ages of 11 to 18 with ten forms of entry to each year group, and an initial intake of 120 Year 7 pupils.

**Background**

Parents of Year 6 pupils living in central Barking are having increasing difficulty securing places at local secondary schools and this difficulty is being further exacerbated by the rapidly growing population as new-build housing becomes available. Partnership Learning responded to this local need by submitting an application to the Department for Education to establish a secondary Free school.

**The Consultation Process**

Consultation Period Starts: 8th February 2016 Ends: 12 noon on 18th March 2016

Drop-in Consultation Event to give views in person or ask questions:

Gascoigne Primary School, Gascoigne Road, Barking IG11 7DR on Wednesday 24th February 2016 at any time between 6.00 – 8.00pm .

You may find out more about the proposal of Partnership Learning by visiting their website –www.partnershiplearning.com - or by emailing Partnership Learning, at: [office@partnershiplearning.com](mailto:office@partnershiplearning.com)

**Consultation Questions**

The purpose of this consultation, carried out under the requirements of the Academies Act 2010, is to ascertain the views of interested persons on the proposal of Partnership Learning to set up Greatfields School.

You are therefore invited to give your views on the questions of:

1. Do you think it is a good idea that the proposed School – Greatfields School - should be set up?
2. What are your views on the proposed location of the school?
3. The Trust that will run Riverside Primary School is required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. Do you agree that Partnership Learning should sign a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to set up Greatfields School in central Barking.
4. Do you have any further comments on any of the proposals outlined in this consultation document?

You may send your views and comments at any time during the consultation period to the following email address: [office@partnershiplearning.com](mailto:office@partnershiplearning.com)

or by post to:

Chief Executive, Partnership Learning,

c/o The Sydney Russell School,

Parsloes Avenue,

Dagenham, RM9 5QT