

Gilbert Ward Academy Consultation Meetings and Online Survey Questions and Feedback

**Community Consultation Meeting
22 June 2021
4:00pm**

- Question** **What percentage of pupils will be from Northumberland?**
Answer There will be 80 places for children aged 11-16 at the school. In the specification drafted by the county council they said that up to 20 places may be commissioned by neighbouring local authorities with 60+ being from Northumberland. Our experience in Sunderland opening the Harry Watts Academy which had a similar approach has seen the city council commission all places so far and this may be the case for Gilbert Ward Academy.
- Comment** **Concerns were raised about the potential for vandalism/fly tipping particularly on an evening as the site is quite hidden from the main road.**
- Comment** **We are supportive of the need for this school and the specialist provision it will offer**
- Comment** **Have you considered offering adult classes at the school? It was really popular previously and could be again.**
- Question** **Why did you pick this site? Would the school help and/or contribute to the upkeep of the public area?**
Answer The site was determined by the local authority and agreed with the Department for Education. We were not involved at this stage in the process however going forward in terms of building design / use etc we will be working alongside the wider team to deliver the school.
- We would also welcome the opportunity to work with local residents to support local activities and events and look forward to doing so for years to come.

**Parent/Carer One Consultation Meeting
22 June 2021
6:00pm**

- Question** **Are your current schools a mix of SEMH and ASD?**
Answer Yes. The Trust has 4 schools currently; Thomas Bewick and Harry Watts are both ASD with Newcastle Bridges and Mary Astell both offering SEMH.

Question **When is the best time to name the school for my child? (they are a 2023 admission)**
Answer Admissions will follow local authority time frames with all children having to have an EHCP with the school named. As we move forward and have clarity on an opening date we will provide as much information as we can to parents.

Partner Agencies Consultation Meeting
23 June 2021
10:00am

No attendees

Councillors Consultation Meeting
30 June 2021
2:00pm

Question **How many places are for Northumberland children?**
Answer There will be 80 places for children aged 11-16 at the school. In the specification drafted by the county council they said that up to 20 places may be commissioned by neighbouring local authorities with 60+ being from Northumberland.

Question **There is a shortage of places generally for special in Northumberland, was there no bigger site this school could have gone on?**
Answer The site was identified by the county council and agreed with the DfE. This was deemed to be the most suitable for education use.

Question **Will there be any community facilities on site?**
Answer Yes. We are currently planning community use of the buildings out of school hours i.e. evenings, weekends and school holidays. We hope to extend the facilities for use for activities such as adult learning, catering, outdoor learning etc. If anyone is interested in finding out more about use of the facilities please contact consultation@prosperlearningtrust.co.uk and we will follow up with you direct.

Parent/Carer Two Consultation Meeting

30 June 2021

4:00pm

Question **Would I apply for a place as normal or do I have to do something else?**
Answer Admissions will follow local authority time frames with all children having to have an EHCP with the school named. As we move forward and have clarity on an opening date we will provide as much information as we can to parents.

Comment **Northumberland does not diagnose dyslexia**

School Heads and Chairs Consultation Meeting

1 July 2021

4:30pm

No attendees

Online Google Survey and Emails Comments and Questions

Question **How will children from our area access a school on Princess Louise Road in Blyth. Do you have plans for transport, or will that be left to the county council as at present?**

Answer The County Council will be responsible for commissioning places to the school as well as transport arrangements. Exact detail will need to be determined but we envisage this will be a combination of taxi's and minibuses for children.

Question **You still need to add the link to Northumberland LA Local Offer (it only says Newcastle and Sunderland) – Do you agree with our SEND policy?**

Answer This has now been rectified

Comment **I hope that this school will embrace Emotion Coaching as a way of supporting relationships between staff and pupils and provide an evidence based way to help children to regulate their emotions. If you are planning to use a behavioural approach (which focuses on controlling and modifying behaviour through the use of rewards and punishments) then you should NOT be allowed to open a school for pupils with SEMH.**

Comment **NCC land large field back Park Road/Plessey Road corner this land was to build a new school on ready to open approximately 1978 but it just stands unbuilt.**

- Comment** Site Security is upmost and hopefully CCTV will be 24hr coverage/as there is a public path/walkway running alongside this Special School
- Comment** Thirston Parish Council fully support this proposed academy
- Comment** As chair of the interim executive board of Haydon Bridge High School I would like to offer my 100% support for the establishment of the Gilbert Ward Academy. I am sure that a new special free school for children with SEMH aged 11-16 will be of great benefit to Northumberland. My only hesitation regarding this proposal is that it is based so far away from Haydon Bridge and I would hope that once established the new school will find ways of working with the communities in the far west and north of the county. I have copied in the Headteacher of the school - and I am sure he would welcome a conversation about how links can be developed.
- Letter** With regards to the proposed new academy in Blyth I am totally against the idea. I live in the vicinity of the proposed new building, and the value of my property will be slashed in value as a result, plus the area involved cannot handle the increase in vehicles that will obviously occur when the building is complete.
- Comment** Longhorsley Parish Council has been made aware of the Trust and of the specialist work done at the Thomas Bewick School. We fully endorse the development of this new facility in Northumberland to support Special Educational Needs, including SEMH and ASD conditions.
- Comment** Amble Town Council recognises the need for Specialist Education in Northumberland and therefore welcome any provision which helps to provide for these students. However, we are concerned that there is a concentration of provisions in the south of the county and our children in Amble will still need to travel a long distance to access their education. Provision further north would help to alleviate the issues experienced by many families in these areas.
- Comment** Cramlington Town Council wholeheartedly supports the Gilbert Ward Academy. This decision was made at our Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 1 July 2021.
- Comment** Rennington Parish Council considered the matter at their meeting on 24 June 2021 and unanimously agreed to support the establishment of such a school in Northumberland. The Parish Council recognised there is a need for more Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) specialist education in Northumberland. The Council is of the new that the Secretary of State should enter into a funding agreement with the Trust to open the proposed new school. We wish you every success for the future.
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