



All Saints Church of England Academy Sixth Form suspension consultation

Introduction

The Governing Body at All Saints, with the support of the Diocese of Exeter, following much discussion, has decided to consult on a proposal to suspend its Sixth Form and not to recruit new Sixth Form students into Year 12 for the academic year September 2018 – July 2019.

Rationale

Funding of sixth forms has been challenging for some time and the drop in student numbers over time means it is increasingly difficult to financially sustain All Saints' Sixth Form.

The average sixth form college has around 1,700 students, while the average school sixth form has over 200. Economies of scale apply, so it is more expensive per student for schools to provide sixth form provision when numbers are low and they may have to subsidise them from other funding streams, such as that for 11 to 16-year-olds. The Department for Education recognises that sixth forms with less than 200 students are at risk of not being viable financially. All Saints currently has 127 students in the sixth form and, following the Open Evening in November, only 50 Y11 students returned application forms to join the Sixth Form this September.

Of the current numbers in the Sixth Form, the majority are studying vocational courses which means they train with a range of providers across the city. This leaves a small A Level cohort which has a negative impact on the range of A level subjects we are able to offer. As a consequence we have increasingly drawn on the support of the PLE (Partnership for Learning & Education) consortium to ensure a good A Level choice but, again, this is not financially viable in the long term.

Additionally, the small number of students regularly on site does not provide a good social experience for students nor does it prepare them for the larger environment of higher education or the work place.

This being said, the Governing Body recognises the importance of a Sixth Form in maintaining high aspirations and providing a range of post-16 options for students. In suspending provision for Year 12 students for the 2018-19 academic year, it is seeking time for a detailed review and, if appropriate, restructure of the Sixth Form to sustain its future viability from September 2019.

Next Steps

The four week consultation period will run from 12 March 2018 until 2 April 2018 to provide all stakeholders with the opportunity to present their opinions.

Your views are important to us, so please either complete and return the attached form by the 2 April 2018 or email the school: enquiries@asap.org.uk.

In their planning for the future strategic direction of the school, the Governors will consider all responses in their final decision for the suspension of the Sixth Form.

Mrs Jenny Thomas

Mr Gary Futchter

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

All Saints Church of England Academy Sixth Form suspension consultation: Some facts and figures

How large is a viable sixth form?

A school or college sixth form has to be large enough to be viable and sustainable in order to be able to provide a wide enough range of high quality courses. It has been recognised that sixth forms with fewer than 200 students are unviable, particularly in the light of the more recent funding changes where sixth form provision is now funded per student, instead of per qualification. The implications of these reforms have meant that some providers have been forced to cut courses whilst others have been forced to close.

All Saints School has not had more than 200 in its Sixth Form since 2013-14 and numbers have dropped every year and are currently at 127. This means it is not a financially viable sixth form and has to be funded from other funding streams such as that for 11-16 students.

How many students choose the Sixth Form at All Saints?

Over the past 4 years between 60-70% of Y11 students choose to join the Sixth Form but the number in each Year 11 cohort has reduced therefore the number joining the Sixth Form has dropped:

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number in Y12	126	104	73	83	78	50*

*applications as at 30 January 2018

Of these, over 50% participate in vocational courses with external providers and are not regularly on the school site.

Those students who do not join our Sixth Form take up opportunities at a wide range of post-16 providers across the city, including other sixth forms, apprenticeships and places at City College.

What would suspension mean for the current Year 12 students?

Students in Year 12 would be unaffected by this proposal. They would progress, as normal, into Year 13 to complete their studies.

What would suspension mean for the current Year 11 students?

Students in Year 11 would be unable to continue their post-16 education at All Saints but would be supported by the academy in choosing the correct provision elsewhere. All Saints will remain part of the post-16 PLE Consortium and the partner schools (Lipson, Tor Bridge, Sir John Hunt, Marine Academy) have indicated a willingness to support Y11 students who might want to join them for post-16 study.

Students would also be free, as currently, to seek any other appropriate post-16 provision in the city and beyond.

What would suspension mean for other students in the academy?

Suspension would mean that the academy is able to ensure full resourcing of Year 7 – Year 11 as there will be no need to subsidise post-16 funding. Those students will also benefit from the expertise of staff who will not be teaching A Level classes.

Implications for academy staff

The suspension of the Sixth Form will have no direct impact upon staffing as the school only offers a small range of A Levels (10 subjects) and staff can be deployed in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

What actions will be taken to prepare for 2019-20?

The suspension will provide the time to undertake a full review of post-16 provision, to discuss options with a range of other providers and plan for partnerships that will secure a long-term viable post-16 offer for students.



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Response sheet

Please use this space to tell us your views about the proposed suspension of the Sixth Form at All Saints Church of England Academy:

This section asks you for some information that will help us analyse the results of the responses and to see who has taken part. You will not be identified by any of the information you provide.

I am a: (Please tick and complete all those that apply to you)

Parent/carer

Student

Governor

Staff Member

Other Please tell us: