



Partnership Learning

Consultation on Proposals for Partnership Learning to set up a new primary Free school provision in central Barking – Greatfields Primary School

1.0 Introduction

Following a successful application to the Department for Education to set up a new primary Free school in the central Barking area, Partnership Learning is proposing to open Greatfields Primary School. Greatfields Primary School's permanent accommodation will be in a new building adjacent to Greatfields (Secondary) School.

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

2.0 Partnership Learning

Partnership Learning is an established multi-academy trust which already oversees nine schools in Barking and Dagenham:

The Sydney Russell School - a mainstream 4-18 all-through 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 academy in Thames View
Greatfields School - a mainstream 11-18 secondary Free school in central Barking
Eastbury Primary School - a mainstream 4 -11 primary academy in Barking
James Cambell Primary School - a mainstream 4 -11 primary academy in Dagenham
Brook Sixth Form and Academy – a 14-18 University Technical College in Dagenham East

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 schools to enable families to access mainstream and special education for all ages in their own local community.

The trust also oversees four other primary and secondary schools in other locations: Havering, Waltham Forest and Southend.

3.0 Background

The central Barking area of London Borough of Barking and Dagenham is being rapidly re-developed, with construction of a significant number of new homes. Greatfields Primary School is designed to be part of the solution to the challenge of ensuring that there will be sufficient primary school places available as the local population continues to grow.

Partnership Learning responded to this growing local need by submitting an application to the Department for Education to establish a primary Free school – Greatfields Primary School - within the regenerated Weavers' Quarter, offering families an accessible, high-quality learning pathway for children growing up in the local area.

The proposed school will eventually cater for 630 pupils aged 4-11 years, growing from an initial one form of entry to three forms of entry to each year group.

4.0 Our Proposals for Greatfields School

Our motto "Excellence for All" sums up our ambition. Greatfields Primary School will deliver outcomes 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 Primary School will be innovative and develop a 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 primary provisions – such as The Sydney Russell School Primary Phase and Riverside Primary School - to ensure that Greatfields Primary 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 tailoring learning to meet the distinctive needs of different groups of pupils. Greatfields Primary School will ensure pupils are able to achieve their full potential and experience a wide range of appropriate challenges.

4.1 Curriculum

In order to meet the key needs identified above we will focus relentlessly on achievement in the core subjects of Maths and English, both to ensure that all children meet expected levels by the end of Key Stage 2, and that those with the potential to do so reach greater depth.

Our curriculum at Greatfields Primary School will have at its core for Key Stages 1 and 2 the subjects and content set out in the National Curriculum, and for Reception the areas of learning and early learning goals set out in the Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework.

We will also take advantage of the primary school's co-location with Greatfields (Secondary) School to develop continuity and consistency ready for primary-secondary transfer, based on the highest expectations of pupil achievement.

We will develop children's physical as well as intellectual abilities by providing structured play and more formal sports and team games.

Children at Greatfields Primary will also develop confidence in expressing themselves through a wide range of creative learning experiences including Art, Drama and Music.

The curriculum and styles of teaching and learning will also focus on developing the key character traits and skills of confidence, oracy and resilience to enable our pupils to be secondary-ready, to lead successful lives and contribute positively to society.

4.2 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

4.3 Pupil Numbers and Accommodation

It is proposed that Greatfields Primary School will open on 1st September 2024, in its newly-built accommodation on the Weavers' Quarter in central Barking, adjacent to Greatfields (Secondary) School.

In September 2024, places for 30 Reception pupils will be available and the school will then grow year on year until it reaches capacity at 630 places, expected by 2030.

4.4 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 Reception:

15 January 2024	Statutory deadline for receipt of applications (closing date)
16 April 2024	National offer day for on-time applicants

Number of children to be admitted (Pupil Admissions Number):

The number of pupils to be admitted to Reception in Greatfields Primary School for the first academic year will be 30.

How to apply for a school place:

The admissions process is co-ordinated by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) who publish a copy of their primary school admissions booklet 'Starting School Full-Time' on their website: <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/starting-school-children-aged-3-and-4>

Admissions/Over-subscription criteria for Greatfields Primary School:

Greatfields Primary School will have an initial admission number of 30 pupils for entry in Reception in 2024. The academy will accordingly admit at least 30 pupils if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 30 or fewer apply.

Greatfield Primary School's full admissions policy is available on Partnership Learning's website: www.partnershiplearning.com

A summary of the key criteria for admission is set out below:

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

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

1. Children who are or were in the care of a Local Authority
2. Children who have a sibling at the school
3. Children who live closest to the school measured in kilometres in a straight line (as the crow flies)

Tie-breaks

A lottery system 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.

5.0 The Consultation Process

5.1 Key Dates for the Consultation

Consultation Period Starts: 12 noon on Monday 23rd October 2023

Drop-in Consultation Event:

Greatfields Secondary School, Net Street, Barking, IG11 7QG
Monday 13th November 2023 at any time between 4.30 – 6.30pm.

Consultation Period Ends: 12 noon on Monday 4th December 2023

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 Primary 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 Greatfields Secondary School, Net Street, Barking, IG11 7QG on Monday 6th November 2023, at any time between 4.30 – 6.30pm.

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 Primary 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 Primary 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 Primary 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

or by post to:

Chief Executive,
Partnership Learning,
Parsloes Avenue,
Dagenham,
Essex,
RM9 5QS

You may also give your views in person at a drop-in Consultation Event at Greatfields Secondary School, Net Street, Barking, IG11 7QG on Monday 13th November 2023 at any time between 4.30 – 6.30pm.

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 Primary School - should be set up?

Yes No

Further Comments:

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

Comments:

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

Yes No

Note; The Trust that will run Greatfields Primary 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:

4. 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.partnershiplearning.com

Consultation

A consultation is currently underway regarding proposals to set up new primary school provision in central Barking, following an application to the Department for Education by Partnership Learning. Partnership Learning intends to establish Greatfields Primary School, in central Barking. The school will be a co-educational primary Free school for 630 young people between the ages of 4 to 11 with three forms of entry to each year group, and an initial intake of 30 Reception pupils.

Background

The central Barking area of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham is being rapidly re-developed, with construction of a significant number of new homes. Greatfields Primary School is designed to be part of the solution to the challenge of ensuring that there will be sufficient primary school places available as the local population continues to grow. Partnership Learning responded to this growing local need by submitting an application to the Department for Education to establish a primary Free school.

The Consultation Process

Consultation Period

Starts: 12 noon Monday 23rd October 2023 Ends: 12 noon on Monday 4th December 2023

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

Greatfields Secondary School, Net Street, Barking, IG11 7QG on Monday 13th November 2023 at any time between 4.30 – 6.30pm.

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

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2. What are your views on the proposed location of the school?
3. The Trust that will run Greatfields 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 Primary School in central Barking.
4. Do you have any further comments on any of the proposals outlined in this consultation document?

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