



SECTION 10 CONSULTATION REPORT



CHILD CENTRED | ADAPTIVE TO NEED | AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

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THE YES TRUST

The Youth Engagement Schools (YES) Trust has successfully won a bid to establish a specialist day, co-educational, special school – The Raise Academy, located on Naylor Road in Widnes. It will admit 64 Students with EHC Plans, in the 11 to 16 age range, whose primary needs are Social, Emotional, & Mental Health (SEMH) related. Given the typical challenges and difficulties these children and young people face, and in response to the Halton and St. Helens LA specification, we aim to achieve far better outcomes with our specific cohort than is possible for local schools by improving each learner's life chances allowing them to thrive in modern Britain.

The Wider Vision of the Trust: **Our Core Values:**

The YES Trust is unwaveringly committed to helping vulnerable dis-engaged young people re-engage with education, ultimately giving them another chance to gain valuable academic and life skills to succeed within the modern world.

No child deserves to be written off or not given a chance to properly learn from less informed life choices. Our schools work to support our cohorts with autonomous curriculum's developing real life application of learning as well as high quality qualifications for further learning and work application.

The Trust specialises in the fields of alternative provision and specialist education settings and consistently looks to support with the development of these provisions through development, supporting and sponsoring both new and existing provision in these fields.

- Give every child an opportunity to succeed
- Cultivate a personalised learning pathway that challenges, engages and develops
- Support each student and family through personal, academic and future events
- Help students celebrate success and realise their potential

We want to help everyone C.H.A.N.G.E by gaining a positive attitude and the ability to succeed in life...

Challenge your self – Through bespoke teaching pathways we help all students challenge their ability, fostering accelerated progress no matter their start points. Giving students clear pathways to improvement destinations in all

areas of personal growth (academic, vocational, personal, social and emotional).

Help each other – Though all academies serve different cohorts and needs within their student bodies, we are committed to helping all achieve their true potential. Within each academy there is the explicit view that we are one community working together to benefit all. Together we learn, challenge and succeed.

Aspire to be great – No idea is a bad idea, and through our academies we foster curiosity and creativity. Our individual academies all have innovative models of delivery, which help every young person find their niche so they aspire to be great.

Nurture your potential – Even though our students may be dis-engaged or disillusioned with education and additionally often had extended periods away from formal schooling, this does not mean they are not gifted in certain areas. With a rich and deep curriculum in every academy we foster this talent stretching them to obtain higher qualification in their respective educational fields

Grow as an individual – We focus on each student's skills and interests to help focus specific study on progression into further / higher education, training and / or employment. With access to internal and external career days, all our students are equipped to make informed choices when they move onto their next step.

Enjoy learning – It is important to reinvigorate every student to once again love education so they can become confident lifelong learners. All our academies foster this in students inspiring them through well produced educational content and curriculum models, educational visits and guest speakers, allowing each student to realise they can succeed and will be a success.

THE RAISE ACADEMY – Our vision and ethos

The Raise Academy will work constantly to provide excellence for every student. With a highly-trained, specialised team, we will support the entire cohort's needs, particularly focusing on those students with mental-health issues, needing a safe, but aspirational environment to recapture an often lost passion for learning and creativity.

'Raise' represents far more than just a name for a school. It neatly summarises our vision for the Academy, and expresses the ethos for education we strive to provide; an ethos focused on positive achievement and success at every stage.

Raise – **Self-Esteem:** Student-centred education.

Raise – Self-Esteem

Each student is the centre of their education, making the experience as personally tailored as possible and providing the right environment for all to succeed.

Throughout the Academy we employ 'Quality First Teaching', building upon the effective planning of learning and skilful design of learning activities, and the efficient and effective tracking of student progress, which is explained more fully in section D2. Planning is revisited as each student progresses, and the curriculum is methodically adjusted to deliver efficient steps of progression. Following high-quality schemes of work at all Key Stages, 'Quality First Teaching' draws on a wide repertoire of teaching strategies and techniques closely matched to the specific needs of the students. We urge students to articulate their ideas, understanding, and critical thinking, by actively promoting engagement and discussion. Our current experience of SEMH needs and AP has highlighted the need to assess individuals throughout this process and specifically target further identified gaps in skills, understanding and knowledge.

We continue to develop and extend our approaches to the curriculum and our learning offer, through a personalised approach to learning. We closely match learning with students' aptitudes. A common theme is the focus on 'Stage' not 'Age', whereby knowledge, skills and understanding are considered using an overview of ability stages.

Raise – **Ambitions:** Specialist curriculum; engages, inspires and achieves. We are intending to provide a much-needed, specialist provision with effective curriculum to students who have previously struggled to find any success.

Emotional Well-being and Resilience curriculum: In order to create a highly focussed provision, every detail of the Academy's education plan has been developed in collaboration with students, parents, and experienced professionals. It draws on the experience of existing research, known successful strategies, and recognised qualifications to create an inspiring educational experience for every learner. We will be pioneering in our approach to whole-school emotional intelligence coaching and support, working closely in tune with current developments within Local Authorities (Halton and St.Helens) – e.g., the new CAMHS self-harm pathway, any emotionally healthy schools' initiatives such as ones we have already implemented in our current schools. In addition, we will develop close connections with medical needs teams and the NHS which will help all students get the best available therapeutic and mental health support needed to become effective and resilient communicators (expanded in D1).

Personal and Social Development curriculum (PSED): The curriculum aims to develop relationships with students based on mutual trust and respect, engaging interest and participation in activities, experiences, or on issues, by being rooted in personal experience. It develops inclusive behaviour by involving young people actively in their own development. It further facilitates creation of lifelong learners, who access the wider world appropriately, through encouragement and by allowing reflection on personal progress in social skills, emotional intelligence, and self-efficacy. Reflection affirms learning and promotes confidence and self-esteem. All programmes of PSED result in specified outcomes, which, if they cannot be measured, can at least be identified and recorded through such assessments as Boxall profiles and PASS.

Raise – **Self-Belief:** Individual support plans engendering emotional resilience. ALL students get the support needed to become emotionally healthy, and to grow both personally and socially, by means of detailed ILP's and a mix of in-house and linked support services.

Staff support students during social development times, encouraging appropriate social interaction, and working informally on interpersonal communication. Lunchtimes are a particular opportunity for students to bond and peer mentor/support one another. This develops a supportive, self-regulating cohort of positive role models, growing in confidence and communication skills. It helps teach how to work with others and be respectful members of the whole school and wider community.

Our cohort may well have issues with confidence and self-esteem, requiring staff to create a positive environment, encouraging inclusion and participation. Love of learning is encouraged by belonging, feeling safe, and feeling respected throughout school. Staff acting fairly, respectfully and being excellent role models help guide students to take ownership of their own behaviours and learning. Deploying a restorative approach to behaviour and offering a clean slate each day shows how overwhelming emotions can be dealt with and helps each individual better cope and thrive.

Behaviour policy will clearly and consistently deal with situations positively and in a restorative way. To allow students to spend vital time with peers in caring, supportive and informal settings, the extra-curricular programme will be integrated into a slightly longer school day, a monthly Saturday programme, and additionally be supported by an Easter/Summer school club. At KS3 the range of activities will reflect preferences and personal interests of students, at KS4 more of this time will be used for supervised homework / educational advancement, but not to the detriment of PSED.

From the outset of KS3, students will be encouraged to work independently and develop organisational skills. There will be high expectations of

punctuality and conduct to prepare students for standards required in the workplace and wider world. Older students will be given opportunities to take on further responsibilities. e.g.: becoming a student leader for a particular point in the school development plan.

Raise – **Outcomes:** Successful learning; leads to positive destinations at post-16:

The bespoke curriculum for both academic and vocational learning allows and encourages ALL students to progress towards high-quality destinations.

The curriculum structure proposed, prompts students to achieve their highest possible qualifications both academically and vocationally, allowing them to assemble a repertoire of skills and knowledge anchored around personal pathways. Students will develop positive learning habits – a basis for effective lifelong learning – when they are able to make links and identify patterns which are transferrable across all areas of the curriculum, and eventually life. Independent learning is a strong feature of all courses at KS4 in preparation for post-16 study, with students experiencing a broad and balanced SMART curriculum, accessing the same learning as their peers in mainstream. It is vital that students become able to make informed choices for their next steps, and are encouraged to be inquiring about learning, themselves, and their teachers and peers.

Ultimately, we plan to **raise** all learners to a level they can sustain achievement, contribute to local communities and wider society, be proud of their outcomes and strive for better life destinations.

These four core values are deliverable with the suggested staffing structure and budget. The plans will be driven and overseen by the YES Trust providing the capability and capacity to develop an excellent school. The LA specification proposes that students would join Raise, in its first 2 years, at KS3, the focus turns to the development of literacy and numeracy skills across all areas of the curriculum. The breadth and depth of learning increases and students start to develop greater interest in option subjects and useful life skills, such as cooking. At KS4, students follow an individual learning pathway, through our 'webbed curriculum' over a broad range of ELC and GCSE qualifications; the most-able access a full Progress 8 offer, gaining relevant qualifications to support post-16 destinations. Progression across the curriculum is tracked and monitored, with whole-school data collated every half-term; starting points are identified by a thorough initial assessment.

As with all schools in the YES Trust, The Raise Academy will be underpinned by the following Trust values:

The YES Trust is committed to providing **child centred** education, by developing **authentic relationships**, and being **adaptive & sensitive to each pupil's individual needs**. The mission of the Trust is to **transform lives**.



A Whole School Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing

In order to create a highly focussed provision, every detail of the Academy's education plan has been developed in collaboration with students, parents, and experienced professionals. It draws on the experience of existing research, known successful strategies, and recognised qualifications to create an inspiring educational experience for every learner. We will be pioneering in our approach to whole-school emotional intelligence coaching and support, working closely in tune with health professionals and other external agencies.

The Raise Academy will be following the 8 key principals as documented by Public Health England to ensure our Academy is promoting a whole school approach to emotional health and well-being.



Figure 1. Eight principles to promoting a whole school and college approach to emotional health and wellbeing

Public Health England, (2015 p.6)

A Multi –Agency Approach

The Raise Academy will be working collaboratively and cohesively within our community working alongside various agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students and their families.

A Reflective Practice

The Raise Academy will regularly monitor, review and adapt our approach to ensure each student makes progress. Student progress will be monitored holistically, acknowledging and celebrating academic, social and emotional development.

INITIAL PHASE – OUR BID

The Youth Engagement Schools (YES) Trust proposes to establish a specialist day, co-educational, special school – The Raise Academy – on the Naylor Road Site, Naylor Road, Widnes. It will admit 64 students with EHC Plans, in the 11 to 16 age range, whose primary need is Social, Emotional, & Mental Health (SEMH). Given the typical challenges and difficulties these children and young people face, and in response to the Halton LA specification, we aim to achieve far better outcomes with our specific cohort than is possible for

local schools by improving each learner's life chances allowing them to thrive in modern Britain.

The Local Authority identified that they needed to increase specialist provision in the borough as the amount of provision did not match the needs of the children and young people. It was highlighted that a large number of students were having to endure long journeys. To address growing numbers of young people with SEMH needs, both boroughs are working with their mental health providers to develop a new conceptual model for mental health and wellbeing support through the Thrive model with an increased number of children and young people now accessing mental health support. As a consequence of a greater recognition of mental health difficulties, Halton and St Helens are implementing a range of strategies to address the learning needs of these pupils and are reviewing and re-shaping their current local SEND offer to meet gaps, and this proposal will enhance plans underway.

The Raise Academy will stand apart from existing local provision. It will develop a highly-specialised curriculum to support students' specific needs, particularly focused towards 'Mental Health' resilience to support SEMH difficulties and aim to inspire learning for any ability. Staff will be supported by an effective Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) working collaboratively to develop high-level plans, resources, and strategies for teaching. They will draw on the experience of other SEMH schools, personal expertise, external support agencies, and recent academic research. As a result, the curriculum will incorporate focused programmes of study in a multi-functional approach using challenging yet achievable student targets and well-informed IEPs. These SMART targets will focus on developing aspirational personal growth so each student, no matter what her or his age or ability, finds an optimal framework to excel, achieve and become a lifelong learner.

STATUTORY CONSULTATION

The Raise Academy are keen to be an integral part of our community. Our consultation ensured a wide variety of stakeholders were informed of our plans and allowed us to capture feedback. The statutory section 10 consultation commenced on Wednesday 4th October 2023 and finished on Friday 1st December 2023. Despite support from both St Helens and Halton Local Authorities initial responses were lacking, therefore, we extended our consultation period to 1st December.

Information provided to stakeholders took the following forms:

1. Public consultation document (please see Appendix 3). This document was made available in digital and printed form and introduced the Trust, key members of staff, introduced the vision, ethos and proposal for the new school, admission information and key information on the consultation process. It also provided information on how stakeholders could give feedback, as well as come to face to face meetings to have their questions answered and share their views.
2. The Raise Academy Website provided information about the proposed school, the consultation process and a downloadable consultation document as well as a copy of the questionnaire, both in PDF and online forms (please see Appendix).
3. Two drop-in sessions were held at Warrington Road Children's Centre, Widnes, WA8 0BS, on: Friday 3rd November 2023, 2pm – 5:30pm, and Thursday 9th November 2023, 9am - 1pm. This was to ensure that as many people as possible had the chance to attend and access further information.
4. Emails (please see Appendix 2) were sent to Halton and St Helens nurseries, schools and colleges providing copies of the consultation document and copies of the questionnaire.
5. A letter was posted to 100 residents (please see Appendix 1) along with a copy of the consultation document and a questionnaire.
6. Emails were sent to Halton and St Helen's parent carer forums
7. Emails sent to various professionals who work with children and young people. Including CAMHS, Youth Justice Team, Social Care, Barnardo's, Young Carers, SENDIASS, IASS, Educational Psychologists, YMCA and other children's charities.

STAKEHOLDERS INFORMED AND INCLUDED IN CONSULTATION

- Parents/Carers
- Residents
- Preschools/Nurseries
- Primary Schools
- Secondary Schools
- Specialist Schools
- SEN Team
- Safeguarding Teams, Halton and St Helens
- St Helens Gateway Youth Support Team
- St Helens Young Carers
- Halton Young Carers
- Barnardos Boss, St Helens
- CAMHS St. Helens
- CAMHS Halton
- Halton Family Hubs

- Halton Parent Carer Forum
- St. Helens Parent Carer Forum
- YMCA St Helens
- Youth Support Charities (YAZ Youth Action Zone)
- SENDIASS
- IASS
- School Health Team, Widnes and Runcorn
- School Health Team, Halton and St Helens
- Educational Psychology services, Halton and St. Helens
- TESSA St. Helens

METHODS OF CONSULTATION

GROUP	METHOD OF CONSULTATION	KEY DATES
Parents/Carers	Cheshire Parent Carer Forum Email Attendance at events booked for January 2024	28 th November 2023
Residents of: Naylor Road Warrington Road French Street Castle Street	Letter Drop Formal drop in session Questionnaire drop at Local Community Centre Face to face meetings with residents Visit planned to Trust schools	8 th October 2023 Friday 3 rd November 2 – 5:30pm Thursday 9 th November 9am – 1pm 2 nd November 2023 19 th September 2023 11 th December 2023

104 Primary Schools	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information.</p> <p>Information was shared with key SEND stakeholders and 'pushed' through St. Helens LA's various networks and portals, including the Schools network and the SEND local Offer.</p> <p>Shared with all schools across Halton (including special and mainstream across primary, secondary and Post 16 age ranges) and asked for them to share it accordingly within their communities.</p>	<p>Final call/reminder email sent by The YES Trust 29th November 2023</p> <p>3rd October 2023</p> <p>27th November 2023</p>
17 Secondary Schools	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information.</p> <p>Information was shared with key SEND stakeholders and 'pushed' through St. Helens LA's various networks and portals, including the Schools network and the SEND local Offer.</p> <p>Shared with all schools across Halton (including special and mainstream across primary, secondary and Post 16 age ranges) and asked for them to share it accordingly within their communities.</p>	<p>Final call/reminder email sent by The YES Trust 29th November 2023</p> <p>3rd October 2023 onwards</p> <p>Reminder sent 27th November 2023</p>

<p>3 Further Education/College</p>	<p>Email S10 Consultation</p> <p>Information was shared with key SEND stakeholders and 'pushed' through St. Helens LA's various networks and portals, including the Schools network and the SEND local Offer.</p> <p>Shared with all schools across Halton (including special and mainstream across primary, secondary and Post 16 age ranges) and asked for them to share it accordingly within their communities.</p>	<p>Final call/reminder email sent by The YES Trust</p> <p>29th November 2023</p> <p>3rd October onwards</p> <p>27th November 2023</p>
<p>10 Specialist Schools and Alternative Provisions</p>	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information.</p> <p>Information was shared with key SEND stakeholders and 'pushed' through St. Helens LA's various networks and portals, including the Schools network and the SEND local Offer.</p> <p>Shared with all schools across Halton (including special and mainstream across primary, secondary and Post 16 age ranges) and asked for them to share it accordingly within their communities.</p>	<p>Final call/reminder email sent by The YES Trust</p> <p>29th November 2023</p> <p>3rd October onwards</p> <p>27th November 2023</p>

9 Independent schools	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information</p> <p>Information was shared with key SEND stakeholders and 'pushed' through St. Helens LA's various networks and portals, including the Schools network and the SEND local Offer.</p> <p>Shared with all schools across Halton (including special and mainstream across primary, secondary and Post 16 age ranges) and asked for them to share it accordingly within their communities.</p>	<p>Final call/reminder email sent by The YES Trust 29th November 2023</p> <p>3rd October 2023 onwards</p> <p>Reminder sent 27th November 2023</p>
Local Authority	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information.</p> <p>Attendance at Team Meetings offered</p>	<p>3rd October 2023</p> <p>10th November 2023</p>
Safeguarding Team	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information.</p>	<p>3rd October 2023</p> <p>28th November 2023</p>
CAMHS	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information.</p>	<p>28th November 2023</p>
NHS – School Health Teams	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information.</p>	<p>28th November 2023</p>
Educational Psychologists	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information.</p>	<p>28th November 2023</p>
Young Carers	<p>Email S10 Consultation Document and information.</p>	<p>28th November 2023</p>

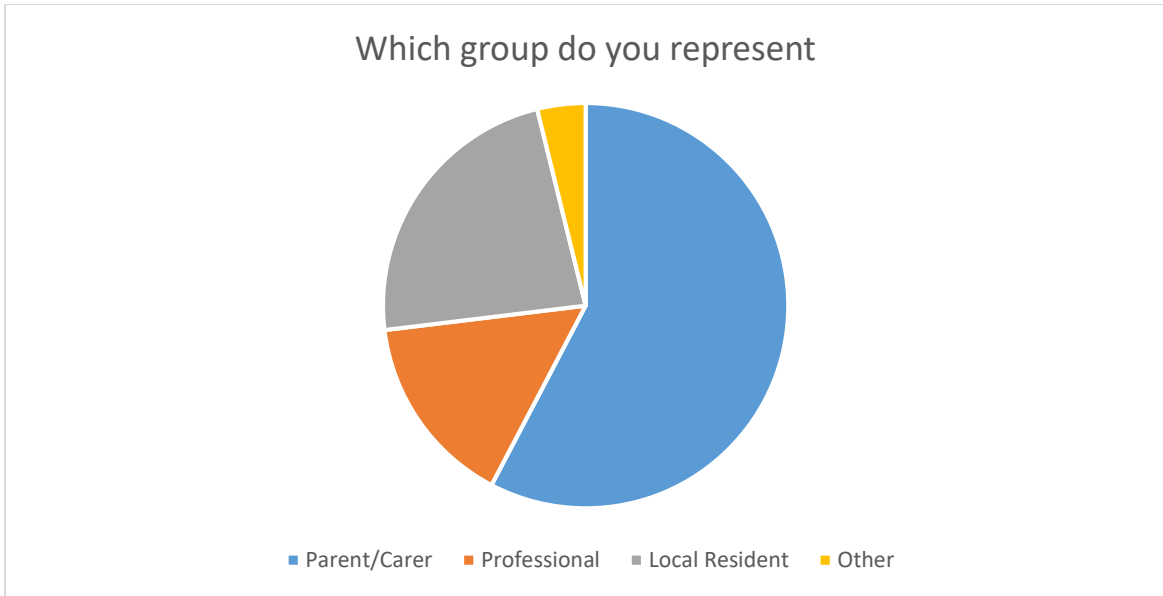
Parent/Carer forums	Email S10 Consultation Document and information.	28 th November 2023
Local Children's Charities: YMCA Barnardos YAZ – Youth Action Zone	Email S10 Consultation Document and information.	28 th November 2023
Community Centres	Visit S10 Consultation questionnaire left	2 nd November 2023
SENIASS AND IASS	Email S10 Consultation Document and information.	28 th November 2023

STATUTORY CONSULTATION – THE RESULTS

Questionnaire responses

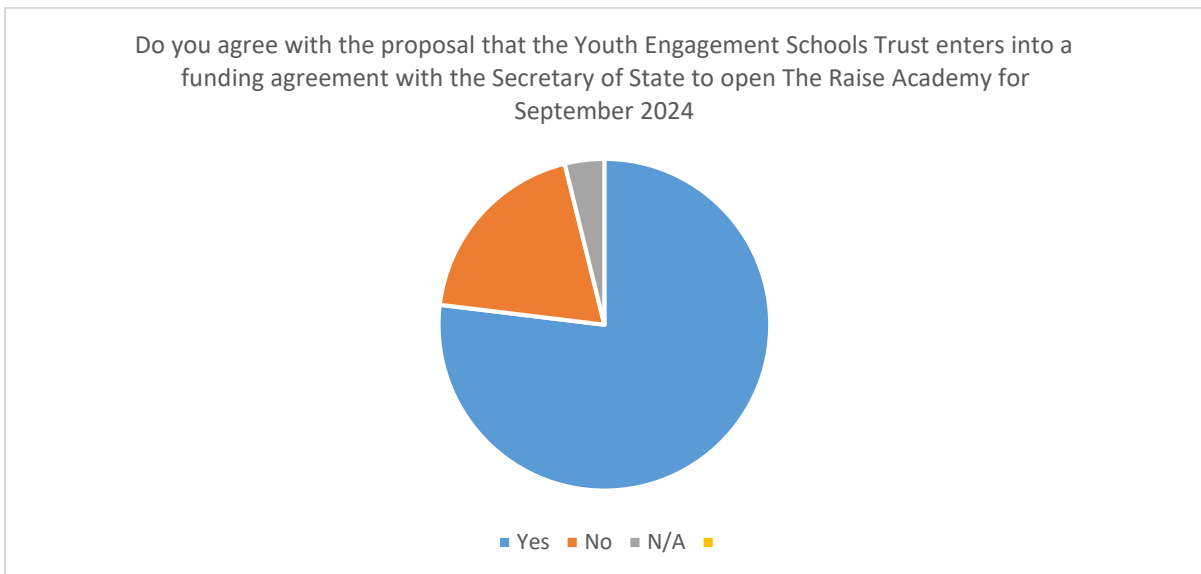
1. Which group do you represent?
 - Parent/Carer
 - Professional working with children
 - Member of the local community
 - Other

	Parent/Carer	Professional	Local Community	Other	Total
Number of responses	15	4	6	1	26



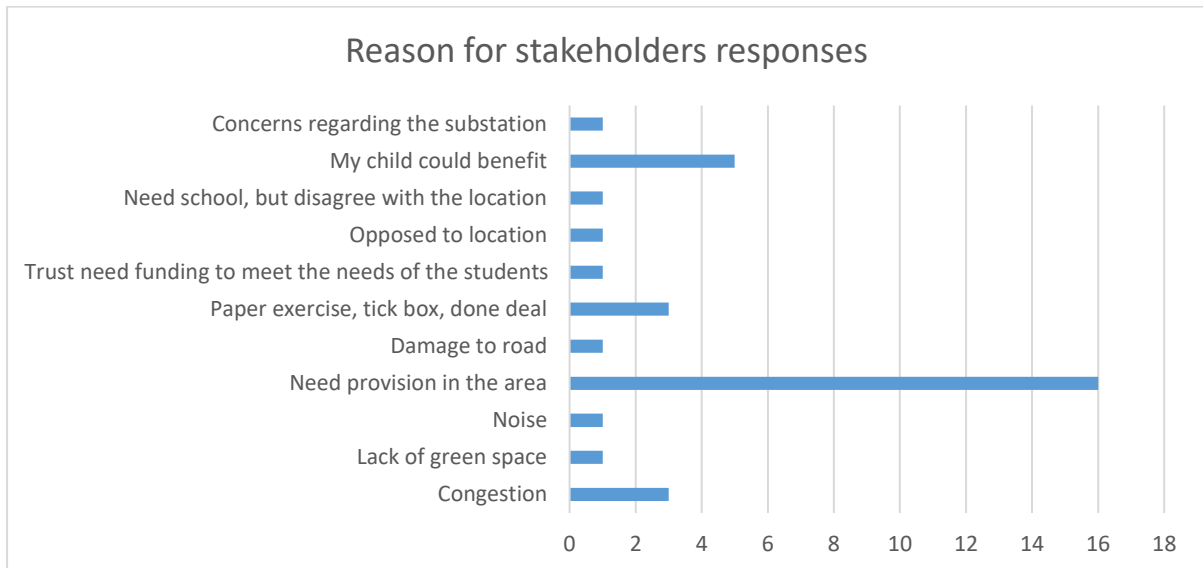
2. Do you agree with the proposal that the Youth Engagement Schools Trust enters into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to open The Raise Academy for September 2024?
- Yes
 - No

	YES	No	N/A	Total
Number of responses	20	5	1	26

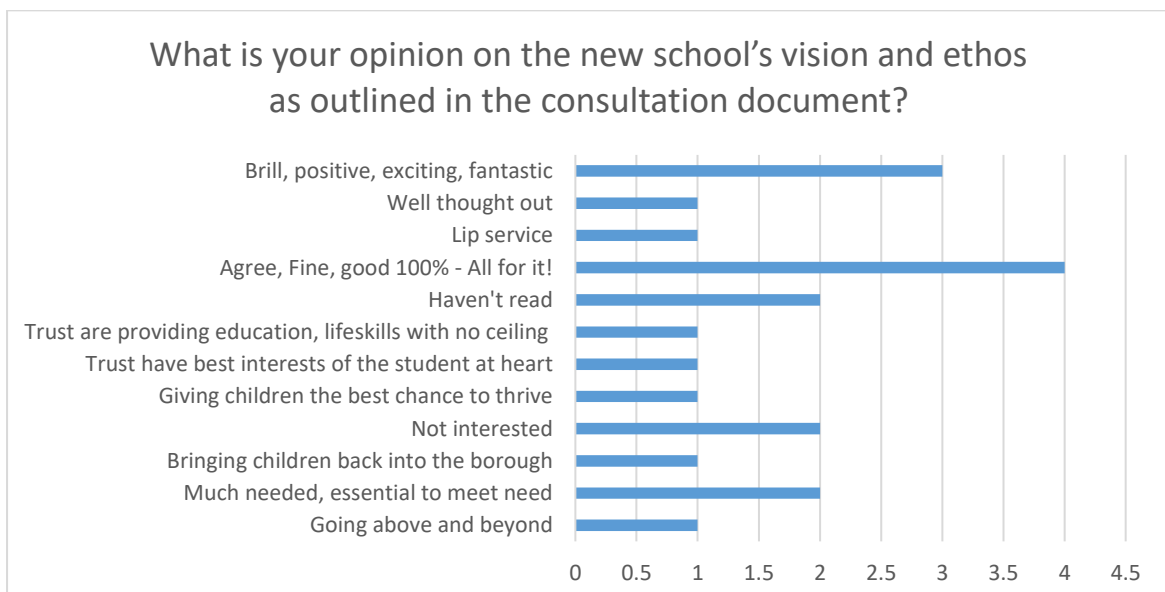


26 people responded via the questionnaire, of the 26, **20** people **agreed** that the Youth Engagement Schools Trust should enter into funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

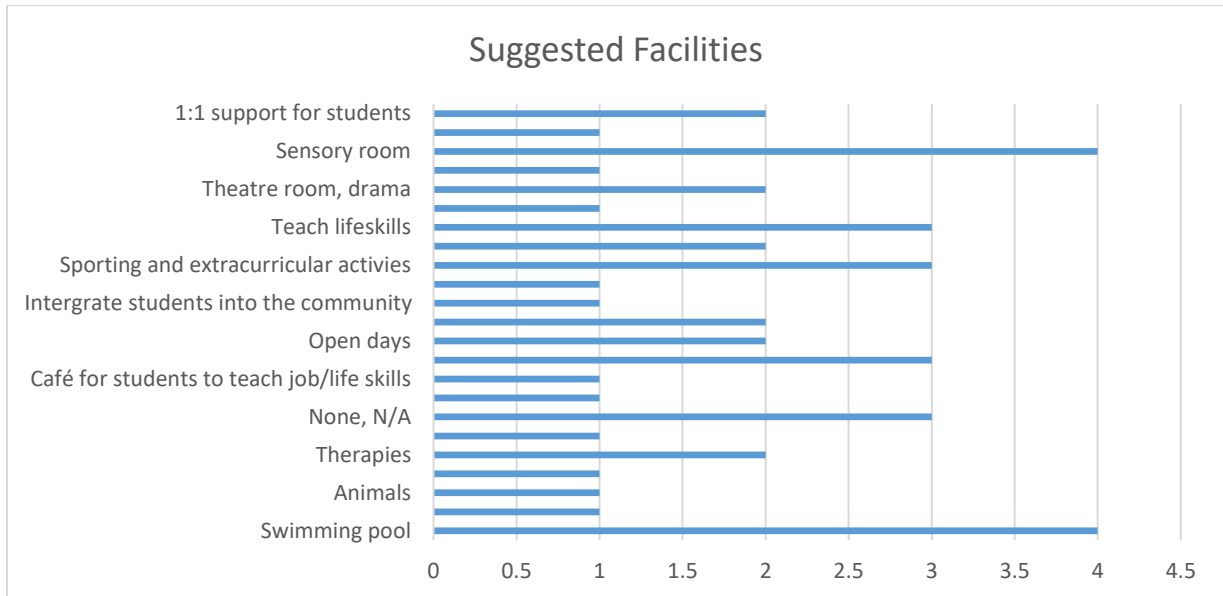
Below are the reasons provided by participants for the response they gave.



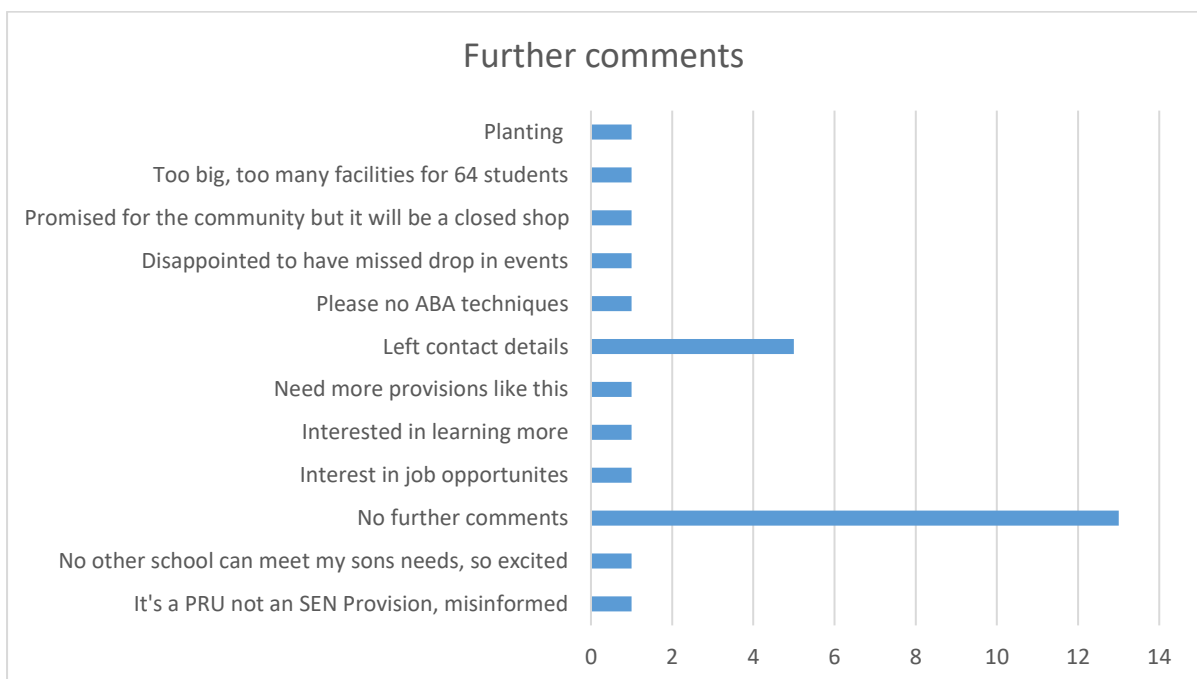
3. What is your opinion on the new school's vision and ethos as outlined in the consultation document?



4. We are keen to be a fully integrated part of the community; what community facilities would you like to see available at The Raise Academy?



Please feel free to add any other comments below. If you include your preferred contact method, we will endeavour to answer any questions at the earliest opportunity.



THE RAISE ACADEMY – RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK

The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, with the majority of respondents feeling the provision was much needed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children in the area. However, the consultation period did highlight the following concerns:

- Traffic congestion and damage to roads in the area
- Loss of green space
- Noise and disturbance
- Allegation of unprofessional practices in the clearance of asbestos prior to building works commenced
- Risks relating to the substation located on site.

The YES Trust are keen to be an asset to the local community and would like to ensure an open line of communication with the community so we can work cohesively.

Traffic congestion and damage to roads

Once established the school will cater for 64 students at full capacity. All students will have an Educational Health Care Plan and therefore, the majority will arrive to school in shared transport. This will minimise vehicles at key points through the day, in particular at the start and end of the school day. The Raise Academy also plans to have a slightly later start than most schools, this will ensure that the traffic in the area will not coincide with peak traffic flow.

Loss of Greenspace and landscaping

Whilst we understand local residents' disappointment at losing local greenspace, the Raise Academy has been commissioned by local authorities to meet the unmet needs of vulnerable students in the area. All Trust schools are aesthetically pleasing and are well maintained. Local residents have been invited to other Trust schools so that they can see how we maintain local landscapes.

Noise and Disruption

The majority of students will be transported via shared taxi to school, therefore, along with the reduced capacity of the school being 64, this will significantly impact on the traffic and disruption that could be caused by mainstream schools. All collections will take place in the school's car park. Again, reducing the impact on local residents. Students will not be outside the school site without supervision from a member of staff. Students will be provided with lunch and breakfast in school and so will not be out of the

school during these times. The Raise Academy are keen to keep an open dialog with residents and if there are any issues or concerns we welcome your feedback and we will ensure that any issues are remedied at the earliest opportunity.

Misinformd on cohort

Local residents felt that they had been misinformed regarding the cohort of students that The Raise Academy will support. The Raise Academy is **not** a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), it is a specialist school for students who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) with the primary need of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

Facilities

The S10 consultation also provided opportunities for stakeholders to suggest facilities that should be provided by the school, both for its students and the local community.

Swimming pool – Although there will not be a swimming pool on site, there is a new leisure centre close by, we will aim to work with the leisure centre to enable our students to use their facilities.

3G Pitch, Tennis Courts – The students and at time the local community will have access to a Multi-Use Games Area (Muga) as well as playing fields.

Animals - Planning for the school build includes animal enclosures. As a Trust we understand the positive impact animals can have on wellbeing. The plans for the school will also include a small farm. This is something that will be developed as the school becomes more established.

Climbing equipment, swings – This is something that will be explored once we have an established cohort and decisions can be made with a child led focus.

Therapies – The Raise Academy understand the importance of providing students with the targeted and skills support in order to meet their needs. Therefore, we will have a mental health counsellor onsite throughout the school day. They will offer 1:1 and small group sessions for students as well as offering support to the wider family.

Outdoor learning – The YES Trust know the importance of outdoor learning and its benefits to emotional wellbeing. All our students will have the opportunity to take part in either, Forest Schools, The John Muir Award or the Duke of Edinburgh Award, dependant on age.

Music – We will provide our students opportunities to study music, both 1:1 and in small groups. We aim to provide electronic music equipment such as keyboards, drums and DJ Decks as well as acoustic guitars etc. This list is not

exhaustive as teaching will be child led and informed by need. Radio and Podcasting: we want to further inspire students to run an in-house school radio that can broadcast at social times. This will correlate with them producing their own shows via a podcast media. We will run this extra-curricular activity in conjunction with English creative writing.

Liaison with primary schools, outreach, share good practice – We are keen to offer outreach both for students and other schools. We will have a team of specialist staff that will offer outreach. This will take the form of home visits, tuition (short term if required) and wellbeing visits for students. As well as providing local schools advice, support and training on request.

Open days - The Raise Academy will also hold open days, we understand the importance of positive relationships and we hope residents and other interested parties will be in regular contact with us and in attendance of our open days.

Sporting and extracurricular activities - The Raise Academy aims to offer our students a vast extracurricular programme. As well as re-engaging students, helping them realise their potential, and recognising their achievements, we also want to inspire them to be as successful as they can be. Our intention is to offer an extensive extra-curricular programme, with multiple, whole-day activities and experiences, occurring once a month on a Saturday. Additionally, Easter holiday club, and a two-week summer school will be provided. These sessions will be delivered by learning mentors and pastoral staff to help develop wider learning skills to emphasise and foster a love of learning beyond the classroom.

Group activities help our students to appreciate the culture around them, to participate in other local and community-based events, and both understand and celebrate diversity.

The Raise Academy will engage students in residential activities, such as camping at a youth hostel, or visiting Christmas markets in, say, France. Alongside this there will be daily opportunities for students to take part in various clubs such as sports, drama, animal care, cooking, horticulture, ICT, DT, etc; both at lunchtime and afterschool.

Community spaces – The Raise Academy will have a sports hall and conference room, which will be available for community use, including sports teams, training providers, community groups and registered charities. The Raise Academy will also have a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) available for community use, however, this will only be available during daylight hours as it will not be floodlit. Our schools aim to be a cohesive member of the community, therefore aim to offer open events, Christmas fayres, afternoon tea's and celebration days. All aiming to support the students to integrate positively into the community.

Teach life skills - Life skills describe a capacity for adaptive and positive behaviour that will enable our students to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. They include social, emotional, and thinking skills such as self-awareness, empathy, critical thinking, decision-making, and coping with stress all within the following areas, particularly focused through our work skills and PSHE curriculums:

- Travelling independently – learning how to use public transport facilitating students travelling to school independently; planning trips and itineraries for residential visits.
- Living independently – understanding how to pay bills and set up direct debits; understanding credit ratings; having a personal bank account; looking at basic needs, and how to shop appropriately; developing a greater sense of self-awareness and appreciation for others.
- Domestic skills – carrying out household chores, and understanding why it is important; how to take care of basic maintenance & repair; how to shop and prepare food; how to stay safe at home, especially in the kitchen; how to do laundry and clothing selection (e.g. for work).
- Being healthy – looking at being a healthy individual with the right balanced diet; meal planning; why it is appropriate, and how to maintain, good hygiene; smoking, drug and alcohol misuse; understanding healthy relationships, and safe sex (age appropriate).
- Applying for college/employment – access high-quality careers advice so all students can make an informed choice about their next steps into adulthood; visiting post-16 providers, and completing high-quality work placements (where appropriate).
- Employability skills and work experience – build confidence both in spoken skills, and for group collaboration and cooperation; the ability to self-manage, solve problems, and understand the business environment.
- Budgeting and financial education – learning the importance of saving/budgeting, living within your means; how pensions work and understanding loans/mortgages.
- Participating in, and contributing to, the local community – co-ordinating events to support local communities, and take part in activities; develop cross-generational learning.

Quiet spaces – Throughout our purpose built building there are a number of quite spaces including a sensory room, an immersive room, a number of calming bays, alongside a pastoral team that will work with students to coregulate and support emotional needs.

Offer vocational subjects, café for students to teach job/life skills – Our curriculum will be broad and balanced offering both academic and vocational subjects, we aim to offer vast opportunities for our students working alongside specialist staff as well as external providers to offer work experience and vocational subjects for our students.

1:1 support for students – The Raise Academy will provide small class sizes, a maximum of 8 students per class with 2 adults supporting, ensuring a consistently high level of support for all our students. We will also provide short term 1:1 support to offer both targeted and individualised academic and wellbeing interventions, in order to meet specific need.

CONCLUSION

The majority of stakeholders that attended the consultation events and provided feedback were overwhelmingly in support of The Raise Academy. Commenting on the Trusts Vision and Ethos as *“going above and beyond,* respondents felt the school and the Trusts specialist skills were *“much needed in the area* and recognised how difficult it must be currently for students and their parents, currently attending schools out of area or schools that cannot meet their needs. Feedback from parents, carers and professionals highlighted how the Trusts vision would support the most vulnerable students in the area and provide opportunities that are otherwise unavailable. Most stakeholders were excited at the prospect of the new specialist school in the area

Attendance at the consultation events were disappointing, however, the online questionnaire sent following the events, provided an accessible platform for stakeholders to share their thoughts.

The responses to the consultation were broad ranging from comments on congestion, noise, and disruption from local residents, to recognition from parents, carers and professionals to how important this provision was to provide opportunities for the most vulnerable students in the area. An overwhelming majority of responses were positive and encouraging and agreed that the Secretary of State **should** enter into a funding agreement with The Youth Engagements Schools Trust. All responses were fed back the Chief Executive and the Trusts Director of Finance.

NEXT STEPS

Following our S10 Consultation our next steps are as follows:

- The Raise Academy recruitment process for the academies headteacher commenced on Friday 1st December 2023
- Further recruitment to begin late January, early February 2024.
- Continued collaborative planning with DfE and Building Contractors
- Local residents visited The Axis Academy, another Trust school in Crewe on 11th December 2023
- Prospective parent visits to The Axis Academy, to commence January 2024
- All information as well as a copy of this document will be available on our website. The website, will be kept up to date with plans and processes as the build progresses.
- Social media pages to be launched to further share progress
- Mrs Lorna Lockhart, Trust Project Manager; will continue to work alongside the Local Authority and SEN Team to identify potential students and begin their staged and extended transition to The Raise Academy.
- Lorna Lockhart to attend parent carer forum coffee mornings and zoom calls to raise awareness and build positive relationships; January 2024.
- The Trust Team will continue to work closely with all stakeholders and local schools to build positive and strong relationships within the community.

As outlined in this report, there is an overwhelmingly positive response to the opening of The Raise Academy. With all parents, carers and professionals agreeing that the Youth Engagement Schools Trust **should** enter into funding agreement with the Secretary of State. It is felt that the school will fill a gap within the authority, one parent stating that; *“children with difficulties accessing mainstream provision are becoming overwhelmed by school expectations and demands, causing children more anxiety and stress. Children of this age still require nurture but at this age are required to be independent, and this isn't naturally there; so, the child is left feeling isolated, ignored and vulnerable”*. By the signing of the funding agreement The YES Trust will provide opportunities for vulnerable students to develop authentic, nurturing relationships, that support them to reach their goals, to breakdown barriers to their learning, and help them to become contributing members of society.



APPENDICES





The Raise Academy
c/o The YES Trust,
Office 27, First Floor
Riverside Mill,
Mountbatten Way,
Congleton.
CW12 1DY

4th October 2023

Dear Resident,

Our proposal for the opening of The Raise Academy has now progressed to the pre-opening phase. We are now required to undertake a public consultation period. The Raise Academy will be the latest addition to the Youth Engagement Schools Trust following the success of The Fermain Academy in Macclesfield who received an Outstanding grading during their 2018 inspection, and The Axis Academy in Crewe, who recently received a Good grading after opening in 2020.

The Raise Academy will be a special educational needs school for students with an Educational Health and Care plan ('EHCP') for social, emotional and mental health difficulties. The academy will provide up to 64 places for students focusing on supporting those students who for whatever reason, have not been able to succeed or thrive in mainstream education.

The Youth Engagement Schools Trust would like to hear from the local community in the coming weeks to help inform the decision from the Secretary of State on whether to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Trust.

We are keen to hear your comments so that we can offer feedback to ensure The Youth Engagement Schools Trust and The Raise Academy are meeting the needs of the communities we serve. We are passionate about ensuring the best possible outcomes for the vulnerable students we are looking to support and educate.

We will record all views shared with us during the formal consultation period running from Wednesday 4th October 2023 to Friday 17th November 2023.

We ask that you complete the short questionnaire attached and return to admin@theyestrust.org or, alternatively, please return to the post box provided at one of our public drop in events on:

- **Friday 3rd November 2023 2pm – 5:30pm at Warrington Road Children's Centre, Widnes, WA8 0BS, or,**
- **Thursday 9th November 2023 9am – 1pm at Warrington Road Children's Centre, Widnes, WA8 0BS**

We offer a number of ways to share your views and opinions on our proposal:

- **Visit our website at www.theraiseacademy.org**
- **Email us at: admin@theyestrust.org**
- **Call us on 01260 490042**
- **Or write to us at our postal address at the top of this correspondence.**

We would love to see you at one of our drop-in sessions. This will give you the opportunity to meet our team and learn more about The Raise Academy's ethos and vision. We endeavor to be an asset to the community and offer a cohesive approach to supporting children's mental health and education.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Nic Brindle
CEO, Youth Engagement Schools Trust



Email sent to stakeholders

Good afternoon,

The Youth Engagement Schools Trust is looking to open The Raise Academy (SEMH 11 – 16 school) in September 2024. This need for this new free school has come about by the local authority identifying a shortfall in specialist provisions/places in the area, and the Trust has been appointed by the Department for Education to open a new specialist school, serving some of the most vulnerable young people in the local area. The school will admit up to 64 students with EHC Plans, in the 11 to 16 age range, whose primary needs are Social, Emotional, & Mental Health (SEMH) related. Given the typical challenges and difficulties these children and young people face, and in response to the Halton / St Helens LA specification, we aim to achieve far better outcomes with our specific cohort than is possible for local schools by improving each learner's life chances allowing them to thrive in modern Britain.

It is a requirement for the Trust chosen to run the school, to hold a consultation set out by Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. We are consulting on our plans to provide further information for the Secretary of State to support our application to enter into a Funding Agreement to ensure the school can open.

Our consultation period will run from **Wednesday 4th October 2023** to **Friday 1st December 2023**. During this time, we will be inviting all stakeholders, prospective parents/carers and students, professionals, as well as the members of the local community to share their opinions on the proposals for The Raise Academy.

We are keen to hear your comments so that we can offer feedback to ensure The Youth Engagement Schools Trust and The Raise Academy are meeting the needs of the communities we serve. We are passionate about ensuring the best possible outcomes for the vulnerable students we are looking to support and educate.

We ask that anyone wishing to respond to this consultation completes the short questionnaire below and returns to: admin@theyestrust.org.

We offer a number of ways to share your views and opinions on our proposal:

- Email us at: admin@theyestrust.org
- Call us at the YES Trust office on: 01260 490042
- Or write to us at our postal address at the bottom of this correspondence.

You can access the short questionnaire by either downloading the printable form here [The Raise Academy – S10 Consultation Questionnaire](#), or complete the online form by following this link [S10 Consultation – The Raise Academy](#)

Thank you in advance for your time. Your feedback ensures that we can aim to be an asset to the local community and serve its most vulnerable students successfully.

Kind regards,

THE RAISE ACADEMY



GOOD NEWS!

Our proposal for the opening of The Raise Academy has now progressed to the pre-opening phase. We are now required to undertake a public consultation period. The Raise Academy will be the latest addition to join the Youth Engagement Schools Trust following the success of The Fermain Academy who received an Outstanding grading during their first ever inspection in 2018.

WHY DOES HALTON NEED A NEW SCHOOL?

Within Halton there is a need to provide an education for children with SEMH difficulties. These children are currently having to travel out of the local authority to attend a school that is able to meet their needs or alternatively are not currently in any form of education. Our aim is to fulfil that gap and ensure that the most vulnerable children within the area are offered a nurturing and aspirational setting to reach their full potential.



OUR PROPOSAL

The Raise Academy is due to open September 2024. The Raise Academy is a special educational needs school for students with an Educational Health and Care plan ('EHCP') for social, emotional and mental health difficulties. The academy will provide up to 64 places for students focusing on supporting those students who for whatever reason, have not been able to succeed or thrive in mainstream education. With an ambitious curriculum and support model we want to help all our students receive the support they need to become successful members of the modern world.

THE FERMAIN ACADEMY

The Fermain Academy is the founding school of The Youth Engagement Schools Trust. The Fermain Academy opened as a brand new Alternative Provision free school in September 2015. With facilities to cater for up to 60 students aged 13-16 at any given time, the academy is a safe place of learning for those who, for whatever reason, have become disengaged from mainstream education.

The Fermain Academy received an Outstanding judgement by Ofsted during its first Ofsted in 2018, and has continued to lead the way in terms of Alternative Provision in the area. The Fermain Academy helped shape and establish the core values that run through everything we do as a Trust today, and have subsequently become the values that are central to all the schools within the YES Trust:

- **Child centred**
- **Authentic relationships**
- **Adaptive & sensitive to each pupil's individual needs**

THE RAISE ACADEMY



The Youth Engagement Schools Trust would like to hear from the local community in the coming weeks to help inform the decision from the Secretary of State on whether to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Trust.

We are keen to hear your comments so that we can offer feedback to ensure the Trust and The Raise Academy are meeting the needs of the communities we serve. We are passionate about ensuring the best possible outcomes for the vulnerable students we are looking to support and educate.

We will record all views shared with us during the formal consultation period running from Wednesday 4th October 2023 to Friday 17th November 2023.

We ask that you complete the short questionnaire attached and return to: admin@theyestrust.org or, alternatively, please return to the post box provided at one of our public drop in events at **Warrington Road Children's Centre, Widnes, WA8 0BS, on:**

**Friday 3rd November 2023, 2pm – 5:30pm, or;
Thursday 9th November 2023, 9am - 1pm**

We offer a number of other ways to share your views and opinions on our proposal:

- Visit our website at www.theraiseacademy.org
- Email us at: admin@theyestrust.org

Or write to us at our postal address at the top of this correspondence.

We would love to see you at one of our drop in sessions. This will give you the opportunity to meet our team and learn more about The Raise Academy's ethos and vision. We endeavor to be an asset to the community and offer a cohesive approach to supporting children's mental health and education.



Key Members of the Team:

CEO – Nic Brindle

Oversees all schools in the Trust, and leads the strategic direction of everything we do.

Director of Education – Helen Phillips

Leads and oversees all aspects of education and safeguarding in our schools

Director of Business – Chris Heptinstall

Leads the financial and operations activities across the Trust

Pastoral and Project Lead – Lorna Lockhart

Leads projects for new schools within the Trust and acts as the pastoral lead during the pre-opening phase

More detailed information on our staff team can be found on the Trust website:

www.theyestrust.org;

Or The Raise Academy website:
www.theraiseacademy.org

The Youth Engagement Trust would like to open The Raise Academy (SEMH 11 – 16) in September 2024. The school will admit up to 64 students with EHC Plans, in the 11 to 16 age range, whose primary needs are Social, Emotional, & Mental Health (SEMH) related. Given the typical challenges and difficulties these children and young people face, and in response to the Halton / St Helens LA specification, we aim to achieve far better outcomes with our specific cohort than is possible for local schools by improving each learner's life chances, allowing them to thrive in modern Britain.

It is a requirement for the Trust chosen to run the school, to hold a consultation set out by Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. We are consulting on our plans to provide further information for the Secretary of State to support our application to enter into a Funding Agreement to ensure the school can open.

Our consultation period will run from Wednesday 4th October 2023 to Friday 17th November 2023. During this time, we will be inviting all stakeholders, prospective parents/carers and students, professionals, as well as the members of the local community to share their opinions on the proposals for The Raise Academy.

We would request that you complete this short questionnaire to support our application.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Which group do you represent?
 - Parent/Carer
 - Professional working with children
 - Member of the local community
 - Other

If you are a professional working with children, please state which agency you represent:

.....

2. Do you agree with the proposal that the Youth Engagement Schools Trust enters into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to open The Raise Academy in September 2024?

- Yes
- No

Please state the reason for your answer below:

.....

3. What is your opinion on the new school's vision and ethos as outlined in the consultation document?

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4. We are keen to be a fully integrated part of the community; what community facilities would you like to see available at The Raise Academy?
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Please feel free to add any other comments below. If you include your preferred contact method, we will endeavour to answer any questions at the earliest opportunity.
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***Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.
Your feedback is very much appreciated.***

Please return this questionnaire at the planned drop-in sessions at:
Warrington Road Children's Centre, Naylor Road, Widnes, WA8 0BS
Friday 3rd November 2023 - 2pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 9th November 2023 - 9am – 1pm

Alternatively email your responses to admin@theyestrust.org, or post to:
S10 Response
c/o The YES Trust,
Office 27, First Floor
Riverside Mill,
Mountbatten Way,
Congleton.
CW12 1DY



Brand new Specialist SEMH
School coming to the
Halton area



Our proposal

Our proposal for the opening of The Raise Academy has now progressed to the pre-opening phase. We are now required to undertake a public consultation period. The Raise Academy will be the latest addition to join the Youth Engagement Schools Trust following the success of The Fermain Academy, The Axis Academy and the Keystone Academy.



Community Feedback We value your opinion

GET IN TOUCH

Visit our website at www.theraiseacademy.org

Email:

admin@theyestrust.org or

**Attend one of our public drop in events at
Warrington Road Children's Centre, Widnes, WAB**

OBS

Friday 3rd November 2pm – 5:30pm

Or

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Transforming Lives

CHILD CENTRED | ADAPTIVE TO NEED | AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS