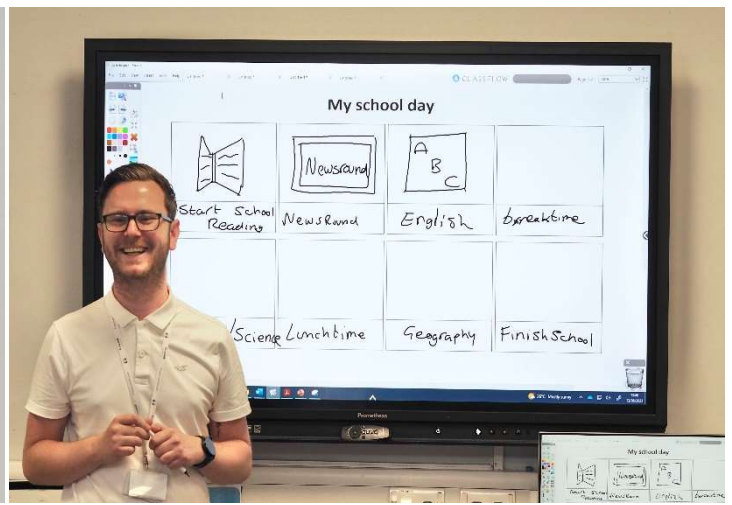




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SCHOOL

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Summary of the Consultation for the extension of age range at Crosshill School to include Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 children.



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Our proposal

From Tuesday 9th May 2023 to Wednesday 7th June 2023 we consulted with a range of stakeholders on extending the age range at Crosshill Special School to include Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to commence during the academic year 2023-2024.

We are passionate about providing high quality education for our learners and community. We strongly feel that the extension of age range from, age 11-19 to age 5 – 19 will ensure we can meet the demand for specialist places in our area, provide specialist provision for KS1 and KS2 learners and enable a seamless transition across all key stages.

The Proposal

This provision will offer up to ten places in each year across the two key stages. Admissions at the school would be the decision for the Local Authority in consultation with the school.





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The consultation

Crosshill Special School carried out a public consultation which started on 9th May 2023 and ended on 7th June 2023.

The consultation was a comprehensive, open and transparent process and consisted of:

- A consultation document that was distributed to key stakeholders (parents, students, staff, local Schools, Governors, trustees, medical and social care professionals, Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority and local residents)
- Access to the consultation document via School website and optional response.
- The school also held a public consultation meeting and invited students, parents, stakeholders and members of local communities to come along to discuss the proposal with the headteacher of the school, ask questions and share their thoughts on the proposal. This was held on 17th May 2023 at Crosshill School.
- Prompts via social media platforms to remind stakeholders of opportunity to consult

Respondents were also given the opportunity to add any comments in respect of the proposals.

Summary of responses

Number of responses received – 9

Based on the information given by respondents:

- 11% were parents/Carers
- 55% Health professionals
- 11% BWD Councillors
- 11% SEND services
- 11% were residents



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Responding to feedback

We are grateful for the feedback on our proposal. The outcome was that 100% of all respondents either supported or strongly supported the proposal.

Positive comments

100% of comments received were positive. These are attached at the end of this document.

Questions to address

Set out below is the one question raised from the consultation. This has been considered by us and our response is below.

How do I go about applying for a place for my Child?

Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority (LA) is the admissions authority therefore all requests for places at Crosshill School are determined and made by the LA. Admission will be made on the basis of a clear identification of the need of the child and the school's ability to provide an environment and curriculum appropriate to meeting these needs.



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Our conclusion

We have considered all of the responses which are all supportive and firmly believe that extending the age range to include Key Stage 1 and 2 will be within the best interests for our learners, the local community and local authority. This proposal will enable the local authority to meet the growing demand for special school places in key stage 1 and 2. We believe this type of offer will also help to provide children the opportunity to attend a special school in their community rather than potentially having to travel outside of the borough, it will provide an education specific to their needs alongside a range of educational and therapy-based provision. We also hope by extending our provision it will allow us all to offer outreach services, sharing our expertise to support our local community in addressing and meeting the statutory requirements associated with the introduction of Educational Health Care Plans and the wider agenda behind them.

Summary and Next Steps

We the trustees of Champion Education Trust are, taking into consideration the guidance from the Department for Education, *'Making significant changes to an open academy'*. We ask the RSC to accept our proposal to extend our age range to include KS1 and KS2. The RSC can decide to:

- Accept the proposal;
- Defer the proposal pending further evidence;
- Reject the proposal

If approved

We must change our EduBase system promptly upon receiving approval from the LA.

We will share this change with the stakeholders of the school.



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Feedback comments received

1. It makes a lot of sense to provide a streamlined pathway from K21-KS5. I have to deal with Children with ASD with a lot of sensory need who did not have severe learning difficulties who struggled in big class settings in mainstream School and did very well in smaller classes. Having a small nurturing environment will help with this small group of young people. It is also important that they have access to feeder sessions to local mainstream provision if appropriate so that these children benefit from wider experience. I strongly support this proposal in my role as a consultant Paediatrician in community child health who has worked in Blackburn with Darwen for 30 years and has an awareness of the needs of the local population.
2. I am a mental health practitioner from the Bwd Secondary Schools Mental Health Support Team. Crosshill is one of the main schools I am allocated to work in, I also work in numerous mainstream secondary schools across Bwd. My observations have been that Children's complex needs go unmet for a significant number of years whilst being educated in a mainstream school environment at primary school through to secondary. For many young people it can lead to mental health difficulties and emotional based avoidance which subsequently leads to social isolation and further decline in mental health ie, increased anxiety and depression symptoms. I believe currently there isn't sufficient specialist provision for accommodating those complex needs in primary school children – it's not until they get older that Crosshill is a potential option, but unfortunately by which time their mental health difficulties have gradually worsened. If the children specialist school provision from their early years in the first instance, then this sets them up for a brighter future where they thrive, flourish, and genuinely enjoy going to school. I also believe having a Crosshill primary provision would provide a 'neater' and smoother transition up to secondary school, particularly for young people who need as little disruption as possible when making a transition.
3. I believe the school is an asset to the area and provides an essential service to Children unable to be part of mainstream education. The provision of this service to primary age children will ensure the best possible start for them and to be able to continue into the secondary education system within the same environment will be a great help to them.

4. As a carer of a KS1/KS2 children I would like them to be around other students similar to needs and abilities. Having seen your school in action I know our children will fit in well and would be over the moon if they had a place there. We fully support your application to have KS1 and KS2 at your school.

5. I feel extending Crosshill to include a primary provision will work well in terms of transition to secondary school, and it's a lovely nurturing environment that will support the younger pupils to thrive.

6. Implementing SEN provision for key stage 1 and key stage 2 pupils is beneficial and valuable in supporting the children's needs in the way of their learning, cognition and emotional development. Implementing specific provision will cater for their individual needs during their early years, an important part of a child's overall holistic development. Furthermore, with the experience and skills of staff who already support young people in key stage 3 and 4 this will enhance the children's growth further.

7. I strongly support the proposal as I have observed students on my caseload at Crosshill;
 - Develop independent life skills.
 - Achieve their best academically.
 - Be given opportunities to develop as independent learners.
 - Be given opportunities to develop their social skills.

Staff at Crosshill School utilise numerous high quality teaching strategies and demonstrate high levels of expertise, plus care that works well for students to achieve their best academically and be as contented as possible. It would be advantageous to extend the provision at Crosshill School for key stage 1 and 2 students to be offered the same opportunities as secondary aged students.

