



Crosshill
SCHOOL

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**Proposal for
Crosshill Special School
Extending the age range to include KS1 and KS2**

Consultation

Tuesday 9th May 2023 – Wednesday 7th June 2023

CEO – Diane Atkinson

Headteacher – Lidia Gardner

Chair of Governors – Muhammad Mizan

School Address:

Crosshill School

Salisbury Rd

Darwen

BB3 1HZ



Consultations on a proposal to change the age range of Crosshill Special School from 11 – 19 (Year 7- Year 13) to 5- 19 years, (Year 1 -Year 13) effective from 1 September 2023.

Consultation period: Tuesday 9th May 2023 to Wednesday 7th June 2023

Proposed opening: September 2023

Background Information about Crosshill Special School

Crosshill Special School is a school within Champion Education Trust catering for students aged 11 to 19 years (secondary) who are in receipt of an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) regarding their identified Learning Difficulties. Crosshill Special School caters for a wide range of different needs but the majority of students main identified need is associated with language and cognition difficulties (PMLD/SLD/MLD/GLD). Our students often also display a second need which is usually associated with speech language or communication needs (SLCN), Autistic Spectrum (ASD), Hearing Impairment (HI), Visual Impairment (VI) Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) as well as a variety of physical or medical disabilities or conditions.

The highly structured specialist curriculum is designed to provide a range of educational and therapy based opportunities for students enabling them to live independently with some staying in our post 16 provision and others who move successfully to a mainstream college for their post 16 education. There has been a request from our local authority (Blackburn with Darwen) to extend our age range to cater for primary children.

Why we feel it is beneficial to extend our age range to include primary provision:

- To provide a high quality special provision for primary children whose who are currently in a resource provision and need the specialist support that is not currently available in that provision.
- To offer a full time personalised and specialist curriculum that fully meets the needs of children with SEND.
- To provide the therapeutic based services that the children need.
- To meet local authority, parent, student and community demand for specialist places.
- To provide seamless transition across key stages. Currently the majority of KS2 children from the resource provision transition to Crosshill.
- To promote high aspirations and ambitions for the children within a fully supported environment.
- To eliminate the stress of transition for our more complex learners.
- To recruit and retain high quality staff.



Purpose of and process for the consultation

Change of status – Change the age range to include primary aged Children (Years 1 -6).

The trustees of Champion Education Trust and governors of Crosshill Special School are seeking your views on a proposal to add primary provision to Crosshill Special School, within the academic year 2023-2024. This will provide specialist provision both academic teaching and therapeutic to support meeting the needs of primary children who have an EHCP. It will also provide seamless provision for vulnerable children into key stage 3 allowing for greater acceleration of progress and enhancing parental engagement.

We are passionate about providing high quality education for our learners and community and strongly feel that the extension of age range from 11 – 19 to 5 - 19 will ensure that every learner within Crosshill has an appropriate curriculum that meets their needs effectively and is progressive. Enabling the children to flourish and learn how to live independently and/or progress to college or work.

The Proposal

The new proposal will be for a small number of KS1/2 learners (16) with special needs currently educated in a resource provision at St. Cuthberts to come onto the roll of Crosshill Special School. This provision will initially remain on site at St. Cuthberts which is very have a maximum intake of ten places each academic year in KS1 and KS2.

Placement of a student at the school would be the decision of the Local Authority in consultation with the school.

Implementation date

1 September 2023 – Age range increases to KS1/2 – KS5 (16 children in key stage 2 initially)

The process

There are five stages for a statutory proposal to increase the age range for a special school:

- Consultation – minimum of 4 weeks recommended
- Statutory Notice Publication – 1 day
- Statutory Representation – must be 4 weeks
- Decision – Regional Director for the DfE
- Implementation – No prescribed timescale



Consultation

This consultation is the first part of the process and seeks to:

- Explain how the proposed provision of a KS1/2 based initially at St Cuthbert's School will progress;
- Answer any questions you may have about the proposal;
- Gather your views on the proposal.

Who will be consulted?

We aim to consult with as many people and interested groups as possible. The list below provides a summary of the main groups.

- Parents/Carers
- Pupils on roll at Crosshill Special School
- Staff
- School Governors
- Parents, staff and governors of St. Cuthberts School
- BwD SEND officers
- Trade unions
- BwD MPs
- BwD Local Education Authority
- BwD Social Care
- All External Agencies with caseloads of students within Crosshill
- All medical professionals with caseloads of students within Crosshill



Further information

Why does there need to be a change from the current arrangement?

These children are vulnerable and have specific needs identified in an EHCP and need and are entitled to specialist provision. They need a different type of environment, curriculum offer and access to therapy provisions in order to feel safe, thrive and realise their true potential.

My child likes being part of St. Cuthberts School?

Initially the staff at Crosshill School will work very closely with the leadership team at St. Cuthberts to ensure a very smooth transition where we are hoping the students who are there currently won't feel a significant difference other than in their curriculum offer. The curriculum offer will be developed to meet the personalised and specific progression needs of the individual learner addressing their targets in their individual EHCPs. The focus will also be on providing specialist provision, curriculum teaching and therapies.

Where will the primary provision be housed?

Initially the children will remain on site in the purpose-built classrooms on the St. Cuthberts site.

There will be a view to securing a new site for the provision in time and discussions will be on going with the local authority to possibly expand the current Crosshill site or explore an alternative site.

Next steps

Subject to decisions made by Governors, the estimated timeline for the stages of the process of set out below:



Stages	Dates
Public consultation lasts 4 weeks and is a chance for you to attend a public drop in session and submit your views on the proposal.	9 th May 2023 – 7 th June 2023
Public consultation meeting at Crosshill School. To allow the public to hear a presentation on the rationale and plans.	17 th May 2023 – 3.45pm
Response to consultation	Monday 12 th June 2023
Trustees and Governors will consider the consultation feedback and decide whether to proceed to the next stage.	Week commencing 12 th June 2023
If Governors decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published confirming the details of the final proposal.	16 th June 2023
Significant change application submitted to the DfE	19 th June 2023
Following publication of the statutory Notice a period of 4 weeks will follow for representations to be submitted.	19 th June 2023 to 17 th July 2023
Implement proposal if it has been approved by Cabinet.	1 st September 2023

How to submit comments on this proposal

Please complete the questionnaire attached to this form and return it directly to:

Kay Naylor (School Operations Manager)

Crosshill School

Salisbury Rd

Darwen

BB1 3HY



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Alternatively, you can tell us what you think by completing the form electronically (available via our school website) and emailing it back to KNaylor650@crosshill.blackburn.sch.uk

This consultation period will be held from Tuesday 9th May 2023 – Wednesday 7th June 2023. If you would like Governors to consider your views, please respond by Wednesday 7th June 2023. Your feedback is very important to us.

If you have any questions about this form or would like more information, please contact:

Kay Naylor (School Operations Manager)

[01254 667713](tel:01254667713)

KNaylor650@crosshill.blackburn.sch.uk



Questionnaire

Please complete this questionnaire on the proposal to extend Crosshill to include Key stage 1 and Key 2 pupils. (Ages 5 -11)

We ask that you fill in as much as you can so we can analysis the responses and see who has taken part. You will not be identified by any of the information provided.

About you (Please tick the box that best describes how you would like to be represented)

I am a:

Parent/Carer Crosshill student	
Pupil	
Governor	
Member of Staff	
Resident	
Parent/Carer St Cuthberts student	
Medical professional/therapist	
Other Please specify:	

Your Views (Please tick one box for the question below)

How far do you support or oppose the proposal to extend the provision at Crosshill to include Keystage 1 and Keystage 2? If you have any specific reasons for your level of support/opposition, it would be helpful if you could include them in the comments box below.

Strongly Support	
Support	
Neither support or oppose	
Oppose	
Strongly Oppose	
Don't Know	



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Your comments *(Please write in the box below)*