



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

In the Royston of Barnsley

Information for Academy Proposers

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is inviting expressions of interest from Academy proposers interested in sponsoring a new 210 place primary school from September 2024 to serve the Royston area of Barnsley.

This document provides the background and specification for the new school, how it will be funded, the expected timescale for its development, information regarding how you can express and interest for its operation and how we will assess the strength of your application.



The closing date for expressions of interest is 9th July 2021 at 5pm

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Background

Why the additional primary places are necessary

The Education Act 2006 places a statutory duty on the Council to ensure that there is a strong supply of high-quality school places available to meet demand.

The demand for additional places in this area arises as a result of a proposal for 994 new homes being built on the MU5 development in Royston.

The Royston masterplan framework will support the development of a diverse new neighbourhood with a mix of housing types and tenures, creating high-quality homes.

The framework covers land at the MU5 site and land at Lee Lane, Royston. The site has been allocated for development within the Local Plan and can accommodate around 994 new homes, a primary school and supporting infrastructure with facilities and small-scale retail.

Current Arrangements

There are four other primary schools located nearby which have been factored in when considering the requirement for new school places. The tables below show the current number on roll in addition to projected numbers as the development progresses.

Providing a new primary academy will help best meet the demand for places whilst providing for greater local choice for parents and pupils. A new school will also offer the opportunity to improve education generally by strengthening partnerships and collaborative working and bring new expertise and knowledge to the area.

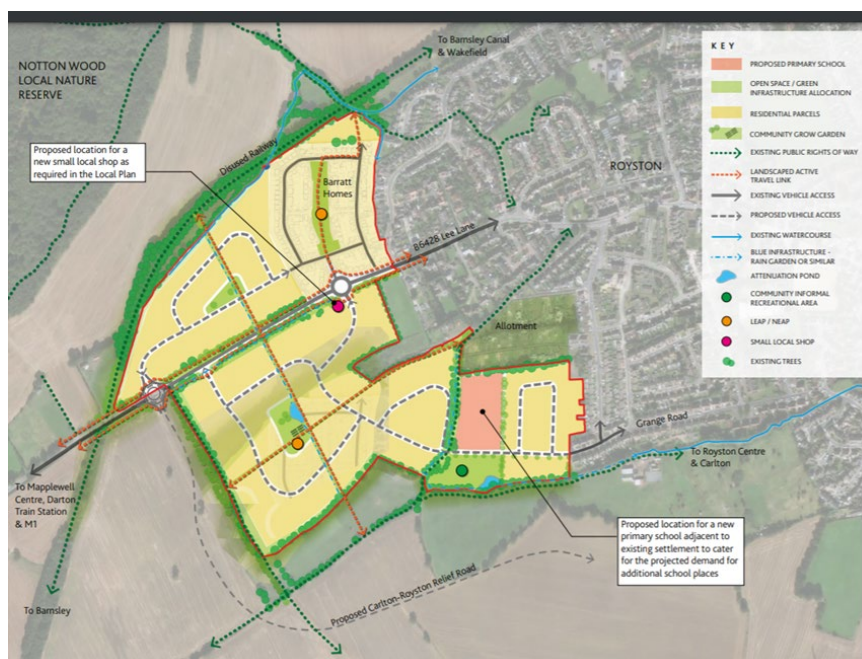
About the Development

The Royston masterplan framework will support the development of a diverse new neighbourhood with a mix of housing types and tenures, creating high-quality homes.

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Specification

Location of the new school



A full copy of the Royston MU5 Masterplan can be found at
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/14481/p12128-00-003-gil-roystonpublic-consultation-ipdf-2.pdf>

How the new school will be established

The Education Act 2011 changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced Section 6A, now known as the 'Free School Presumption' to the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The legislation requires that where the Council considers there is a need for a new school in its area; it must seek proposals from suitably qualified organisations to establish the new school as an Academy (Free School).

Potential Academy Proposers who are not already known to the Department for Education (DfE) and included on their approved register are advised to contact the DfE at the earliest opportunity to find out more about the approval process and certainly before submitting a formal expression of interest to the Council.

The size of the school

Current projections indicate that a 210 place school would be initially be required to meet the pupil yields expected from the development.

How the new school will be built

The new school will be designed and built by the Local Authority in keeping with their planning obligations.

The building specification will be formed using the guidelines and schedule of the accommodation toolkit included in the DfE's Building Bulletin 103 (BB103) publication which sets out simple, non-statutory area guidelines for mainstream school buildings and sites. This ensures a consistent approach and determines the appropriate amount of space for teaching and learning activities.

In order to meet the opening date of September 2024 the school design and build process may already be underway by the time the Academy Proposer is selected. As a result, the opportunity for proposers to be involved in the planning and design of the building may be limited.

- Lease Arrangements

On a date to be agreed with the approved Academy sponsor prior to the opening of the new primary school the site and buildings will be transferred by the Council on a lease arrangement as prescribed by the DfE.

Opening arrangements and school growth

The exact opening arrangements for the new primary school are yet to be agreed and will be determined in discussion with the Academy proposer, mindful of the demand for places at that time. However, at this stage, it is envisaged that in the first instance the school will open with Reception year, year 1 and possibly Year 2 pupils and will grow incrementally so as not to have an adverse impact on other primary schools in the locality.

The Academy will be expected to be flexible in how classes are organised to respond to the demand for places, including children who move to the area after the normal admissions round. The Academy proposer will be expected to demonstrate how they will ensure the need for additional places in the Royston are met without promoting or encouraging a large-scale relocation of existing pupils from other schools in the locality or nearby communities.

Age Range

The school is intended to serve statutory aged pupils between the ages of 4-11 in addition to early years provision being incorporated.

Gender

The school will be for both boys and girls.

Admissions Criteria

The council requires that the academy proposer adheres to national legislation and Codes of Practice including that relating to admission appeals in addition to local policies and practices including the co-ordinated scheme for admissions and the fair access protocol.

The council expects academy proposers to adopt the same admission criteria used to determine priority for places as in other local schools as set out in the following link <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/school-admissions-and-transfers/admission-arrangements/>

The Council does not operate catchment areas within Barnsley in order to promote more open enrolment.

This is to ensure fair and equitable access for all pupils.

Equality and Diversity

All potential academy proposers are required to demonstrate their commitment to inclusion, to promoting equality and diversity and to eliminating unlawful discrimination and harassment.

Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)

An initial EHRIA undertaken by the Council shows that no groups or individuals will be disadvantaged by the proposals for the new school.

A copy of the EHRIA is available to view at www.barnsley.gov.uk/schoolorg

Special Educational Needs

The school will be expected to fulfil all statutory duties of state schools in relation to SEN, in particular to meet the needs of pupils with Education, Health & Care Plans where local, mainstream school has been identified as the appropriate provision.

In addition, commissioners would like to explore the possibility with potential providers for the delivery of specialist resourced provision for pupils with specific needs, as appropriate, within the agreed parameters and capacity of the school.

Extended Services

The Council expects the Academy sponsor to collaborate and engage with other providers and local partners to develop extended services which meet the needs of local children, young people and families in co-ordinated holistic way which can be accessed through all the partners in the locality.

These services may include access to high quality childcare, out of hours learning activities and clubs, parenting support and community access to appropriate facilities.

Academy proposers are asked to provide evidence in their application of commitment towards the development of extended provision at the school.

Home to School Transport

The council will expect the academy proposer to encourage safe and sustainable travel to the new school, including walking and cycling and to develop a comprehensive travel plan to support this.

Home to school transport will only be provided in line with the Local Authority's home to school transport policy which can be viewed at

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/school-travel/>

Funding Arrangements

The capital to build the school will be secured via S106 agreements with the developers as the requirement of MU5 is for the developer to provide a new primary school.

As this school will be an Academy the successful academy proposer will then need to enter into a revenue funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education for the operation of the school, to be effective from the date of the schools opening.

As this will be an academy established to meet basic need the Council will be responsible for funding an amount to support pre-opening revenue costs and post-opening diseconomies. The new school will be funded on the basis of estimated pupil numbers in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

The Council's current policy for funding school growth was approved by the Schools Forum in February 2013, with further updates since. The growth policy provides funding support, negotiated and agreed with the new school, in recognition of costs incurred before the new school opens as well as to support diseconomies of scale when a new school or academy opens without a full complement of year groups.

The new school will be a recoupment Academy and the annual revenue budget will replicate the Councils formula for funding schools, subject to protection and additional payments in accordance with the budget policy for academies operated by the Education Skills and Funding Agency.

Application Process



Academy proposers wishing to express an interest in the new primary school should do so by completing the application form which is available via the following link

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/school-admissions-and-transfers/how-we-organise-school-places/>

You are advised to read carefully the accompanying explanatory notes before completing your application.

Please ensure that you complete the application form as fully as possible, providing an electronic copy and also posting a hard copy and short executive summary (maximum two sides of A4) to the address provided for submission on the form.

Your form should be accompanied by the appropriate signed Form of Proposal and declarations detailed on the Application Form.

Please note that the closing date and time for receipt of completed applications is 9th July 2021 at 5pm.

Having invited expressions of Interest from academy proposers, detailed evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with the assessment criteria provided within this document and the accompanying application form. A three-stage process will be followed to demine the Councils preferred sponsor for the new school, comprising of the initial written application, followed by a presentation by shortlisted proposers and an interview and a visit to an existing similar academy that they currently accommodate.

Each stage of the application process will be allocated a score and for those academy proposers shortlisted to the second stage, the total scores for each stage will be aggregated to determine an overall evaluation mark in order to determine a preferred sponsor. Further details of the scoring methodology to be used for evaluation are provided with the application form.

This will enable consideration by the Council's cabinet of a preferred provider.

Subject to the cabinets consideration, the Local Authority's assessment of all proposals will be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioners (RSC) who acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education.

The RSC will carefully consider the Councils submission and assuming their agreement, will then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Education who will make the final decision.

Once the decision has been made, the Council will work closely with the chosen provider, the landowners and the DfE (through the Education Skills and Funding Agency) to conclude the development and operational details of the new school.

Proposed Timeline

The Council has informed the Department for Education of the proposal to establish the new school. The Council will work closely with the DfE throughout the process to ensure that all expectations are met. The table below sets out the expected timeline for applications, assessment, approval and implementation.

PROCESS INVOLVED	PROPOSED TIMELINE
Invitations for expressions of interest published	15 th April 2021
Closing Date for applications	9 th July 2021
Stage 1 : shortlisting of applications	July 2021
Stage 2: detailed assessment (including presentation by and interview of shortlisted proposers	22 nd and 23 rd July 2021
Visits to academies	To be determined if required
Decision taken by cabinet on preferred proposer	October 2021
Councils submission of applications to the RSC for a decision	November 2021
Secretary of State approval The RSC will notify the preferred provider	December 2021
The council will advise unsuccessful applicants	
Statutory consultation (required under S10 of the Academies Act 2010)	To be undertaken by the appointed sponsor
Identified Trust to enter into funding agreement with the Secretary of State	To be undertaken by appointed sponsor and SoS
Construction and pre-opening phase	To be confirmed
New School Opens	September 2024

The above timescales are subject to confirmation and may change as some dates are outside the control of the Council.

Assessment Criteria

The Council will consider the evidence provided by the proposer to satisfy itself that the proposer has the capacity and intention to meet the following criteria;

The Council will consider the evidence provided by the proposer to satisfy itself that the proposer has the capacity and intention to meet the following criteria:

- The capacity to establish a new school on the basis of high expectations and high performance to continue to drive up standards and excellence within the primary school system, in particular for the most vulnerable children
- A strong desire and vision to work closely with other education providers in the locality to promote partnership working and community cohesion
- Evidence of a proven track record of school improvement or sustained high standards and how the proposed governance model will drive and support high standards.

The Council will submit all assessment information to the Secretary of State (via the Regional Schools Commissioner) who will in turn appoint a sponsor. The Secretary of State will then enter into a funding agreement with the Academy proposer.

The DfE will focus on the following criteria:

- The capacity and quality of the proposer. New sponsors will be assessed on their strategic vision, educational capacity and performance, financial planning and operational capacity and governance. The focus for existing sponsors will be on their track record and credibility, capacity to deliver a new project and their local infrastructure to support their proposal.
- The ability of the proposer to deliver on time, to secure best value for money and maintain financial viability. This will need to be made clear in a comprehensive financial plan based on realistic assumptions.
- The proposer's ability to promote high standards as set out in a clear and coherent education plan, and which demonstrates innovation to drive system change. The proposal should give strong, credible evidence that the new school will raise the overall standard of education available in the local area, adding high quality places to the system.

Delivering Excellence in Education



The Council's vision for Barnsley is to make this the very best place for children, young people and families. To achieve this our mission is to ensure that our children and young people are safe and living in families where they can achieve their potential and have their health, wellbeing and life chances improved within thriving communities.

We want to appoint an academy proposer who will help drive forward and achieve our visions.

Proposers must have an ambitious vision for the Academy, setting high expectations for both pupils and staff. There should be a strong culture of working in collaboration with other schools and education providers locally and in other parts of the Borough. Academy proposers must also be able to demonstrate their approach to effective engagement with partner agencies and services which contribute to improving children's outcomes in the local area.

Relationships with pupils, parents and carers and other local stakeholders should be open, purposeful and viewed positively by all.

Leadership and Governance

The council regards strong leadership and governance as a key component to delivering improved outcomes for children and young people in our schools.

All potential Academy proposers will therefore be expected to provide details to show how they will:

- Deliver high quality leadership, management and governance
- Implement strong, effective and dynamic governance arrangements.
- Achieve robust and effective financial management

The Council has an aspiration for all Barnsley schools to be good or outstanding, and currently have achieved this. The new school should expect to be judged by Ofsted to be at least good, with a strong trajectory towards outstanding. The new school should therefore aspire to perform well above national figures against a range of key indicators.

Gaps in achievement and attainment between pupils in vulnerable groups should be as narrow as possible. Pupils should develop good literacy and numeracy skills and attain well in these areas so that they are ready for secondary education. The Council expects that the curriculum provided should be broad, highly engaging and challenging.

We expect that every child and young person in Barnsley should be able to access the best teaching, achieve their full potential and as they become an adult, have opportunities for an independent economic and social life. Through providing the best start in life, whatever their background, all children should be able to thrive at school.

Academy proposers will be expected to:

- Provide a sustainable good or outstanding school with an exciting and inspiring broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils

- Seek out and share best practice within and beyond the school promoting innovation and creativity in learning and teaching.
- Implement rigorous processes of self-evaluation and continual improvement, including recognising the importance of children and young people's voice

- Maintain a rigorous focus on educational standards to ensure that every child and young person achieves their potential and goals and national expectations are met or exceeded
- Ensure an inclusive learning environment in which all pupils, including those with special or additional education needs and those with disabilities are supported and enable to make appropriate progress
- Promote good pupil behaviour and an ethos that fosters their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Ensure that pupils are kept safe and secure and away from harm
- Work in partnership with the council and other educational providers to contribute towards meeting a collective responsibility to secure the best for all Barnsley children and young people, fostering strong school to school relationships and co-operating with Fair Access protocols.
- Develop strategic alliances, partnerships and networks based on a collective moral purpose to better meet the needs of children, young people and families in Barnsley.
- Fully engage with the new world system of leadership to make an active contribution to school to school support, including peer-to-peer support, network/cluster partnership working and sharing good practice
- Support the statutory responsibilities of the Council to ensure sufficiency of high-quality school places and improved educational outcomes through agreed sharing of data and information.

Working in Partnership

All Barnsley schools are encouraged to
Work in partnership with strong local
Collaboratives and/or teaching
Alliances led by national leaders in education.

A key component of selection will be the Academy proposer's willingness to work in Collaboration with other providers and Local Partners to develop services which clearly demonstrate continual improvement through the sharing of expertise and Collaborative working and which meet the needs of local children, young people and families in a coordinated way.

Academy Proposers will be expected to:

- Ensure the school plays a key role within its immediate community and the wider local economy
- Engage all parents and carers in supporting their child's achievement, behaviour and safety, and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Building Stronger Communities

The Council welcomes the involvement of schools in providing community access to appropriate facilities to Enhance education and learning.

Academy proposers will be expected to:

- Provide access to and use of the school's accommodation for activities outside of school hours
- Support the council in delivering effective early intervention services, ensuring school readiness and supporting our most vulnerable earners and families
- Work in partnership with wider services such as social care, services, health and police to keep children safe, support families and build stronger communities
- Provide children and young people with the skills they will need to play an active part in their local community and economy.

Involving Parents

The council expects that potential Academy proposers will be able to demonstrate their plans and arrangements for engaging parents and carers in supporting pupils' achievement, behaviour and safety and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Accountability

The council recognises that statutorily Academy sponsors are accountable through the Education Skills and Funding Agency to the Secretary of State. However, the council nevertheless has a statutory role in supporting families and parents through promoting a sufficient supply of places in good schools, so as to offer maximum choice and diversity. This requires that Academy proposers are also accountable for their performance to parents, the local community and to the Local Authority in our role as champions of educational excellence and for the safeguarding and support for our vulnerable children and families.

As a minimum the Council therefore expects that:

- Sponsors/proposers will attend meetings with Local Authority elected members and/or officers upon request to report on progress of the school
- Sponsors/proposers will provide data as requested by the Local Authority to enable the performance of the school to be monitored.
- The Local Authority would be able to attend any meeting established by the Academy proposer/sponsor to monitor the performance of the school against the issues identified in an Ofsted inspection report
- Sponsors will respond quickly and positively to any safeguarding concern raised by the Local Authority

In the spirit of partnership, it is the Council's expectation that the proposer/sponsor would be agreeable to the appointment of a Local Authority governing the Governing Body.

The Closing date for expressions of interest is 9th July 2021 at 5pm

Compliance with Legislation

The Academy proposer will be required to comply with all relevant regulations and legislation, relating to the development of a new school

This includes but is not limited to:

- The Children's act 2004
- Health and Safety at Work legislation
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Equality act 2010
- Police and Justice Act 2006
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011

Academy proposers must have sufficient written policies, procedures and codes of practice in place to enable full compliance at all times with the above, and any other relevant legislation, and to ensure that instruction and guidance for the academy's staff are available in relation to the functions and activities described in the specification.

The policies, procedures and codes of practice must be accessible at all times by those staff and must be readily available to relevant members of the public/stakeholders.

Contact details and Further Information

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss your application, please contact either:

Nina Sleight Director, Early Start Prevention and Sufficiency
ninasleight@barnsley.gov.uk

Darren Dickinson Interim Head of Barnsley Schools Alliance
darrendickinson@barnsley.gov.uk

Beverley Sadler Service Manager, Admissions and Access
Beverleysadler@barnsley.gov.uk

The full suite of documents can be viewed at www.barnsley.gov.uk/schoolorg. The latest information and developments will also be uploaded to this website.