
SCHOOLS IN DARLINGTON

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members with an update report detailing the current different types of schools across Darlington and any new developments.

Summary

2. Since 2011, Darlington has seen a growing increase in diversity of provision across both Primary and Secondary schools. This report provides a snap shot of the current position.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that Members note the content of this report for information.

**Murray Rose
Director of People**

Background Papers

'The academy/free school presumption' – DfE guidance (July 2013)

Rachel Kershaw : Extension x 2026

S17 Crime and Disorder	No direct implications
Health and Well Being	No direct implications
Carbon Impact	No direct implications
Diversity	The diverse nature of education provision across Darlington provides for all children.
Wards Affected	All schools across the Borough
Groups Affected	Children and Young People within Darlington
Budget and Policy Framework	No adverse effect
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	To improve the life chances and education opportunities for all children within the Borough
Efficiency	Better use outcomes for children and a more effective use of resources.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. Of the 41 schools in Darlington, 28 are academies, nine are maintained schools and there is one Free School. The total includes two maintained nursery schools, one all age special school, one primary special school and a Pupil Referral Unit.
5. Appendix 1 provides a detailed list of each type of school.
6. The first school in Darlington to convert to an Academy was St Aidan's which did so in 2007 followed by Hurworth School in April 2011. There have been no Academy conversions since April 2013.
7. The LA continues to co-ordinate annual and in-year admission arrangements for all schools across the Borough and schools continue to purchase support services from the Local Authority, but in varying degrees depending on each particular service.

Schools @ One Darlington

8. The local authority and all publicly funded schools in Darlington established an unincorporated trust model in July 2008 as a part of the local school improvement strategy. This included a commitment from schools to share best practice and to support each other.
9. The model developed, into 'schools@onedarlington' from 2010, when in order to ensure that the arrangement was as effective for smaller schools as it was for larger schools, as well as being effective for both rural and urban schools, for oversubscribed schools and those with spare capacity etc, schools agreed and signed a charter setting out the expectations that schools had of each other.

10. All schools within Darlington operate within the spirit of 'schools@onedarlington' and any potential new schools (Free Schools) are also encouraged to adopt the arrangements and informal agreements.
11. A proposal is currently being considered by Head Teachers that would lead to the creation of a schools@onedarlington board which would be formally constituted and seek membership from the Primary Forum, the 11-19 Partnership and LA representatives. The proposal is that the board would formally consider how best to support standards collectively across Darlington.

Free Schools

12. Members will be aware that Polam Hall has applied to the Department for Education (DfE) to convert to a Free School from September 2015.
13. In addition, the Education Village Academy Trust have submitted a Free School proposal to DfE for the creation of a standalone post-16 college to cater for children with complex needs (PMLD).
14. The LA does not play a part in the decision making process for Free School applications, but has sought to develop and maintain close working relationships with the Schools during the application and assessment process. The Head Teachers and Governing Bodies have been keen to engage with the LA and other schools through the 'schools@onedarlington' partnership arrangements.

School Organisation

15. The LA retains a statutory responsibility for ensuring the sufficient supply of school places for all children within the Borough and as such works closely with all schools to develop and agree an annually reviewed School Organisation Plan.
16. In Darlington we continue to experience a demand for primary school places across the Borough, but particularly on the eastern side of the town. Officers have just completed the annual consultation process with schools to identify potential solutions to meet the demand.
17. The consultation concluded that it would be best to meet the current demand through a series of small expansions at existing schools. It was felt this would provide good value for money and the opportunity to respond flexibly to the development of housing in the area. Feasibility studies are currently being undertaken and it is envisaged that a request will be made to Cabinet in April/May for the release of Basic Need funding to support the development of the projects. In conjunction with the potential proposal being considered from Polam Hall, it was felt that these solutions would provide sufficient school places for the medium term, however, it is recognised that there be a need to provide further solutions if demand continues to increase in the long term.

New School Proposals

18. The Education Act 2011 changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced section 6A, the Academy / Free School presumption.
19. In July 2013 the DfE published new guidance which sets out for LA's and new school proposers the department's expectations of how the academy/free school presumption process should operate in practice. The two main features of the guidance are:
 - (a) The presumption arrangements require LA's to seek proposals to establish an academy/free school where they have identified the need for a new school in their area. The LA is responsible for providing the site for the new school and meeting all associated capital and pre/post-opening costs.
 - (b) All new academy/free school proposals require the Secretary of State's approval. It is the Secretary of State who will enter into a funding agreement with the proposer.

Outcome of Consultation

20. This paper provides factual information and has not required consultation leading to its preparation.
21. Separate consultation arrangements are in place to support some of the activity as detailed in the report.

School Name	Age Range	Type	Date of Conversion (if relevant)
Borough Road Nursery School	Nursery	Maintained	
George Dent Nursery School	Nursery	Maintained	
Abbey Infant School	Primary	Academy	01/08/2011
Mowden Infant School	Primary	Academy	01/06/2012
Abbey Junior School	Primary	Academy	01/08/2011
Mowden Junior School	Primary	Academy	01/06/2011
Bishopton/Redmarshall CE Primary	Primary	Academy	01/08/2011
Cockerton CE Primary School	Primary	Maintained	
Corporation Rd Community Primary	Primary	Maintained	
Firthmoor Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/05/2012
Gurney Pease Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/07/2012
Harrowgate Hill Primary School	Primary	Maintained	
Heathfield Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/06/2012
Heighington CE Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/08/2011
High Coniscliffe CE Primary School	Primary	Maintained	
Holy Family RC Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/04/2013
Hurworth Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/06/2012
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Primary	Maintained	
Northwood Primary School	Primary	Maintained	
Red Hall Primary School	Primary	Maintained	
Reid Street Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/07/2011
Rydal Academy	Primary	Academy	01/12/2012
Skerne Park Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/02/2013
Springfield Academy	Primary	Academy	01/04/2012
St Augustine's RC Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/04/2013
St Bede's RC Primary School	Primary	Academy	01/08/2012
St George's CE Academy	Primary	Academy	01/04/2012
St John's CE Academy	Primary	Academy	01/05/2012
St Teresa's RC Primary School	Primary	Maintained	
West Park Academy	Primary	Academy	01/07/2011
Whinfield Primary	Primary	Maintained	
Carmel College, A Catholic Academy	Secondary	Academy	01/11/2011
Darlington School for Mathematics & Science	Secondary	Academy	01/01/2012
Haughton Academy	Secondary	Academy	01/04/2012
Hummersknott Academy	Secondary	Academy	01/07/2011
Hurworth School	Secondary	Academy	01/04/2011
Longfield Academy of Sport	Secondary	Academy	01/08/2011
St Aidan's CE Academy	Secondary	Academy	
Beaumont Hill Academy	All age Special	Academy	01/04/2012
Marchbank Free School	Primary Special	Free School	01/09/2013
Rise Carr College	Secondary	PRU	