



16 January 2015

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors of Torbay School

As you are aware we have been working with Torbay Council in its review of the provision for pupils with social, emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties. This recently led to the amalgamation of Torbay School with the Pupil Referral Unit at the beginning of this year. To further enhance the provision on offer the Council is now looking at a proposal to relocate Torbay School to a new site with a purpose built school.

The attached paper gives more detailed information about the proposal and why we believe this would be beneficial to the school.

It also provides you with an opportunity to comment on what is being proposed; please note that any comments received will be used to inform the decision making.

If you require this document in a different format or would like any further information then please contact 01803 208260,

It is important to remember we are holding this consultation to gather your views; no decisions have been made at this point.

*The closing date for responses is the **30th January 2015.***

Yours sincerely

James Evans
Executive Headteacher Torbay School

The Relocation of Torbay School

Consultation Paper Spring 2015

WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?

Torbay Council is proposing to move Torbay School from its current location on Torquay Road, Paignton TQ3 2AL, to a new site with a purpose built school for secondary pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. The school leadership and Governing Body are very supportive of this proposal.

WHY DOES THE COUNCIL WANT TO MOVE TORBAY SCHOOL?

Torbay School has been at its current location since 2003. Under a reorganisation of the Council's provision for pupils with special needs it was established at that site as a special school for 60 pupils aged between 9 and 16 with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Since that time the demand for provision at the school has risen and in 2013 the age range of the provision was changed so that it became a provision for secondary aged pupils only.

The needs and demands of the school population have changed and continue to change. Discussions have been ongoing with the Council about possible solutions not only to the issues around the existing premises but also the suitability of the site with its close proximity to residents and the lack of outdoor space.

The site is landlocked and offers no easy solutions. The most viable and least disruptive to the running of the school would be the complete relocation to a new purpose built school. The new school would be designed with involvement from the senior staff of the school and experienced consultants.

At present the Council is carrying out feasibility studies to identify the most appropriate site from those available within the area. The current preferred location is Torquay.

It is acknowledged that a relocation from Paignton to Torquay could create transport issues for some families; should the relocation go ahead then the Council and the school would work closely with families to secure a solution.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The purpose of this consultation is to gather your views and inform the decision making process; it will run from 16th January until 30th January 2015. After that date all responses received will be collated and the proposal will be submitted along with a summary of the responses received to the Council for a decision on whether to proceed with this proposal or not.

If the Council decides to proceed with the proposal there is still a long way to go. The relocation of a school is a prescribed change so in order to implement it the Council will need to follow a statutory process; this will involve a further consultation and a further opportunity for interested parties such as yourselves to have your say.

The Council will also need to identify a suitable site for the new school and new purpose built premises will need to be constructed.

Bearing all this in mind, the Council would not expect Torbay School to relocate before September 2017.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS HEARD

Attached to this document is a response form which gives you an opportunity to give us your views on the proposals. We do have to ask for your name since everyone and anyone is entitled to return one form only.

In addition to completing a response form, or instead of, you can also send your views by letter or email to the following addresses.

Letter: Samantha Poston
 Schools Capital & Planning Officer,
 Schools Capital & Planning Team, TDA
 3rd Floor Tor Hill House
 Union Street
 Torquay
 TQ2 5QW

Email: schoolscapital@torbay.gov.uk

If you would like additional copies of this document and response form, or require it in a different format or language, please telephone 01803 208260.

The closing date for responses is 30th January 2015.



CONSULTATION ON RELOCATION OF TORBAY SCHOOL

Response Form
Spring 2015

This response form sets out questions relating to the Consultation Paper. Please read each question and indicate your preferred response by ticking the relevant box. Your comments are also welcome and space has been provided after each question for this purpose.

Before completing the response form, please provide the following information (block capitals)

NAME: _____

Please tick one of the following boxes as appropriate:

Governor []

Staff []

Parent []

Other, please specify _____

1. Do you agree with the proposal to relocate Torbay School?

Yes [] No [] Not sure []

Comments:

.....
.....
.....

2. Do you have any other options for consideration?

Yes [] No [] Not sure []

Please indicate below any other options that are not included in this consultation, giving reasons for these and any supporting information:

.....
.....
.....

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS RESPONSE FORM
Please return your completed form by 30th January 2015 to:

Samantha Poston
Schools Capital & Planning Officer,
Schools Capital & Planning Team, TDA
3rd Floor Tor Hill House
Union Street
Torquay TQ2 5QW

Summary of Consultation

Consultation papers were issued to those parties directly affected by the proposals, the parents and carers of all pupils currently attending Torbay School and the staff and governors of the school.

A total of 159 papers were issued.

At the close of the consultation 8 responses had been received.

This is a response rate of 5%.

In total, 100% (8) of the respondents were in favour of the proposal to relocate Torbay School; none were against the proposal.

Please find below a more detailed look at the responses to the questions put forward in the consultation;

Responses to question 1: Do you agree with the proposal to relocate Torbay School?

Comments made include:

- ...the school does need more outdoor space....
- The current school premises are not suitable to educate children because it is landlocked and there is little space for secondary pupils
- Current site is inadequate....
- Growing demand for alternative provision...current site unsuitable for extension
- Change supported subject to ongoing consultation.
- Subject to appropriateness of new site.

Council's response:

The comments received support the arguments behind the proposal that the current site is not suitable for current and raising demand.

There will be ongoing consultation and discussion with all interested parties as the proposal is developed and before any final decisions are made.

Responses to question 2: Do you have any other options for consideration?

No alternative options were given.