



Shrewsbury Academies Trust  
Mount Pleasant Road  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 3HY

Tel: 01743 231052  
Email: [admin@sat.coop](mailto:admin@sat.coop)

Executive Principal: Geoff Pettengell

Parent Consultation Meeting  
The Grange School 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015

42 parents in attendance

Q: Is there room on one site for all children?

A: No, if there was room on one site we would move all the children to that site. GDP explained in detail about the bid for a new build and also about the possibility of developing one site.

Q: How are students going to get from one site to another?

A: Committed 100% to providing transport at the beginning and end of each school day. As long as there is a split school site transport will be provided.

Q: Why can't we wait until we have the new school building or until we have capacity to accommodate everyone on one site?

A: Financially we have to look at alternatives. GDP explained current financial situation and year on year redundancies currently taking place.

Q: Can monies be moved around to help counteract the deficit at The Grange?

A: As one organisation we have the ability to move money from Sundorne. This year Sundorne is making an in-year loss, surplus last year was used to support The Grange.

The EFA (Education Funding Agency) part of DfE (Department of Education) is now providing some support in the form of a loan which has to be paid back. It has taken over a year for this funding to be agreed.

Q: Which site is bigger?

A: The Grange and Sundorne sites are both very similar in size.

Q: Can you use demountables and put all students on one site?

A: We could increase capacity with temporary buildings but don't think we could move everyone in one go. What might be a possibility is for Grange students to continue at The Grange but the new intake be accommodated in temporary classrooms/demountables. We are currently in contact with Property Services about costings for demountable classrooms as clearly there would be a cost implication. If it is something stakeholders want to look at, GDP happy to speak to EFA and advise that this is the plan, this is what stakeholders want to do, this is the help and support that is needed to make it happen.

Q: Can you guarantee that current Year 11s at The Grange will stay at The Grange?

A: Yes, I can guarantee Year 11s will stay at The Grange based on this model. If a different model goes ahead I would still want Year 11s here at The Grange as this would give them the best education and best continuity and minimum disruption. I do not want to move Year 11 students.

Q: I have a child with autism and transition is really difficult for all autistic and SEN children. How are you going to help these students?

A: Making a very good point. For any child a move such as this is going to be difficult. We would try to make the move as easy as possible. I am more than happy to meet with you as an individual or with a group of parents with SEN students to talk this through further.

Q: I am worried about my child being bullied if they go to Sundorne School.

A: I have only been familiar with the area since 2008 but in the 7 years I have been here I believe the traditional rivalries that were around have changed significantly. We already have students from Sundorne School who come to The Grange for Hair & Beauty and Mechanics. We have no problems with any of the students. We have 60 students who choose to go to Sundorne every day and are in classes at Sundorne. I hear the point you're making but I also see students at The Grange in Sundorne and students from Sundorne in The Grange and there are no problems.

Q: Wouldn't it be better to move students earlier?

A: We could take Year 7 on to Sundorne School in September 2016? What I am trying to say is that we have a number of options available to us. At this stage, nothing is cast in stone. I felt it was important to come to you with a proposal and if you feel there is a better way forward, I am happy to look at it.

Q: Belvidere and Monkmoor came together many years ago. Could you not look at the model they used? It worked very well with Years 7 & 8 at Monkmoor, Years 9, 10 & 11 at Belvidere and new year groups were the comprehensive groups.

A: I am more than happy to look at suggestions put forward.

Q: Can we take into account the view of the children? They feel they are having their choices taken away from them?

A: Of course. We want to listen to everyone. If we do not secure funding for a new building I have already talked about developing one of the sites to accommodate everyone.

Q: Is the Stakeholders Feedback Form being sent to all parents? 6 weeks isn't a very long time for everyone to have their say and there are only a small number of parents here this evening.

A: I am happy to extend the consultation period if that is the appropriate thing to do. Yes, the Stakeholders Feedback Form will be sent out to all parents via students.

Q: Can we meet again after half term? How will we be notified?

A: I am happy to meet with you again after half term once I have had the opportunity to meet with Sundorne parents, local primary schools, staff and students. If, from the initial consultation meetings and Stakeholders Feedback Forms there are clear alternatives I will put them to you. Notification of the next meeting will be via letter home, text and the websites.

- Q: You have spoken about parents and their children. How are you going to retain your existing teaching staff? Have you had anyone leaving because of this?
- A: Staff have been going through a redundancy process at The Grange School for several years and are fully aware of the financial situation. Current planning for the school suggests that the vast majority of jobs are safe. It is hoped that any staffing reductions through reorganisation will be achieved through voluntary means, natural wastage, discussion and mutual agreement. The movement of some (a minority) of staff between sites is envisaged.

Beyond 2017 we will need to recruit more staff. The local authority think student numbers will increase by 2019/2020. What we have now isn't working – it isn't good for the staff or the students. It isn't sustainable.

- Q: If nothing changes what will happen?
- A: We (Shrewsbury Academies Trust) would have to close down. The DfE would step in and they would come in and run the school their way. They would not be standing here talking to you, asking for your opinion and consulting with you. They would bring in some major sponsor and the changes would just happen.

Yes, it is a time of change and we all know what happened with the Wakeman. The Belvidere system worked well and we need to try and find our way forward which will cause minimal disruption for everyone, students, staff and parents.

- Q: Where is the new site going to be?
- A: We are still to identify a suitable site. We cannot find a site until we have the money available to us.

- Q: It has been suggested the new site will be by the incinerator. Is this true?
- A: No! Definitely not.

- Q: We are being told that the Harlescott level crossing is going. Would you work with the local authority to help ensure our children are safe when they cross the road?
- A: We will provide transport between the two sites at the beginning and end of each day whilst there is a split site. I would be happy to speak to the local authority to help with crossings.

- Q: My son is in Year 7 and will need help with transition. He will have a new form tutor and new teaching staff. What will you do to help with this?
- A: There would need to be transition arrangements in place across the sites for this particular model.

- Q: Could The Grange site be developed to provide 6<sup>th</sup> form education?
- A: I always felt that we wanted some post-16 provision this side of the town but when I consulted on one school last year; I was met with some opposition from other people in the town.

Finances for a 6<sup>th</sup> form/college are very different and bring with them their own issues. I am trying to create a sustainable future and do not want to commit to something that is actually full of pitfalls financially owing to changes in this parliament.

Q: Why do you think this is a good proposal?

A: We cannot get all the students on one site so we have to look at the best way forward. What we can do is to develop and build on one site year on year.

Q: Can you guarantee that one site could be developed?

A: I have held discussions about one site being developed but at this stage have nothing in writing.

Q: How would this affect Grange Primary School?

A: Grange Primary School will remain as it is to serve the community.

Q: What would happen if you built a new site?

A: The current plan is that Grange Primary School stays where it is. The building is very good and doesn't have the same issues as the secondaries.

Q: Are you more likely to get funding for a new building if it is a split site school?

A: Condition of the building is paramount within the Government at the moment. They have undertaken conditioning surveys of all schools. I don't know where The Grange and Sundorne are ranked within these surveys but those schools who are in a worse condition are the ones getting rebuilt. My understanding that the rankings are based on the condition of the building.

Q: What happens to uniform?

A: From the start of September 2016, Year 7 who join the new school would have a new uniform. For students who are working their way through The Grange uniform would stay the same.

I would students and parents involved in the developing of the uniform and I wouldn't want it to be any more expensive than necessary.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm