

The Joint Catholic and Church of England Academy for the Community of Newton



Sponsors

The Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool

The Church of England Diocese of Liverpool

Liverpool Hope University



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department for
children, schools and families

The Joint Catholic and Church of England Academy for the Community of Newton

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This brochure introduces the exciting plan for a proposed joint Catholic and Church of England Academy for the Catholic parishes currently served by St Aelred's and the community of Newton. It will be formed by replacing Newton Community High School and St Aelred's Catholic Technology College. We would like to receive your views on the proposal for the Academy so please read this brochure and share your thoughts with us. Even better, please join us at one of the public meetings listed at the end of the brochure.

What is an Academy?

Academies are state-funded independent schools at which education is free to students.

They are all ability schools established by sponsors working in partnership with central government and the local education partners.

Academies have a number of freedoms to innovate in ways which it is considered would benefit their students and transform the education provided.

Academies are not controlled by a Local Authority, but by an "Academy Trust", a registered charity established by the Sponsors. The Trust also works with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to appoint the Academy's overall Principal. The trustees of the proposed Academy would also appoint some of the governors of the Academy. The Local Authority, parents and carers, staff and the wider community would also be represented.

As well as providing the best opportunities for their pupils, Academies have a key part to play in the regeneration of the local community. The proposed Academy would offer local solutions for local needs.

Why should St Aelred's Catholic Technology College and Newton Community High School become an Academy?

The Local Authority and Governing Body of St Aelred's with agreement of the Archdiocese have been supporting a School Improvement Partnership with Newton Community High School. Under this arrangement, the two schools have been working together under a single Executive Headteacher. This has contributed to the removal of Newton Community High School from Special Measures in 2006. The characteristics of the population are changing and decreasing numbers means that there will be too many secondary school places. The Local Authority and other local stakeholders believe that the best way to move forward and make significant further improvement and reconcile the issues associated with the decreasing student population is through this proposal for a joint Catholic and Church of England Academy. This proposal has the support of the governing bodies of both schools. Meanwhile the Local Authority and Dioceses are continuing to commit their energies into supporting the school improvement work at both schools.

Who are the Sponsors?

The sponsors for the proposed Academy for the community of Newton are the Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool, the Church of England Diocese of Liverpool and Liverpool Hope University.



Archbishop Patrick Kelly



Bishop James Jones



Gerald Pillay
Vice Chancellor of Liverpool
Hope University

The Church of England and the Catholic Church both have a long history of involvement in schools with track records of high standards and commitment to regeneration through education. Together, therefore, they provide a significant and strong offer to develop a successful Academy, with a strong ethos based on Christian values which emphasise the unique value of each individual and have had previous successful experience with Academies on a national basis. Pastoral care and personalised learning would ensure that every pupil is known and supported during their time at the Academy.

Church schools have strong links with their neighbourhoods and take a leading role in opening up opportunity and strengthening the community. The proposed

Academy would seek to maximise the educational and family provision for the community it serves.

Liverpool Hope University is the only ecumenical university in Europe and is already involved with the dioceses at the Academy of St Francis of Assisi in Liverpool. The proposed

Academy would build on Liverpool Hope's 160 year old contribution to teacher education and its mission to make high quality education accessible to all.

The Academy, in close collaboration with Liverpool Hope University, will give high priority to the development of future generations of Educators. This collaboration will also support the continued professional development of Academy staff at all levels.

To develop the proposed Academy, the sponsors are working in close partnership with the Local Authority and the DCSF. The process of developing the proposed Academy is being overseen by an Overall Project Manager (OPM). The OPM is a company called Mouchel.



The specialism of the proposed Academy would be **the Environment**: the natural, the physical and the local and global community. The environmental theme would be embedded in all aspects of the curriculum. The sponsors believe that choosing the environment as the specialism provides the best opportunity for pupils to learn about and understand their responsibilities to the Community and the Environment and how their actions can play an important role.

Providing the very best for pupils requires the very best teachers. The proposed Academy would emphasise the importance of the education of current and future generations of teachers and other education professionals. By creating an environment to develop our teachers and pupils, and working with Liverpool Hope University, it is envisaged that the proposed Academy would become a centre of innovation and excellence in teacher education which would be recognised both regionally and nationally. Academy staff would be encouraged and supported to actively participate in their own and others professional development and in research which would inform the Academy's policies and practices.

Where would the proposed Academy be located and when would it open?

It is proposed that the Academy would be opened in new purpose built accommodation in September 2011. The preferred location for the proposed Academy is on the site of Newton Community High School.

The new building would reflect high standards in environmental design and conservation in keeping with the proposed environmental specialism. The principles of sustainability would be embedded in its design and would be utilised as an active tool in learning about the built environment.

The proposed Academy would be welcoming, comfortable, both spacious and non-intimidating in scale, naturally lit, bright and colourful and ecologically sustainable. There will be a dedicated space for worship and spiritual reflection, symbolising the key role played by spirituality in the life of the Academy community.

It is anticipated that the landscape of the school site would become itself a learning



context in which young people acquire and develop skills appropriate to the creative sustainability of their local environment.

The process of building the proposed Academy would be managed by the Local Authority.

How would the proposed Academy be different and what would it be like?

The proposed Academy would be different in that it would have the freedom to operate flexibly and adapt the National Curriculum so that learning styles and content suit individual needs.

Through its Christian ethos and environmental specialism the sponsors' vision is that the proposed Academy would be dedicated to the community it serves and will provide:

- a caring community welcoming children of all faiths and none
- a healthy environment
- new and stimulating ways of learning that equip people for good jobs, great leisure activities and for a fulfilling life



The proposed Academy's mission is to:

- Provide a new form of education open to all in the Newton area and the parishes of the Deanery of St Aelred's Catholic Technology College.
- Develop and encourage concern and respect for the environment and a sustainable way of living.
- Work with the local community and other schools in St Helens to raise aspirations, expectations and the educational achievements of all its members.
- Contribute to the provision of high quality teaching professionals.
- Provide opportunities for a creative and innovative approach to the continued professional development of teachers and other professionals and for research opportunities.

The proposed Academy would be an 11 - 18 school with accommodation for 1350 students aged 11 to 16 and for 300 students post 16.

What would the change to an Academy mean for my child?

All students on roll at St Aelred's Catholic Technology College and Newton Community High School prior to the opening of the Academy would be offered a place at the proposed Academy on 1st September 2011.

Applications for places in Year 7 for September 2011 would be considered in line with the admissions scheme for St Helens Local Authority including as the top priority the current associated Roman Catholic, Church of England and community primary schools for both existing secondary schools.

Next stages of the project

The Academy Project Team will continue to develop its proposals for the Academy over the next few months.

The project team comprises the Overall Project Manager, Mouchel, working alongside the Sponsors, The Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Local Authority and representatives of the two existing governing bodies to ensure that the project moves forward.

It will focus on the following areas:

- Consulting pupils, staff, parents and the local community.
- Developing the educational model and curriculum and other educational policies.
- Providing input to the design process for the new building.
- Establishing the charitable trust that will run the Academy.

Public Consultation

We want to make sure that the Academy proposals are made widely available for consultation, giving everyone the opportunity to voice their views on the project.

Further information about public consultation events is set out below and will be advertised in the local press.

Please do come to one of the meetings and/or complete the reply slips at the back of this brochure. We want to hear your views on this exciting new project. Please note that there are two reply slips, one covering the closure of the two schools and the other for comments on the proposed Academy.

Consultation meetings

If you would like to come and hear more, ask questions and make comments to us in person, we have arranged the following meetings:

Date	Time	Location
26/11/07	7:00pm	Newton Community High School
04/12/07	7:00pm	St Aelred's Catholic Technology College

These meetings will be run jointly by the Sponsors/Project Manager and the Local Authority. This will mean that you will be able to hear about both the proposal to close the existing schools in order to open the new Academy, and the exciting proposals that are being developed for the Academy itself.



Making your views known

We welcome your views on the proposal for an Academy. Let us know what aspects you support and if there are any which concern you.

If you wish to make any comments about the proposal or have any questions, please write to or email the Academy Project Manager at the address below by Wednesday 19th December 2007 at the latest.

Mike Hunter (Project Manager)

Mouchel
c/o 2020 Liverpool
West House
Mercury Court
Tithebarn Street
Liverpool
L2 2QP

T 07778 676475

E mike.hunter@2020liverpool.co.uk

All comments received will be shared between St Helens Council, the Sponsors, the Project Steering Group and Mouchel (OPM)

Notes

Academy Proposal

The Joint Catholic and Church of England Academy for the Community of Newton

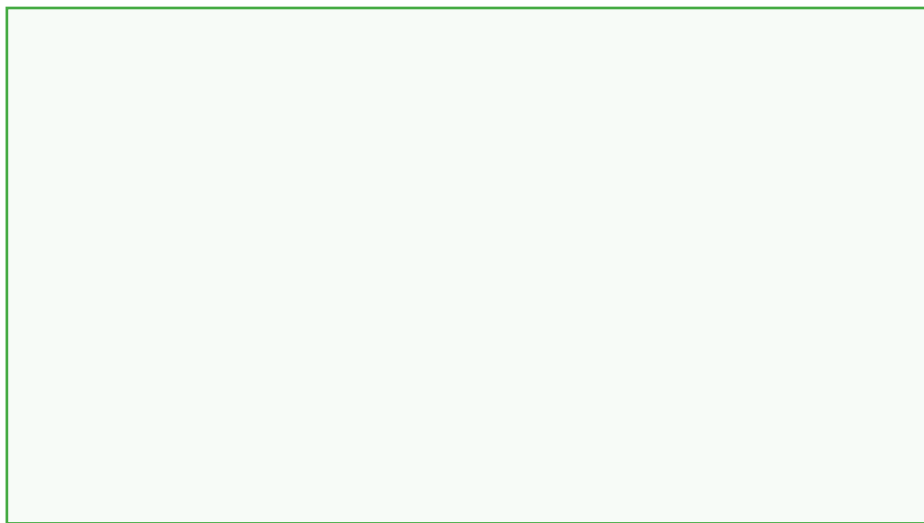
Consultation Reply Slip Academy Proposal

Please complete this slip and place in the pre-paid envelope addressed to 2020 Liverpool included with the brochure and return by Wednesday 19th December 2007.

Please circle the words that apply to you:

I **support/do not support** the proposal to create the Newton Joint Catholic and Church of England Academy.

I would like to add the following comments:



Please tick the box that best describes you:

- Parent or carer of a Newton Community High School pupil
- Parent or carer of a St Aelred's Technology College pupil.
- Parent or Carer of a pupil at a primary school
- Parent or Carer of a pre-school child
- School staff
- School governor
- Young person
- Other (please specify): _____

AFFIX
STAMP
HERE

Mike Hunter (Project Manager)
Mouchel
c/o 2020 Liverpool
West House
Mercury Court
Tithebarn Street
Liverpool L2 2QP

The Joint Catholic and Church of England Academy for the Community of Newton
Consultation Reply Slip

St Aelred's Catholic Technology College
Newton-le-Willows Community High School

Statutory School Closures



St. Helens Council

Introduction

St Helens Council is supportive of the proposals to create an Academy in Newton and is working with the Sponsors to develop the education vision that aims to bring about transformation of learning and the raising of educational attainment for all young people in the area.

The pupil population in St Helens has reduced from 31,748 to 26,557 in 20 years. In the secondary sector, five years ago there were 11,232 pupils (11-15). This has reduced to 10,282 by October 2007. The pupil population at Newton Community High School has decreased from 826 in 2002/03 to 607 in October 2007.

Whilst St Aelred's maintains its pupil roll, it no longer fills up with young people from its own associated primary schools across the parishes it serves. Secondary aged pupil numbers will continue to fall given the known decline in the primary schools. Thus, if the Academy proposal does not go ahead, action will still be needed to counter the problem.

The Council's ambition for the proposed Academy is to develop a school with fit for purpose design, resources, curriculum and organisation around the needs of the learner. Every young person's needs will be supported and their talents developed through a variety of teaching strategies. Transformation in learning is required to ensure that all our young people leave statutory schooling with the skills, qualifications and attributes necessary to continue in education or training and become economically secure.

Statutory School Closures

In order to create the proposed Academy, the Council would need to close the existing schools (so that the new Academy could immediately open in their place). The proposal is that both St Aelred's Catholic Technology College and Newton Community High School would close on 31st August 2011 and the new Academy then open on 1st September 2011. The Council want to hear your views on this proposal for school closure, which should be sent to:

Judith Godley (Senior Assistant Director)
Children and Young People's Services
Rivington Centre, Rivington Road, St Helens,
Merseyside WA10 4ND

T 01744 455 322 E judithgodley@sthelens.gov.uk

What would the school closures mean for staff?

A full consultation process will be undertaken with staff and their professional representatives throughout the development of the proposals for the Academy. Regulations on the safeguarding of employment rights would apply to staff employed at both St Aelred's Catholic Technology College and Newton Community High School. These are Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations, known as TUPE.

What happens next?

Feedback received from this consultation will be reported formally to the Council's Executive, to the Archdiocesan Trustees and to the Church of England Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education and will be carefully considered. If after considering the comments, it is decided to proceed with the proposal, the Council will commence steps to close the schools and simultaneously the Sponsors to open an Academy on the site:

- a) Statutory notices about the proposed closure will be posted at the schools and published in the local newspapers:
- b) There will be a period of 6 weeks during February/March to allow anyone to comment formally.

Any comments will then be reported to the Council Executive Committee. The Committee would then decide whether to proceed with the school closures and subsequent Academy proposal or not.

However the final decision regarding the proposed Academy would depend on the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families agreeing to establish the Academy and entering into a Funding Agreement with the sponsors. This decision is likely to be taken by the end of April'08.

Ultimately the Secretary of State will decide whether there is support for the new Academy and whether it should go ahead. If the Secretary of State decides not to support the opening of the new Academy the school closures would not proceed as indicated in this brochure.

St Aelred's Catholic Technology College Newton-le-Willows Community High School

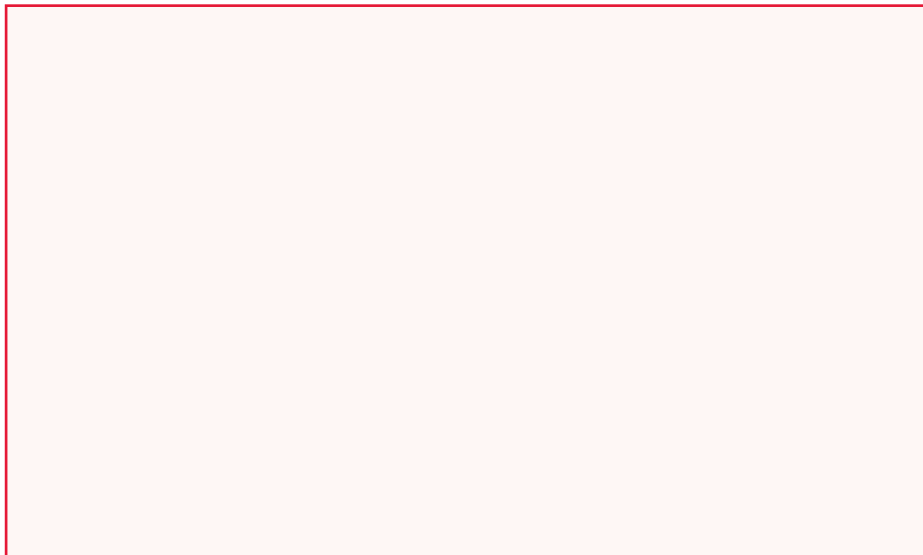
Consultation Reply Slip School Closure

Please complete this slip and post to Judith Godley by Wednesday 19th December 2007.

Please circle the words that apply to you:

I **support/do not support** the proposal to close St Aelred's Catholic Technology College and Newton Community High School and to open an Academy in their place.

I would like to add the following comments:



Please tick the box that best describes you:

- Parent or carer of a Newton Community High School pupil
- Parent or carer of a St Aelred's Catholic Technology College pupil.
- Parent or Carer of a pupil at a primary school
- Parent or Carer of a pre-school child
- School staff
- School governor
- Young person
- Other (please specify): _____

FREEPOST
NO STAMP
REQUIRED

Judith Godley
St Helens Council
Children & Young People's Services
FREEPOST LICENCE WA319
The Rivington Centre
Rivington Road
St Helens WA10 4BR

St Aelred's Catholic Technology College
Newton-le-Willows Community High School
Consultation Reply Slip

Notes

School Closures

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Church of England Academy
for the Community of
Newton**