

Free Schools - Proposal Form

The Proposal Form asks you for details on the educational aims and objectives, parental demand and premises of the proposed Free School. It also asks questions about the suitability of the provider(s) involved. All new Free Schools will be opened with the same legal status as Academies, in a binding agreement with the Secretary of State.

Please note, all information provided in this form will be published on the Department for Education website.

INITIAL DETAILS

Name (Please specify if you are the nominated representative of an organisation that wishes to set up a Free School)

██████████ (nominated representative of ParentsVoice)

Name of your organisation

Parents Voice (NW Bristol) - to be incorporated by 30 September (approximately)

Address (of organisation or individual)

Individual

██████████ (nominated contact);
██████████, Bristol ██████████

Organisation

Parents Voice (registered address);
██████████, ██████████, Bristol ██████████

Email

Contact ██████████

Telephone Number

██████████

Are you an existing independent school wanting to convert to a Free School?

No

If yes, please provide your 6-digit school unique reference number (URN)

If no, please confirm the nature of your organisation (educational group / charity / business / parent group etc)

Parent group

Please confirm whether your organisation is incorporated i.e. set up as a Company which is registered at Companies House. If so, please provide the Company Registration Number, Company Address and details of the Directors and Secretary. If not, please indicate the approximate date by which it will be incorporated.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, our organisation is incorporated
Company Registration Number:
Company Address:
Details of Directors and Secretary:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, our organisation is not yet incorporated
Approximate date by which it will be incorporated:

In which Local Authority area will the school be based? If you are near to a LA boundary, please include name of neighbouring LA(s)

Local Authority Bristol City Council
Neighbouring LAs

Is your Local Authority aware of your intention to set up a Free School?

Yes

(If Y please give details of your discussions with them so far)

Parents Voice has been in consultation with Clare Campion-Smith, the Bristol City Council Executive Member for Children's Services, since October 2009 discussing the need for a community secondary school in NW Bristol.

We facilitated the decision by the Local Authority to set up a cross-party working group, to help St Ursula's, an independent school looking to move out of the private sector.

At a full Council Meeting in March 2010, Bristol City Council passed a motion recognising the pressing need for a Secondary school for the area and strongly supporting the St Ursula's plan to join the state sector.

The motion included the following:- "This council agrees with the call for more primary and secondary school places in north Bristol. It recognises that demand continues to be pressing, as shown by the case made by the Parents

Voice campaign to Children's Services Scrutiny only last week."

On 9 June 2010, at a meeting with [REDACTED] and the Council Leader, [REDACTED] Parents Voice confirmed its intention to apply to the DfE to set-up and run a free school in NW Bristol.

We have held periodic meetings with Bristol City Council to share information. Meeting with the Assitant Director of Children's Services, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] from the Highways department and [REDACTED] from the Planning department.

We are in the process of scheduling further meetings with the Council Leader, Barbara Janke and leaders of all the main political parties and also intend to meet again with officers from Children's Services, Highways and Planning departments.

SUITABILITY OF PROVIDER

The Secretary of State will consider each proposal on its merits, and take into account all matters relevant to that proposal. Generally, he would expect that all proposals will comply with all aspects of the rigorous suitability and vetting tests throughout the application process, including due diligence and CRB checks and will reject any proposers who advocate violence, intolerance, hatred or whose ideology runs counter to the UK's democratic values.

Do any of the following apply to the organisation (or any consortium member), or to (any of) its director(s)/partners/proprietor(s) or individual applicants (select Y/N):	
Is in a state of bankruptcy, insolvency, compulsory winding up, receivership, composition with creditors (including any Individual Voluntary Arrangement), or subject to an Administration Order or any legal proceedings concerning their solvency?	No
Has been convicted of a criminal offence?	No
Is involved in any illegal activities?	No
Has not fulfilled obligations related to payment of taxes?	No
Is guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying information?	No
Is not in possession of relevant licences or membership of an appropriate organisation where required by law?	No
Is barred from certain work with children as a result of being:	
[a] included in the list of those barred from Regulated Activity with children, kept by the Independent Safeguarding Authority? Or	No
[b] included in the list kept under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999(4) (list of those considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children)? Or	No
[c] subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 (5) (or any other disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction)? Or	No

<p>[d] disqualified from working with children under sections 28, 29 or 29A of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000(6)?</p> <p>For further information on [a], [b], [c] and [d], please contact the CRB www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk.</p>	No
<p>Is disqualified from registration under Part 10A of the Children Act 1989(7) for child minding or providing day care?</p>	No
<p>Is disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006(8)?</p>	No
<p>Is a member, or has been a member in the past, of a proscribed organisation?</p>	No
<p>If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes" please give details below:</p>	

EDUCATIONAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Briefly outline your reasons for wanting to set up a Free School. Max 200 words.

There is no state funded secondary school within our local community.

There are approximately 345 children who graduate from the five local primary schools each year who are sent to over 30 different secondary schools.

A large number travel out of Bristol and many other families move out of the area impacting community cohesion.

This year alone over 100 children from Bristol started at just one school in North Somerset. Current figures show that 9,600 (22%) of children leave Bristol LEA for their secondary school education, compared to 8% for England.

Of the four secondary schools closest to our community, two are heavily over-subscribed (e.g. 619 applications for 189 places). The other two have low performance for GCSE results, with the best achieving 35% A* to C including English and Maths. Both have very few surplus places and as they improve, their local community will fill these places very quickly.

Birth rates since 2002 have risen sharply with 1500 more births in 2008 than in 2002. Bristol City Council has accepted that the impact on secondary school places will be significant as these births feed through.

We have identified a clear demand for a community based secondary school in our area which, for decades, has not been met by the local authority.

We want our children to have the best possible education and develop a school that is at the heart of the community. We want everyone, in particular the young people in our community, to be proud to be associated with our school.

Please set out the Free School's aims and objectives. You should also describe:

- the teaching methods that will be used and whether the Free School will follow a particular philosophy (eg Montessori);
- the outline of the Free School's proposed curriculum, including any religious ethos;
- how the Free School will improve pupil learning and ensure strong discipline;

Max 2000 words.

Aims & Objectives:

1. To provide much needed quality, educational provision to a community in significant need
2. To ensure this is achieved within the context of outstanding pastoral care
3. To ensure that through a comprehensive intake, we improve opportunities for local children
4. To ensure that The School is operated in an open and transparent manner and is mindful of the needs of all relevant stakeholders
5. To provide strong governance and financial management
6. To respect and value pupils, parents and staff and to include everyone in achieving our Aims and Objectives.

Aside of our stated desire for a comprehensive intake, we are committed to inclusion and would ensure that:

- The school plays an active role in our Community and is open as a resource to the Community
- The sharing of facilities, most notably sporting, with other Bristol schools who lack these
- Continued adequate resources to assist pupils with special educational needs
- A broad and balanced academic and social curriculum is accessible to all

We will ensure measurable improvement, focusing on the key measure of 5 GCSE's (including English & Maths).

We aim to be better than the previous year, better than the national average and better than other local schools.

This measure will be one of the main Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in our contract with our chosen provider partner.

Ethos:

We are passionate about learning. We seek to create a learning environment that ensures success. We will create a safe, caring, supportive and inclusive school in which these will be delivered whilst the development of individual flair, creativity, talent and personality will be encouraged.

Our mission is to establish a school that is "first choice" for the parents of North West Bristol, within a mixed economy of provision. This will be achieved through ensuring a culture of success and achievement, a refusal to compromise on "excellence" and ensuring that each and every child achieves their maximum potential. We will focus on attainment within traditional core subjects (English, Maths, the sciences, ICT and at least one language) whilst providing a rich and exciting curriculum.

We believe that the education of our children comprises more than simply achieving academic excellence. We believe that our pupils' responsibility towards others – the school, local and global communities is as important as their responsibility to themselves and this will be reinforced through our behaviour code, staff example, our curriculum and strategic leadership from trustees, governors and the school's Senior Leadership Team.

Our school will be secular whilst respecting and celebrating the religious beliefs and values and the ethnic or cultural backgrounds of its members. Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. We will establish a non-selective and comprehensive intake model in order to reflect the makeup of our community. We consider this vital for the wellbeing and development of all our pupils.

Our school will play an active and enthusiastic role in the local community. It recognises its responsibilities to its neighbours and environment. We will establish a programme of voluntary community service and encourage pupils to participate. Our school will enjoy the support of the local community and fully reciprocate this.

Through skilled selection and best in class personal development, we will attract and retain the best teachers, who will be passionate about their subjects. Lessons will be challenging and exciting with each pupil stretched to their maximum learning capacity. We intend to be innovative and be ready to question conventional teaching practice whilst never losing sight of "what works".

Teachers will set ambitious targets for each pupil and expectations will be high, but each pupil will receive detailed guidance on how to improve their work, so they become competent and confident learners. For those with additional educational needs, early identification ensures immediate support. We will encourage and foster a "love of learning" and a focus on excellent pastoral care will encourage our pupils to be happy at school and highly motivated to attend.

We expect and will ensure results that are consistently higher than both local and national averages and we envisage that colleges, universities and employers will be able to identify consistent and positive traits in our pupils. We will provide high quality career guidance and ensure that appropriate courses are taken in order to ensure high success and student retention.

Our Governors will be required and enabled to hold the school to account whilst the Senior Leadership Team empowered to get on with its running. Partnership with parents and carers will underpin everything that we do. Pupils themselves will be involved in the running of their school.

No matter how successful the school becomes it will continually strive to improve and it will expect pupils and teachers to do the same. It will welcome and actively embrace both external challenge and support.

Our school will be seen as the school of choice by the wider community; it will always be oversubscribed and will be held up as a model of best practice nationally.

Curriculum:

An outline Curriculum is included here. We envisage specialism in Science and Sport.

Key Stage 3

Years 7, 8 and 9

English

Mathematics

Science

Modern Languages - French

Modern Languages - German

Modern Languages - Spanish

Art

Music

Design Technology

Drama

History

Geography

Games/PE

ICT

Personal Social and Health Education

RE/RS

Key Stage 4 - Core

Years 10 and 11

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science

Modern Languages - French

Modern Languages - German

Modern Languages - Spanish

ICT

RE/RS

Citizenship and PSHE

Games/PE

Key Stage 4 - Optional

Years 10 and 11

Art and Design GCSE

Biology GCSE

Business Studies GCSE

Chemistry GCSE

Citizenship GCSE (Short Course)

Dance GCSE
DT Design Technology GCSE
DT: Textiles GCSE
DT: Product Design GCSE
Drama GCSE
Food Technology GCSE
Geography GCSE
Health and Social Care BTEC
History GCSE
ICT GCSE
Media BTEC Diploma
Modern Languages - French GCSE
Modern Languages - German GCSE
Modern Languages - Spanish GCSE
Music GCSE
Performing Arts BTEC Diploma
Physics GCSE
Physical Education GCSE
RE/ES GCSE
Core Science GCSE
Additional Science GCSE

The teachings methods we will employ will be based on current best practice with a focus on traditional subjects .

1. We will offer a broad based academic curriculum with a wide range of extra curricula activities, including the opportunity for different kinds of sport. We will ensure classes in English, Maths and Science allow children to progress to achieve their potential and to allow teachers to teach effectively.
2. We will initially focus on the basics of the English National Curriculum but would expect to introduce new and more challenging material to stretch children beyond national expectations. We expect every student to achieve, as a minimum, 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths.
3. We will ensure a strong emphasis on behaviour and traditional values which we believe is vital to a successful school. This means that children know that there are boundaries which can not be crossed. A supportive and individualised pastoral system should ensure that every child receives the support they need to allow them to fulfil their potential.

What are your organisation's core areas of work / aims? Max 500 words.

Parents Voice was set up by a group of parents in North West Bristol, concerned with the lack of state secondary education in our community.

Our aim is to substantiate the need, obtain parent commitment, locate a suitable site and then create a local school in which parents have enough confidence to send their children to be educated, with their friends, and within walking distance from home.

A significant aim is to develop a strong sense of community amongst the young people in our area where there is a continuity from primary to secondary education, where school communities are retained and developed and where the children's independence, health and well-being is enhanced.

What capacity and capability do you have (or have access to) in order to deliver the educational vision set out above? Please indicate the resources, experience and expertise (educational and legal) that you have or have access to. Max 500 words.

Within the Parents Voice group we are committed to delivering a legacy for our community providing excellent education for its pupils and facilities and opportunities for the wider community.

We are a highly committed group and along with the backing of many local parents we have or have access to a wide range of skills including educational professionals, solicitors, accountants, fund-raisers, marketeers, surveyors, procurement and commercial managers, project management and experienced management consultants.

Also with the help of New Schools Network, we have identified education providers with whom we have discussed our proposal.

We have met with several potential partners who have all been very helpful in helping us to understand the challenges and opportunities that may be available to us in setting up a free school. All potential partners we have met have expressed enthusiasm and strong desire to be involved in our project to set up a free school in NW Bristol.

Do you have plans to work with a 3rd party organisation? If so, please include their details below and set out the intended nature of that relationship (for example, a contract, co-sponsorship arrangement, informal partnership).

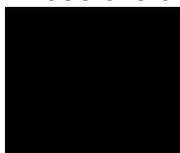
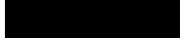
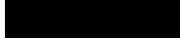
Yes. We will appoint a 3rd party education services provider via a contractual arrangement.

We will follow the DfE's recommended procurement process to appoint an education service provider as soon as possible.

Please name the key individuals / trustees involved in setting up the Free School (if available). Please also indicate whether trustees have been chosen and their roles confirmed. Please provide details of employment of these individuals and any conflicts of interest you believe might arise.

The Committee of Parents Voice will put themselves forward to become governors and trustees of the Free School.

These are as follows:

, Parent
, Commercial Manager
, Management Consultant
, Head of Customer Marketing

We believe that there will be no conflict of interest for any of these individuals.

EVIDENCE OF DEMAND

What evidence of local parental demand do you have? For example, a petition or a declaration from interested parents or pupil number projections for the area. Max 200 words.

A petition was set up by Parents Voice and we have over 800 signatures, on-line and paper format, in support of a secondary school for the area.

In addition over 500 residents who feel they have no option for secondary education in the area have provided email contacts and signed up to weekly updates with Parents Voice.

We have also canvassed parents in the area for their views on Secondary provision.

We have subsequently undertaken a survey, in conjunction with Bristol City Council, of local parents asking about secondary school intentions. The response rate was extremely high indicating an average of more than 75% of local parents surveyed would send their children to a new community based school.

The proposed project would provide secondary places for 38% of the 345 children graduating from primary schools within the community each year. Currently there is no secondary provision for the five primary schools in our community.

The National Office of Statistics Birth Rate data demonstrates a significant and sustained increase of between 200-300 births a year, between 2002 and 2008.

A full pack of data and research demonstrating the compelling need has been previously submitted to the Department, School Project Plan D2.

What is the proposed capacity (number of pupils)? Max 200 words.

A secondary school of upto 900 pupils.

Six classes intake into Year 7 continuing through to Year 11

What is the proposed age range of the Free School? Please include details of planned pupil numbers in each year group.

12 - 16 years old

Year 7 - 6 classes of 25 per class = 150

Year 8 - 6 classes of 25 per class = 150

Year 9 - 6 classes of 25 per class = 150

Year 10 - 6 classes of 25 per class = 150

Year 11 - 6 classes of 25 per class = 150

When do you hope the Free School will start operating (for your first set of pupils)?

September 2011

PREMISES

What steps have you taken to identify a potential site? Please include details of the geographical area the school seeks to serve; a list of any sites you have considered; and any discussions you have had to identify a suitable site. If known, please include the proposed location, premises and postcode of the Free School.

We have met with Bristol City Council to discuss the viability of using the current St Ursula's school site or [REDACTED] as a venue for our free school.

St Ursula's is currently operated as an independent school. Bristol City Council are intending to complete negotiations to purchase the land thereby securing it for educational purposes. It is a site with potential to accept a Year 7 intake in 2011 following some refurbishment to the existing facilities. The postcode for the St. Ursula's site is BS9 [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] is a large open space owned by Bristol City Council which is designated for use as an education site. There are existing buildings on this site, currently used as an adult education centre, which we believe could be used to accept a Year 7 intake in September 2011, again following some refurbishment. New buildings would be required on this site to accommodate pupils in subsequent intakes. The postcode for the site at Stoke Lodge is BS9 [REDACTED]

We have also met with the Highways and Planning Dept of Bristol City Council. The Highways dept has stated 'no significant problems are foreseen' if a secondary school was set-up on either the St Ursula's or [REDACTED] sites.

Bristol City Council Highways dept. has also shown evidence of local catchment areas to the St Ursula's and [REDACTED] sites indicating other secondary schools around NW Bristol would not be impacted if a new school was established in our community.

Further information

Please note, all information provided on this form will be published on the Department for Education website. Information that you supply on this form may be shared with (a) the New Schools Network and (b) the Local Authority in which you wish to set up the Free School. Information about the New Schools Network can be found at <http://www.newschoolsnetwork.org>.

Submission of this form will be treated as consent, from both you and anyone else whose personal data is contained on this form, to the sharing of this information as set out above.

In addition, information that you provide on this form, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Next Steps

Please email completed Proposal Form to
freeschools.registration@education.gsi.gov.uk

You will hear back from a named official at the Department for Education within two weeks, who will offer you advice on how best to progress your application. The Secretary of State will make a judgement on the potential of the project based on criteria relating to educational aims and objectives, evidence of demand, potential premises, suitability of provider and any other relevant considerations to decide whether the proposed Free School project should move into stage 3, namely that of drawing up a business case and plan.