



## **AUDENSHAW SCHOOL**

### **Proposal to close the Sixth Form**

#### **Consultation Document**

#### **Proposal**

To consult the proposal to not recruit new sixth form students from September 2018 at Audenshaw School Sixth Form. This would mean that the Sixth Form would close when the current Year 12 students complete their studies in August 2019.

#### **Rationale for the Closure of the Sixth Form**

The uncertain future of school sixth forms has been highlighted in the media over many years and particularly in the light of budget changes to post-16 funding, which has substantially declined over recent years.

An average sixth form college has around 1000 students, while an average school sixth form has approximately 200. As a result, economies of scale apply which means it is more expensive for school to provide sixth form provision than a sixth form or FE college.

As a result, the school has to subsidise the Sixth Form from other funding streams such as that for 11 to 16 year olds. The Department for Education (DfE) recognises that sixth forms with fewer than 200 students are at risk of not being financially viable. Although Audenshaw School Sixth Form was built to take a capacity of 300 students when opened in 1997, the numbers in the table below show that it is only being half-filled in recent years.

Academic Year	Year 12 – Admission numbers
2012-13	118
2013-14	104
2014-15	76
2015-16	50
2016-17	70
2017-18	50

As a result of the small numbers of students joining the sixth form, the school has to consider the needs and priorities of the majority of students at Audenshaw School.

Audenshaw School Sixth Form is unable to provide the breadth of courses that larger establishments in the vicinity can offer, including a range of alternative A-Level courses that students require. Consequently, the demand for places at the sixth form is limited, with most students in Year 11 choosing to go elsewhere for post-16 provision.

Taking into account the range of factors above, this consultation proposes that Audenshaw School Sixth Form will close when the current Year 12 students complete their studies in August 2019.

## **Current Year 12 students**

It is important to emphasise that current Year 12 students moving into Year 13 in September 2018 will continue to attend Audenshaw School Sixth Form and complete their academic year in August 2019.

## **How to make your views known**

It is important to stress that note that no decisions have been made. Governors at the school wish to consult widely, particularly with parents of students at the school. Statutory proposals are required for the closure of a sixth form from a school and there are three statutory stages for a statutory proposal excepted closure:

1. Representation – Formal Consultation is a period in which comments on proposals can be made, including objections and expressions of support, which will commence on 30 April 2018 and close on 28 May 2018. During this consultation process, the Board of Governors may hold consultation meetings with staff and parents from school as appropriate. All representations must be made in writing by midnight on 28 May 2018 to the Chair of the Governors at the contact below:  
The Chair of the Governors,  
Audenshaw School,  
Hazel Street,  
Manchester.  
M34 5NB.  
Email: [hallt@audenshawschool.org.uk](mailto:hallt@audenshawschool.org.uk).
2. The Board of Governors of Audenshaw School is the statutory decision-maker on these proposals. A Key Decision meeting of the Board of Governors will take place to consider a Key Decision Report, taking into account feedback received during the consultation process. At this meeting the Board of Governors will make a decision based on recommendations contained in the Key Decision Report.
3. Implementation – the decisions will be implemented following the Key Decision meeting of the Board of the Governors.