



AUDENSHAW SCHOOL

AUDENSHAW SCHOOL Proposal to close the Sixth Form Consultation Document

Proposal

To consult on the proposal not to recruit any new sixth form students from September 2019 and subsequent years at Audenshaw School. This would mean that the Sixth Form would close when the current Year 13 students complete their studies in August 2019. This follows the decision taken by the Governing Body in June not to allow students to enrol for new A-Level courses in September 2018 due to the very low expressions of interest.

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.

Headteacher: **Mrs J Saw**

Audenshaw School, Hazel Street, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34 5NB.

T: 0161 336 2133 **F:** 0161 320 3046 **E:** admin@audenshawschool.org.uk **W:** www.audenshawschool.org.uk

Taking into account the range of factors above, this consultation proposes that Audenshaw School sixth form will close when the current Year 13 students complete their studies 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 **03 December 2018 and close on 13 January 2019**. 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 13 January 2019 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.

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.