

Consultation on Proposals to increase capacity at Brinsworth Academy

Children and Young People's Services

Access to Education
2nd Floor, Wing C Riverside House,
Main Street,
Rotherham S60 1AE
Tel: (01709) 254831
Email: Christopher.stones@rotherham.gov.uk

Ref: BAexp

Contact Mr C Stones
19th November 2021

Dear Stakeholder

Proposal to add additional capacity at Brinsworth Academy

The Local Authority is proposing to add additional teaching and learning space at Brinsworth Academy for September 2023.

The school is currently oversubscribed and this trend is set to continue in future academic years. The increase in capacity by 150 additional new places will support the Principal and Governing Body, to plan for future years expected increased intake of pupils with the assurance that there is sufficient space to deliver the schools' curriculum.

This proposal is subject to a successful planning application and, should the proposal then move forward, Officers from the Council working with the Principal and Governing Body will, outline plans for the additional classrooms at the school and the timeline and implications of the building work on site and how this would be managed during the development project.

This letter gives stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposals prior to a report being submitted to Council Cabinet seeking approval of capital investment in the expansion project, subject to a successful planning application.

Should you wish to comment on the proposal to increase the capacity at Brinsworth Academy by 150 places, please send correspondence to:

Christopher.stones@rotherham.gov.uk or by writing to Christopher Stones at the address above.

by: Friday 17th December 2021.

Responses received to this consultation will be summarised as an appendix to a report to Cabinet early in 2022 to assist the decision making process.

Yours sincerely

D. Fenton

Dean Fenton
Head of Service – Access to Education

Summary of responses to consultation

Brinsworth Academy – Proposal to increase capacity by 150 places

I am e-mailing with regards the increase in student capacity at Brinsworth Academy. It is pleasing to hear that additional classroom space would be provided, I wanted to highlight a concern around the capacity in other areas such as staffing (teaching, pastoral and admin) and other aspects such as facilities like toilets and transport services to be considered as part of the stakeholder consultation. In addition to these, if new staff are hired, will parking capacity for staff be increased?

Thanks
Member of Staff

Whilst an increase in numbers is inevitable in terms of the local demographical changes, the addition of a building to accommodate the increase in numbers is a solution but only for part of the problem. My concern is for the increase on the infrastructure within the school for example: one of our blocks has no functioning toilets for the male students and hasn't for the last week. Our pastoral teams are running at capacity, there is complexity in terms of SEND that is coming to us both through consultations and through admissions, all of which is happening off the back of huge disruption to the social fabric of our country due to Covid. A building only is a simple solution to a complex problem. An increase of 150 students which I assume will be across incoming Years 5 and 4 is pretty substantial and I hope there will be the financial resources in place to manage the challenges that this presents. I recognise that some of this will be out of your remit.

Thank you
Member of Staff

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed additional capacity at Brinsworth Academy.

Building further class room space to support the expansion of the school could be positive. However, I would have concerns about the potential increased volume of traffic flow outside the school at peak times. There are many cars that through necessity have to pick up children from school. Increasing the school capacity would put pressure on the village of Brinsworth. Whilst a proportion of the children may have the option to use a school bus, some will inevitably need to be dropped off by car.

Would there be any planning and consideration given to finding a way to ease the traffic flow around the school? Would it be feasible to have a safe entrance at the back of the school to enable some cars to pick up from Park House lane?

The amount of traffic at peak times is sometimes dangerous for students crossing the roads. Some students do not show much awareness of road safety.

I genuinely don't think the solution is to discourage parents from dropping their children at school.

In addition, with increased capacity the school should consider how the school day is structured, so for example the entire school don't have lunch at the same time. I know that some students spend most of their lunch break queuing to buy lunch.

A wider consideration should be that the communal facilities are large enough, such as the food hall and capacity of the school toilets.

In summary I think this could be positive for the school and wider community but needs to be given careful consideration to ensure students and residents of Brinsworth are not impacted negatively.

Yours sincerely
Staff Member

In relation to the proposal to increase capacity at Brinsworth Academy by 150 places (30 per year group).

I would support and welcome this proposal as the additional capacity would be welcome to accommodate our existing cohort of students as the school is currently oversubscribed and also allows for the projected additional growth from Waverley in future years.

Staff member

I fully support the additional proposed capacity of 150 new places at the school. The school is currently oversubscribed and the trend is set to continue in future academic years so additional classroom space would be of benefit to all new/existing students who attend the school.

Yours Sincerely
Governor

I wish to comment on this proposal please.

I have had a long association with the Academy, having sent my three children there and been a parent/co-opted Governor for more than 20 years. Presently I am an Academy Member.

The Academy is well regarded in the local community and having also sat on the Pupil Selection Panel can vouch for the fact that parents want to send their children to Brinsworth rather than other local schools.

The Academy provides an excellent all-round education for its students so that in addition to the academic qualifications obtained, they are better prepared for their future in the real world.

Adding more places at the Academy will give more youngsters the opportunity to benefit from a great education at Brinsworth. This can only be to the good for the children and local community.

I whole-heartedly support the proposal and thank you for reading my email.

Best regards,

Academy Member / Parent

Hi I am a parent of 2 students and I find brinsworth academy already over crowded teachers cannot deal with issues correctly and safely as the capacity stands at the moment the academy are already failing students regarding bullying etc if students increase does that mean teaching will increase? I don't find this a good idea and I also can't understand the reasoning behind this you need more teachers not students to make it a better safer more efficient school to be in

Thankyou

Parent

I am a parent of a student attending BA and I do have one concern regarding the proposed capacity increase, and that is in respect of existing very poor welfare facilities. My daughter complains daily about the lack of facilities at lunch time to find somewhere to sit and eat her lunch which is dry and suitable - i.e. has a table too. Benches are limited, and also badly placed in areas where children play football so there is the constant fear of being hit with the ball. Now we are moving into winter it is worse because the only warm place to go is the canteen which is only open to children purchasing

food, and only for the time long enough for them to eat and move outside. My daughter takes a packed lunch because she does not like the food on offer, and is also socially anxious about using these facilities. Outside under-cover areas are in high demand, and the odd time that she and her friends have been able to find one, they have been bullied off by older children - it also seems to be largely unsupervised so no-one is watching for this kind of behaviour. I do not see why children should not be afforded the same level of comfort and treatment as the teachers who have a large comfortable space to eat and relax between lessons. There has not been a weekend in the last 6 weeks where my normally healthy daughter hasn't had a bad cold enough to disturb her sleep. If the capacity were to increase further this would make an already bad situation impossible. Funds need to be included to address this matter.

The unequal access to services and treatment between students and teachers is stark. Why should one group be treated differently purely because they are students/younger.

Thank you

Parent

I am writing with regards to the proposed increase of capacity at Brinsworth Academy. Moving forward it does not make any difference to our lives if the proposal goes ahead or not, however I am just looking for some assurances that after such a terrible couple of years in education, now my daughter is about to sit her GCSE's, that any building works or onside upheaval will not effect her detrimentally during this crucial time in her life. The children have had enough to contend with in the run up to their GCSE'S without this negatively impacting them further.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Parent

It is reassuring to know that extra space is being proposed at Brinsworth Academy to ensure local people can access a place at their local school in the future. As a Waverley resident I feel more assured that planning is in place to ensure we can access a local secondary school place for our child in the future.

Kind Regards

Parent

I am writing in support of the proposal to add capacity at Brinsworth Academy. I am a local Parent with a child who has recently left the Academy and another who is due to start in September 2023.

I believe the additional capacity is needed due to the increased housing in the area (Waverley) and to meet future demand for places.

Kind regards,

Parent