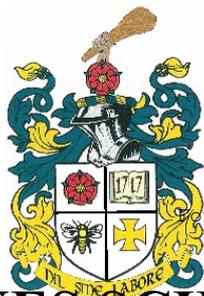


Headteacher:
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Founded in 1717

BAINES SCHOOL

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MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 18 PROPOSALS FOR ALTERATIONS TO SCHOOLS

EXTRACT OF SCHEDULE 2 TO THE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS (PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO MAINTAINED SCHOOLS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 (AS AMENDED)

Proposal for a prescribed alteration to the age range of Baines School

School and Local Authority Contact Details

This proposal is published by the Governor Board of Baines School, Highcross Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 8BE. The school is a Voluntary Aided School.

The contact address at the Local Authority is Sarah Hirst, Learning and Skills Service, Room C27, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD.

Description of the proposed alteration

The proposal is that Baines School permanently lowers its age range from 11-18 to 11-16 from 31st August 2019, through the closure of the Sixth Form. The school will remain open and unchanged for students in the 11-16 part of the school. Post-16 students currently on the role of Baines School will continue to be taught and will be able to complete their courses at the school.

Objective

Governors believe that this proposal will make a significant contribution to the financial recovery of the school from the deficit position in the financial year 2017-18. Without these steps being taken, savings which have to be made would not be possible without being significantly detrimental to the quality of the education in the 11-16 section of the school.

Evidence and rationale

Numbers of post-16 enrolled at Baines School have been falling along with income received for them from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA):

Academic Year (September to August)	Number of Post 16 Students (years 12 and 13 combined)	Funding £ ESFA Funding Statement	Funding per student £
2013/14	128	661,941	4,355
2014/15	111	525,514	4,106
2015/16	106	447,963	4,036
2016/17	87	439,014	4,142
2017/18	56	336,080	3,863
2018/19	Unavailable at this time	*216,328	*3,863

*Estimated

Please note that for presentational purposes the table above shows the funding generated by each student. In reality funding is received by the school a year later than the census count that generated the funds, hence the reason for the estimated figures used for funding in 2018/19. Exact funding for those 56 students will not be known until received in the next financial year.

Whilst 96 (60% of year group) of Year 11 students at Baines School met the entry requirements to study at Baines School for September 2017, only 26 students (16% of the cohort) opted to remain at the school to study A Levels. The school failed to recruit any students from other 11-16 schools but one student joined us due to a re-location from out of the area. This indicates that remaining at Baines School to study academic courses is an option taken by only a minority of Year 11 students, and the vast majority opt to pursue courses at much larger sixth form colleges. There has been a falling trend over a number of years.

Despite the efforts to increase recruitment and to cut the costs of post-16 Education over the years, Governors at Baines School have had to make a considerable subsidy from the funding received for 11-16 students at the school in order to support the post-16 provision. In the current financial year alone, the cross-phase subsidy is in the region of £220,000. Governors have concluded that continuing the subsidy can no longer be justified educationally nor financially. The school is in a position of severe financial constraints and it is anticipated that by 2019-20 the school will have a cumulative deficit of around £736,000 unless significant cost saving measures are put in place immediately. This proposal will significantly reduce costs and will therefore contribute considerably to reducing the deficit. If this proposal is not agreed, then the entire savings required will have to be made from the 11-16 part of the school.

Additionally, the proposal will have the long term effect of removing the current subsidy from the 11-16 part of the school. In conclusion the governors make this proposal in the interests of ensuring the financial viability of the school and to prevent any adverse effect

the post-16 provision may have on the quality of education for the 11-16 students.

Educational standards and the range of educational and training opportunities

At the last inspection, in June 2017, Baines School was graded as 'requires improvement' by Ofsted with the overall effectiveness of the Sixth Form also rated as 'requires improvement'. Ofsted 2017 said that to improve the Sixth Form, the school needed to:

- "ensure that the curriculum is appropriately matched to students' needs in order for good progress to be made"
- "ensure that effective systems are in place to drive improvement in the monitoring and development of 16-19 provision"
- "ensuring that post-16 planning meets the recommendations of the Department for Education 16-19 study programme".

Current Department for Education (DfE) criteria for setting up a new Sixth Form requires providers to offer at least 15 Level 3 courses (A Level and their equivalent). The school has maintained the offer of subjects but low student numbers in the sixth form cause serious concern about the ability to maintain such an offer and the school would have to narrow the range of subjects which would not be in the best interests of the post-16 students. This would also be a challenge in the drive to improve the Ofsted grading of the Sixth Form provision. While it can be beneficial to have smaller student numbers in groups, such small numbers as one, two or three does not make a vibrant learning experience for the student.

There are a number of alternative post-16 providers (all rated as 'good' or better by Ofsted) which are relatively easy to access (e.g. Blackpool Sixth Form College, 2 miles and St Mary's Catholic College Sixth Form, 2.5 miles) and these provide a full range of suitable courses. The overwhelming majority of Baines School's Year 11 students already opt to study at Blackpool Sixth Form rather than at Baines School. Therefore, Governors do not believe that the proposal will have an adverse effect on participation in post-16 education nor on the educational standards of those students.

Proposal costs and long term value for money

Governors believe that the proposal will make a significant contribution to the financial recovery and long term financial stability at the school. The proposal will also help protect and further improve the quality and breadth of the educational provision in the 11-16 part of the school.

Implementation

The proposal is that the age range of the school will change from September 2019. This is so that post-16 students who are currently on roll at Baines School will be able to complete their education before the proposal comes into effect. However, if the proposal was accepted it would mean that there would be no recruitment to academic courses at Baines School for September 2018 because these students would not be able to complete their two-year course before the potential implementation of the proposal.

Procedure for responding to the consultations

In addition to this proposal, there will be a number of meetings to consider the proposals in the school hall.

Parents of Year 11 students: Wednesday 13th December 2017 between 5.00 and 6.00pm

Parents of Years 7-10 students: Wednesday 13th December 2017 between 6.30 and 7.30pm

Parents of Year 12 students will be able to arrange individual appointments between 6th and 15th December 2017.

Any person may respond, support, object to or make comments on the proposal by posting them to Sarah Hirst at Learning and Skills Service, Room C27, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD.

Responses can also be emailed to sarah.hirst@lancashire.gov.uk . To be considered as part of the decision making process to determine the proposal, responses must be received no later than 19th January 2018.