



# WELLACRE

## WELLACRE ACADEMY Proposal to close the Sixth Form Consultation Document

May 2016

### **Proposal**

To consult on the proposal not to recruit new sixth form students from September 2016 at Wellacre Academy Sixth Form College. This will mean that the Sixth Form would close when the current Year 12 students complete their studies in August 2017.

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

The uncertain future of school sixth forms has been highlighted in the media over many months and particularly in the light of the budget changes to post 16 funding, which has substantially declined over the last two 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 per student for schools to provide sixth form provision than a sixth form form or FE college.

As a result the Academy 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 **less than 200** students are at risk of not being financially viable. Wellacre Sixth Form was built to take a capacity of 300 students when the building opened in 2009, the intake of Year 12 students is shown in the table below;

Academic Year	Year 12 – Admission Numbers
2010-11	57
2011-12	75
2012-13	60
2013-14	67
2014-15	42
2015-16	24





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Additionally, as we have offered a one year Construction Course year, there is a further reduction of year 12 students moving into Year 13 averaging around a further 10 to 15 percent.

As a result of the small numbers of students joining the Sixth Form, the Academy has to subsidise the Sixth Form from other funding streams such as that for students in the main school. We have to recognize the needs and priorities of the majority of students at Wellacre.

Wellacre Sixth Form is unable to provide the breadth of courses that larger establishments can offer, including a wide range of A Level subjects that students require. Consequently, the demand for places in the Sixth Form is limited, with most students in Year 11 choosing to go elsewhere for post 16 provision.

Over the last 3 years Wellacre has questioned students in relation to sixth form education and the responses were as follows;

- Students are seeking the breadth of curriculum that the school is not able to provide
- They are able to access a wider range of facilities at larger institutions.
- They also seek the social aspect that is provided by larger establishments. It is recognised that larger Further Education institutions provide an education that is more similar to Higher Education.

Wellacre Sixth Form is built for 300 sixth form students, but since opening has never had more than 100 students on roll. Therefore, given the DfE acknowledgement that a sixth form facility requires a minimum of 200 students to be financially viable, Wellacre Academy Sixth Form provision is not financially sustainable.

Taking into account the range of factors above, this consultation proposes that Wellacre Academy Sixth Form will close **when the current Year 12 students complete their studies in August 2017.**

### **Current Year 12 students**

It is important to emphasise that current Year 12 students moving into Year 13 in September 2016 will **STILL** attend Wellacre Academy Sixth Form and complete their academic year in August 2017.

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

It is important to stress that **no decisions have been made.** Governors at the Academy wish to consult widely, particularly with parents and the school. Statutory proposals are required for a proposed removal of sixth form from a school and there are 4 statutory stages for a statutory proposal excepted closure:





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1. A statutory notice will be published in the local press on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016.
2. Representation – Formal Consultation is a period in which comments on proposals can be made including objections and expressions of support for proposals which will commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016 until midnight on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.
3. Wellacre is the statutory decision maker on these proposals. It will consider a Key Decision Report, taking into account feedback received during the consultation process. A meeting will be held to consider the Key Decision report and this will take place **within 2 months** of the closing date of the consultation. At the meeting, the Governors will make a decision based on recommendations contained in the Key Decision Report.
4. Implementation – the decisions will be implemented after the Key Decision Meeting.

The representation period will run from 2<sup>nd</sup> June until midnight on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016. As part of the consultation process there will be consultation meetings with staff, governors and parents from school as appropriate.

All representations must be made in writing and a response sheet is attached to the back of this document for you to comment on the proposal. All those interested in responding to the consultation are invited to comment in writing or by returning the attached response form to:

The Principal,  
Wellacre Academy,  
Irlam Road,  
Flixton,  
Manchester.  
M41 6AP.

Email: [mwicks@wellacre.org](mailto:mwicks@wellacre.org) no later than 12 midnight on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.





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## WELLACRE ACADEMY Proposal to close the Sixth Form Consultation Response Form

Please give as much details as possible

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please tick one of the following boxes to indicate who you are

Parent/Carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
At (please name the school)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I am not in one of the above categories but still wish to comment on the proposals					<input type="checkbox"/>

I wish to comment on the following proposal

Proposal	Comment (Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)
To close the Sixth Form at Wellacre Academy	





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Email: [mwicks@wellacre.org](mailto:mwicks@wellacre.org) no later than 12 midnight on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.



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Principal: Miss. M. Wicks