

Saint Ambrose College

State-funded Independent Catholic Grammar School

Acting Principal: Mr D. Rainey B.Ed (Hons)



St Ambrose College Consultation on the expansion of the college premises Friday 22nd March 2019 to Friday 19th April 2019

Dear Consultee,

RE: Possible expansion of St Ambrose College

The government recently announced a programme of capital funds to enable selective schools to expand. Details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/selective-schools-expansion-fund>

In short, the Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF) is a Department of Education (DfE) capital funding programme that seeks to encourage grammar schools to expand the number of students who are able to attend selective schools, in particular the number of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. As part of our proposals we would implement a Fair Access and Partnership Plan (FAPP) which would aim to increase both the number of applicants and successful admissions to the school of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium.

The Governors of St Ambrose College are considering making a bid to the DfE, who, in determining which bids are successful, will consider the following:

- a. The case for expansion
- b. The Fair Access and Partnership Plan
- c. Project need, cost and planning

Governors agree that there would be many additional educational benefits for the school and are committed to providing a detailed Fair Access and Partnership Plan. Therefore, we would like to consult with parents, staff, the local community and other stakeholders about the school's proposals which are as follows:

1. A proposal to expand the school on its current site, through the building of 8 extra classrooms and additional support facilities to increase our current published admissions number from 140 to 170 (pending approval from Trafford LEA).

The school has already committed to prioritising students in receipt of pupil premium funding in the over-subscription criteria for 2020 and our proposal would therefore aim to provide more places for pupils in receipt of pupil premium.

About St Ambrose College

St Ambrose College is an outstanding Catholic Boys' Grammar School in the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice whose own vision when establishing schools in Waterford, Ireland was inspired by reading passages from Scripture about those who were disadvantaged. St Ambrose College is rich in academic success and was recently named in The Sunday Times top 100 secondary schools in the country. The students are ambitious and have high aspirations both academically and in their extra-curricular pursuits. The school offers a vast array of enrichment opportunities and is known for its sporting excellence and developing young leaders, with a recent reputation for developing political leaders. We aim to educate

Hale Barns, Altrincham, WA15 0HE.

t: 0161 980 2711 f: 0161 980 2323 e: office@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Saint Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust, Company incorporated in England & Wales.
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the boys to become confident, articulate and rounded young men equipped with the tools to make a positive difference to the world.

We are an outward looking school and currently have school improvement/support connections through the Shrewsbury Diocese, local teaching schools and the Schools Partnership Programme with other Trafford schools.

The college is based in the LA of Trafford, an area in which school places are in demand.

Why expand on our site?

We are a very popular over-subscribed school, with over 600 applications for the 2019/20 academic year, clearly indicating that demand for places is well in excess of places available against our Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 140. The number of applications is increasing year on year and the number of our current student population eligible for pupil premium funding is higher than ever before, evidencing that we are already seen as a viable option for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. It is for this reason that we would like to increase our PAN from 140-170.

The proposal is to provide 8 new classrooms, specifically suitable for Science, Computing and Creative Arts as well as other facilities to improve our offer to current and future students and to enable us to deliver our curriculum.

Recent changes to the school's Admissions Policy

We have recently determined changes to the over-subscription criteria for 2020 which have created new categories to enhance access opportunities for students in receipt of pupil premium funding.

Categories 2, 5 & 9 now state:

2. Baptised Roman Catholic Boys who are in receipt of Pupil Premium whose home postcode falls within a nominated Local Pastoral Area. Details are provided in the list of Nominated Local Pastoral Areas.
5. Baptised Roman Catholic Boys who are in receipt of Pupil Premium.
9. Other boys who are in receipt of Pupil Premium.

In addition to these changes, the 2020 criteria also mentions those falling within 10 marks of the pass mark of 320 having their scores and circumstances internally reviewed. Please see the determined 2020 over-subscription criteria here:

<http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/library/client/Admissions%20Policy%202020%20DETERMINED.pdf>

We would consider further changes to the 2021 over-subscription criteria including for entry to Sixth Form. Alongside potential over-subscription criteria changes, the school plans to further develop its outreach work to encourage more collaboration between schools with a high percentage of students eligible for pupil premium and communities whose post codes fall in to the highest categories of deprivation in our Local Pastoral Area. The school plans to appoint a member of staff with specific responsibility for this outreach work.

An analysis of our current application and entry patterns already show that between 2017 and 2018 applications there was an increase of 8% from post codes of high area of deprivation, further evidencing demand to access the education that St Ambrose has to offer.

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Consultation

We would welcome feedback during this formal consultation phase. Governors would be grateful if the attached form would be completed and returned to either the school address below or emailed to consultation@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk by no later than 5pm on Friday 19th April 2019. Letters can also be sent to either the school address or the email link above.

FAO Acting Principal
St Ambrose College
Hale Road
Hale Barns
WA15 0HE

Please note that whilst we will note all comments and value their content, we will not be able to respond individually to completed forms, emails or letters.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dermot Rainey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Dermot Rainey
Acting Principal

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Proposed Expansion of St Ambrose College.

Consultation Responses Form

Please delete as appropriate:

I support the proposed expansion of the College by 1 form of entry.

YES/NO

Please tick the statement that most applies to you:

I am a current parent / carer of a student / students at St Ambrose College	
I am a parent / carer of a former student / students at St Ambrose College	
I am a member of College staff at St Ambrose College	
I am a governor at St Ambrose College	
I am a member of the local community	
I am a close neighbour of St Ambrose College	
I am a member of staff at a primary school in Trafford	
I am a member of staff at another secondary school in Trafford	
I am a parent of a student who attends a primary school in Trafford	
I am a parent of a student who attends a secondary school in Trafford	
I am a member of staff at a school outside Trafford	
I am a parent of a student who attends a school outside Trafford	
Other (please specify)	

If you wish to make further comment or ask a question, please complete the box below.

If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet.

Name _____ (optional)

Please return this form by 5pm on Friday 19th April 2019 to either;

FAO: Acting Principal

St Ambrose College

Hale Road

Hale Barns

Cheshire

WA15 0HE

Or

email; consultation@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

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