



Eden Boys

Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East  
Statutory Consultation Report



*Nurturing Today's Young People,  
Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders*



Tauheedul  
Education Trust

# Statutory Consultation Report

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# Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East

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## 1 Executive Summary

### 1.1 Introduction

Tauheedul Education Trust (TET) proposes to establish Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East; a free, non-selective, all-ability secondary school and sixth form for boys aged 11-18. The school will have a Muslim faith designation, but will welcome pupils from all faiths and none.

The Trust intends to open Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East in the Washwood Heath ward of Birmingham. TET already operates successful schools in Birmingham (The Olive, Birmingham and Eden Boys' School, Birmingham), both of which are over-subscribed, and is opening a new school in response to demand.

As part of the proposal to establish Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East, the Trust undertook a Statutory Consultation, as required by the Academies Act 2010, s10. The consultation sought to capture public opinion on the proposal to take forward the establishment of the school and enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

### 1.2 Approach

Informal stakeholder engagement, prior to the initial submission of the Free School application, indicated real demand for the school, with many prospective parents expressing their intention to enrol their child should Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East be granted approval from the Secretary of State.

The formal Statutory Consultation took place over a six-week period from 1st November to 13th December 2017. A range of consultation methods and communication channels were employed to ensure as many people as possible were able to respond to the consultation including:

- development and dissemination of a Consultation Document outlining the school's mission, vision, values, faith ethos, curriculum, estate plans and admission arrangements

- development and dissemination of a Consultation Questionnaire (available online and in paper copy as part of the Consultation Document)
- establishment of a dedicated website hosting the Consultation Document and online Consultation Questionnaire
- a public consultation event (8th November 2017), where the offer for Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East was discussed.

In order to ensure the consultation involved all relevant stakeholders, the Consultation Documentation and accompanying questionnaire were circulated via email and door to door engagement to: Headteachers of local secondary schools; the Local Authority; prospective parents; Councillors for the Washwood Heath Ward and the MP for Birmingham Hodge Hill.

### 1.3 Summary of findings

Attended by approximately 70 people, the public consultation event confirmed local demand for the establishment of a boys' school with an Islamic faith designation and leadership specialism. Discussions indicated that there was continued support for the school's proposed ethos, curriculum, specialism and admission policy. All attendees agreed with the application to establish Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East and none of the attendees opposed the Trust's proposal to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

Responses to the Consultation Questionnaire mirrored the qualitative feedback provided at the consultation event. Completed by 36 respondents, the overall response rate to the Consultation Questionnaire was similar to that achieved by other Free School Statutory Consultations. Calculations revealed that:

- 100% of respondents supported the proposal to establish the Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East
- 97% of respondents agreed that Tauheedul Education Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to establish the Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham

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East (the remaining 3% pertains to respondents who indicated that they didn't have a view or did not provide an answer to this specific question).

### 1.4 Discussion

The consultation process demonstrated strong support for the establishment of Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East and the subsequent proposal to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

Having secured community support, the Trust will implement its pre-opening action plan in close consultation with the Department for Education.

The Trust will continue the dialogue with local stakeholders in order to ensure that Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East is established in line with the needs and desires of the community it will serve.

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## 2 Introduction

Under the Government's Free Schools' programme, Tauheedul Education Trust has received approval to progress with the establishment of Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East: a free, non-selective, all-ability secondary school for boys aged 11-18. Proposed to open in September 2018 with an intake of 120 Year 7 pupils and 60 Year 8 pupils, the school will recruit a new intake of 120 pupils in successive years such that, in 2023, it will provide 800 places (600 secondary places and 200 sixth form places).

Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East will be part of the growing network of outstanding Tauheedul schools. The school will offer an academic curriculum with individualised learning experiences that provide a firm foundation for life, where progress and achievement are coupled with a commitment to wider personal progression, including the development of leadership characteristics and an intelligent moral and ethical compass.

Underpinned by a mission that centres upon educational excellence, character development and service to communities, the school's vision is to **nurture today's young people and inspire tomorrow's leaders,**

encouraging its pupils to become active and participatory citizens and exemplary members of society.

In order to provide an informed basis for the decision to take forward the establishment of Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East, a legal duty on Free School proposers (Academies Act 2010, s10) requires that:

- 1 Before entering into Academy arrangements with the Secretary of State in relation to an additional school, a person must consult such persons as the person thinks appropriate.
- 2 The consultation must be on the question of whether the arrangements should be entered into.

In line with this requirement, the Trust undertook a formal Statutory Consultation over a six-week period from 1st November to 13th December 2017. The consultation was intended to:

- inform key stakeholders about the proposal to establish Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East
- assess and evaluate public opinion on the establishment of the Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East
- establish a shared ownership of the school's mission, vision, values and ethos
- establish a shared view of the curriculum of the new school
- establish a shared view of the school's admission policy.

This document formally reports on the Statutory Consultation process and its findings.

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## 3 Statutory Consultation Approach

The Statutory Consultation was a local, public consultation, inviting views from stakeholders across Birmingham on the establishment of Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East. A range of consultation methods and communication channels were employed to ensure as many people as possible were able to respond to the consultation. The approach developed was designed to both inform and seek responses to the proposal for each school.

### 3.1 Consultation documentation

A Consultation Document outlining the school's mission, vision, values, faith ethos, curriculum, estate plans and admission arrangements was produced. Within this document, notification of the consultation period, the options available for feedback (including an online survey and email address and postal address for written responses) and details of a public consultation event were reported. The document also included a tear-off Consultation Questionnaire.

The Consultation Questionnaire centred on three questions designed to assess public opinion on the establishment of Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East:

- 1 Do you agree with the proposal to establish the Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East? (agree; disagree; don't have a view).
- 2 Do you agree that the Tauheedul Education Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to establish the Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East? (agree; disagree; don't have a view).
- 3 Are there any other comments you wish the Trustees to take into consideration at this time?

### 3.2 Website

A website was developed to make information on the Trust's proposal and on the consultation itself more accessible. The website provided information about

the proposed school and a link to the Consultation Document. The site also allowed individuals to submit an online response to the Consultation Questionnaire.

### 3.3 Stakeholder e-shots

Shortly after the consultation was launched, an email outlining the nature of the Statutory Consultation process was distributed to key stakeholders including: Headteachers of local secondary schools; the Local Authority, the MP for Birmingham Hodge Hill and Councillors for the Washwood Heath Ward. The Consultation Document, including the Consultation Questionnaire, was attached to the e-mail and links were also provided to the online versions.

### 3.4 Local engagement

In order to raise awareness of the proposed schools and the consultation process, a local volunteer team visited targeted residential homes, community centres, and businesses across Birmingham. This engagement allowed the team to share details of the proposed school and the consultation event, and also enabled local residents to raise any concerns or queries.

### 3.5 Public consultation event

Members of the Trust held a public consultation event on Wednesday 8th November 2017, from 6pm–7.30pm, at Eden Boys' School, Birmingham. The event included a presentation which outlined the proposals for Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East and sought views on the school's mission, vision, values, faith designation, curriculum, leadership specialism, admission policy, estates, and the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

After the presentation, a panel of representatives from the Trust led a question and answer session.

In order to gauge opinion, a standard set of topics were covered:

#### *Ethos and mission*

- School mission
- School vision - Nurturing Today's Young People, Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders

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- STAR values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect
- Muslim Faith designation of the school
- Demand for an all-boys' school in the city

### *Curriculum*

- A broad and balanced curriculum to meet the needs of the communities of Birmingham
- School leadership specialism

### *Estates*

- The most important factor that the Trust should consider when selecting permanent accommodation for the school

### *Service to Communities*

- The community service emphasis of the school and its importance within the Birmingham community

### *Admissions*

- The admission policy for the school and parental views on the over-subscription criteria

### *Funding Agreement*

- Agreement with the proposal to establish Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East
- Agreement that the Tauheedul Education Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to establish Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East

Time was also allowed at the end of the evening for one-to-one discussions between the Trust representatives and members of the community.

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## 4 Findings

### 4.1 Public Consultation Event

The Consultation Event was attended by approximately 70 people.

#### *Mission, vision and values*

The Trust outlined the mission for Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, explaining how the school's three mission components of educational excellence, character development and service to communities translated into practice. The Trust also discussed the meaning and origin of the school's vision – Nurturing Today's Young People, Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders - emphasising its inclusivity and universal relevance, along with how the school's vision will be reflected and embedded in the school's leadership specialism.

The Trust then proceeded to explain the school's STAR values: Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect, along with the associated behaviours pupils will be expected to demonstrate, before clarifying the faith designation of the school and establishing a case for a boys' school in the locality.

All attendees agreed with the Muslim faith designation and the mission, vision and values that would underpin the activities of the school.

#### *Curriculum*

The academic nature of the curriculum and its focus on character and leadership development was explained, underlining a school vision driven by achievement and attainment. There was strong support for an academic and leadership-centric curriculum, along with the school's emphasis on the English Baccalaureate.

One attendee asked how the school will ensure creativity in the curriculum. The Trust explained that the academic nature of its schools is a priority as it provides a basis for social mobility, but it recognises the wider role of creativity in enhancing and optimising education. The Trust aims to strike a balance between maximising academic performance whilst ensuring all pupils' individual needs are met and that they have access to

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a well-rounded, inclusive and holistic education. The school will deliver a knowledge-based curriculum that prioritises high-value academic subjects, particularly those studied as part of the English Baccalaureate. The school will also provide a comprehensive vocational, sports, and arts offer to ensure that every pupil's needs are met, and all have access to an inclusive, broad and balanced curriculum.

Attendees were informed that pupils will take part in two enrichment activities per week, alongside the leadership curriculum. Provision at the Eden Boys' School, Birmingham, for example, includes an art club, journalism club, Aston Villa Football Leadership Academy, and enterprise programme.

Attendees were advised that, regardless of background or prior ability, The Trust aims to secure the best outcomes for every pupil, ensuring that its curriculum gives a solid foundation for learning at every stage. The Trust aims to prepare pupils for the pathways that lead to university, the professions, and success in whatever career they eventually choose.

### *Leadership specialism*

The role of the schools in championing moral, civic and performance leadership characteristics through project-based learning and a range of charitable and community programmes was outlined.

The attendees embraced the Leadership specialism and its potential to develop respect and responsibility within pupils and provide practical and structured experiences and projects that would benefit the local community and beyond. Attendees were excited by the scope of the leadership opportunities, ranging from charitable activities to sports leadership and enterprise.

### *Estates*

The Trust informed attendees that the school will open in temporary accommodation on Whitehead Road in the Aston area of Birmingham whilst the new state of the art campus in Alum Rock, Birmingham is prepared.

Attendees asked what sports facilities would be provided at the school. The Trust confirmed that sport is a very important part of the TET Leadership offer and that the

site procured for the permanent school campus is very large with sufficient space for 3G pitches as well as state of the art internal facilities. The temporary site will also be well equipped, offering a range of facilities for sports and both indoor and outdoor activity. Attendees were also informed that the Trust is currently considering options for the development of a sporting campus in Birmingham which will be available to all TET schools. The Trust also described some of the partnerships that TET schools have with organisations such as the FA and Youth Sport Trust, which widen the opportunities for sporting activities through quality coaching and experiences.

### *Admissions*

The proposed timeline for admissions and the admission policy was presented. It was explained that the school is proposed to open in September 2018, with an intake of 120 Year 7 pupils and 60 Year 8 pupils. The Trust also explained that parents must apply directly to TET for a place at the school in the first year of opening, and not through their Local Authority. In future years, however, admissions will be managed via the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme.

The Trust explained the oversubscription criteria and was then asked if there is an appeal process, to which the Trust responded by informing attendees that this is sub-contracted to the Local Authority for them to administer the process.

The question of what happens if attendees have already applied for a place at Eden Boys' School, Birmingham and then they also apply for a place at Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East was raised by attendees. The Trust explained that this is a separate process so neither application will affect the other. If people are fortunate enough to be offered a place at each school, then they will be able to make a decision as to which they want to choose. The Trust explained that standards, quality and consistency will be the same at each school.

Attendees asked when they will know if they have been offered a place at the school and were informed that offer day is 1st March 2018. They will be notified by letter, and if they have been offered a place, they will

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be asked to return an acceptance slip to confirm their acceptance of the place.

Attendees asked about class sizes in the new school, and were informed that the school will be operating with an average class size of 30.

All attendees agreed with the admission policy and there was full support for the proposed intakes.

### **Other schools**

The Trust was asked what experience it has had when opening new schools in terms of numbers, and attendees were informed that all new schools opened by TET were heavily oversubscribed. Attendees were reassured by this. The Trust informed attendees that a waiting list would be established, in line with the oversubscription criteria.

Attendees asked if the Trust has any plans to open colleges or universities in the future and were informed that TET currently provides sixth form provision, with no immediate plans for further or higher education. Attendees were informed about the Tauheedul College for Teaching & Leadership (TCTL) which supports the professional and personal development of the school workforce, from supporting people into teaching to senior leadership programmes.

### **Funding Agreement**

Following detailed presentations and discussions, all attendees agreed with the application to establish the Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East and all supported the Trust's proposal to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to establish the school.

## **4.2 Consultation Questionnaire**

A total of 36 Consultation Questionnaires were completed with regard to Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East. The overall response rate was similar to that achieved by other Free School Statutory Consultations. Responses are provided below:

Do you agree with the proposal to establish the Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East?

Response	No.	%
Agree	36	100%
Disagree	0	0
Don't have a view/left blank	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>

Do you agree that Tauheedul Education Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to establish the Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East?

Response	No.	%
Agree	35	97%
Disagree	0	0
Don't have a view/left blank	1	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>

Additional comments revealed that respondents welcomed the establishment of a school for boys with a strong focus on academic achievement and high expectations for all:

*"This is one of the best schools in Birmingham and I am happy to be one of the parents."*

*"I am an ardent supporter of Eden Schools."*

Some respondents made reference to wanting the Trust to open a school for girls in Birmingham:

*"Open a girls' school in Birmingham next please."*

*"There is a definite need for TET to open an Eden Girls' School in Birmingham East too."*

Two respondents commented about the admissions arrangements for the school:

*"I would like them to cast the net wide to allow students from far and wide."*

*"Please consider Perry Barr ward – other wards must also get opportunity to apply."*

No respondents were actively opposed to the Trust entering into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

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## 5 Discussion

In the absence of any objections or unresolved concerns raised by the local community, the Trust believes there is a legitimate demand for the Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East. Demand is evidenced by the responses given by the people who participated in the consultation process. There is also evidence that only 67% of offers were made to applicants based on their first preference in Birmingham in 2017 (DfE SFR 24/2017, 13.6.17).

The Trust acknowledges an additional three Free Schools are in the pre-opening stage for Birmingham, but each will serve different needs and are opening at different times to Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East. BOA Digital proposes to open in 2018 and will specialise in vocational subjects in creative, digital, and performing arts. Prince Albert High School which is proposed to open in 2019 will be non-denominational and co-educational, whilst Christ Church Secondary Academy, proposed to open in 2020, will be Church of England faith-based.

TET is recognised nationally as a provider of high quality faith-based and non-faith based schools. TET schools are open to all and strive to provide access to outstanding education to young people from all backgrounds, particularly those in areas of deprivation. The addition of Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East will continue this aim. Given the lack of high quality, accessible education and the demand for a Muslim faith school across Birmingham, the Trust believes there is a real need for the proposed Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East. The combined feedback from the Consultation Questionnaire and consultation event indicates that:

- there continues to be overwhelming support for the proposed new school in Birmingham
- there is strong support for the proposed ethos, curriculum, leadership specialism and admission policy
- there is compelling support for the Trust to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to establish Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East

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## 6 Next Steps

Given the wealth of support from the Birmingham community, the Trust has decided that it wishes to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State. The Trust will continue to implement its pre-opening action plan in close consultation with the Department for Education and ensure regular updates are available to inform all interested parties of the progress in establishing Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East.

Whilst the formal consultation period has ended, the Trust considers consultation as a continuous process and will remain in contact with key stakeholders.

**Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East**  
Alum Rock Road, Birmingham B8 3BY

T: 0330 313 9900

E: [info@edenboysbirminghameast.tetrust.org](mailto:info@edenboysbirminghameast.tetrust.org)

W: [edenboysbirminghameast.com](http://edenboysbirminghameast.com)

 [@EBLAeast](https://twitter.com/EBLAeast)

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