



ACE TIVERTON
SCHOOL



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ACE Tiverton: Student Admission Consultation



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What is a consultation?

A consultation is a process where, over a set period of time feedback is gathered on a new idea or proposed change to the way something works. In this case, ACE Tiverton, part of Transforming Futures Trust, is consulting on our plan to increase the number of students on our school roll. Currently, we have 70 students on roll and, following a request from Devon County Council to take on more students, intend to increase this number to 100.

Who is consulting?

ACE Tiverton Special School is consulting all the relevant groups of people who may have a view, opinion, or feedback for us on our proposed increase of student numbers. Our school is part of Transforming Futures Trust, a multi-academy group of schools in Devon and Plymouth.

What is the proposal?

We propose increasing the number of students on our school roll from 70, as is currently to 100. The intention is to increase the number gradually, by approximately 10 students each academic year from September 2022, until we reach capacity.

To accommodate this growth, the school is being developed into a 'campus', with an additional school building being acquired adjacent to the school site, on a long term peppercorn rent lease with Devon County Council.

Who is involved in this consultation?

We are sending this document, plus a covering letter to the following groups:

- Parents and carers of current students.
- Our neighbours including those closest to the additional school building.
- Local Authority representatives, including Devon County Council and Mid-Devon Council
- Local schools in our area.

We will also be hosting in-person (as COVID precautions allow) and virtual meetings, open to any member of the public who may wish to attend. Additionally, we will include information on our school website to ensure the information about this consultation is accessible to as many people as possible.



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How will this improve education or students already at ACE Tiverton?

By increasing each year group to an average of 20 students, we will be able to provide a more tailored and personalised educational provision. With a larger group of students in each year, we can design and deliver a curriculum that meets the needs of students across a range of learning and social needs. Currently, students are either classed out of year group to meet their needs or combined into a broad group of ability and aptitude. We will better prepare students for their next steps into adulthood, employment, education, and training if they can develop their social and communication skills across a broader range of peers in combination with a greater level of personalisation to increase the curriculum offer and academic outcomes.

How will this improve education for students not attending ACE Tiverton?

By increasing our admission number, we will be providing new places for students whose needs are best met within a special school environment. For some, this may mean that they can attend a school setting or move from a less suitable placement to us. By increasing the capacity within the special school sector, we can provide the right type of education for more students which will have a positive impact on them as individuals as well as their current school community.

How will this affect my child if they already attend ACE Tiverton?

The biggest benefit to the students currently attending ACE Tiverton will be the increased peer group. This will enable students to develop their social and communication skills across a wider group of peers as well as creating the opportunity to expand our curriculum and extracurricular activity offers, with a greater number of students, we can provide an increased number of experiences. By having 20 students, on average in a year group, we are also able to increase the academic groups into which students can be placed. This means that students will have opportunity to develop social interactions with their peers which is distinct from their class and learning groups.

The increase in building capacity which will come as part of this increase, will also provide current students with a new opportunity, including student leadership and participation in a style and format of education that is more suitable to their needs.

There will be no impact upon the students during the consultation or in the planning and preparation for the new building or student cohort to join us in September 2022. Students will begin to benefit from the increased numbers, space and staffing resources, from this date.



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How will this affect me if I live near ACE Tiverton?

As part of the increase in number, Devon County Council will provide us with an additional building, in the form of the Haven Centre directly adjacent to the current school. There will be a separate planning consultation attached to the changes that need to occur to make the building suitable for use by us. As part of this application traffic management will be assessed and pedestrian movement and traffic in this area will also be reviewed.

The additional building will include additional parking which should mitigate the impact on the neighbouring areas. Additionally, although there are increased student numbers planned, the area of Devon covered by the school will not change. This means that it is likely that any new students who require transport can be accommodated on current transport routes and whilst there will be a small increase in taxi transportation required, this will be offset by students who leave thereby having a negligible impact.

What will happen to the Haven building?

The local authority will undertake a full planning process to address the change of use of the building as well as the material changes required to make it suitable for educational purposes. As with any planning process all interested parties will be consulted in a variety of ways: planning notices in the local area and in the relevant section of the local newspapers as well as via the Devon Planning Portal, which can be accessed by searching 'Devon Planning Portal' or following www.devon.gov.uk/planning, the process will begin later in 2021.

How can I share my views?

There will be four meetings held as part of this consultation process, they are:

'In Person' at ACE Tiverton: 16:00 on Tuesday 28th September and at 19:00 on Wednesday 6th October

'Virtually' via TEAMS: 17:00 on Thursday 30th September and at 15:00 on Tuesday 5th October

If you wish to attend any of these events, please email TivertonConsultation@transformingfutures.org.uk.

For virtual meetings we will then send you the required meeting link.

If you don't want to attend the meetings but have questions or feedback on this proposal, please email:

TivertonConsultation@transformingfutures.org.uk

Further information can be found on our website [here](#).