

Feedback from Formal Consultation

The Governors – All Hallows Catholic College

In the best interests of the common good, All Hallows' governors support any moves to improve the education, and therefore life chances, of all young people in Macclesfield and surrounding areas.

As a faith school All Hallows serves a wide geographical area and is linked to a family of voluntary aided Church schools. The distinctive nature of All Hallows as a faith school means that it is important for parents to make an active choice for our school based on our faith culture and values. We therefore actively support parental choice and diversity of provision knowing that parental engagement is a key determinant in good educational outcomes. We recognise that some parents wish to be able to access a non-faith based education for their children on this side of Macclesfield, but it must be noted that many children are already travelling in every direction to attend their chosen schools. Parents are making active choices for the three most successful schools in Macclesfield over the High School.

In our view any solution which prolongs a situation with four schools in Macclesfield doesn't address the acute overall surplus places problem. However, if a "four schools" solution is inevitable we are disappointed that the former proposal (new school with Tytherington) has been dismissed in favour of rebranding Macclesfield High School. Linking Macclesfield High School to another school in order to improve educational standards seemed a logical solution to the performance issues.

In the long term we are concerned that failure to address a situation where schools are competing for students undermines effective collaboration between schools and this impinges negatively on the experience of all children attending schools in Macclesfield. As a specialist college for business, ethical enterprise and languages we wish to work with other local schools to share good practice, and would like them to work with us to the mutual benefit of all of the young people in our schools. Presently, however, any curriculum event opened to students beyond a group of schools attached to any high school (the traditional learning communities) is regarded with suspicion and as a move to recruit students. This is certainly hindering the outreach work of All Hallows with respect to both Business and Enterprise and the Primary Languages Strategy.

In Macclesfield there has been a pattern of competition over collaboration, which has resulted in successive amalgamations, underperformances and then closures. It has to be noted that if the new academy is to succeed it will clearly need to recruit more students and in this process another school will inevitably have to suffer from falling or fluctuating rolls, with the inherent problems caused to school budgets and the subsequent loss of quality or consistency of provision and most importantly uncertainty for students and parents.

Feedback from Formal Consultation

We would welcome a development which seeks to address the whole situation in Macclesfield in a more creative and constructive manner than simply keeping open a building. There is presently a small window of opportunity to ensure that all children in the Macclesfield area have the best possible opportunities afforded by attending one of three successful schools working collaboratively to achieve excellent outcomes for all students.