

Giving our pupils the best possible opportunities

We would like to invite you to take part in formal consultation on the future of Burnham Park E-ACT Academy.

Anyone associated with the academy including staff, parents, pupils and community members can take part. Your views are very important to us and we would like to know what you think about our proposed plans.

E-ACT education trust

E-ACT is a charitable education trust responsible for 29 academies across the length and breadth of England. We are proud to be part of a community that includes over 18,000 pupils and 2,300 teaching and non-teaching professionals across the country.

Burnham Park E-ACT Academy joined the trust in 2012. Located on Opendale Road, Burnham, the academy currently has a roll of 235 pupils aged 11-16.

Our aim

Through this consultation, we want to work with you to ensure that our pupils have access to the best possible education.

Our pupils are at the heart of everything we do, so any decision on the future of Burnham Park E-ACT Academy will be made in the best interests of the young people we serve.



What is the purpose of consultation?

We are proposing changes that will impact on the future of Burnham Park E-ACT Academy, so it is important to us to consult all of the people associated with our academy before any final decisions are made.

What is being proposed?

Although no final decision has been made, given the falling number of pupils applying to the academy, and the significant financial difficulty that this brings, we are now consulting on closing the academy as a mainstream secondary school. The reasons for this are set out on page 4.

It is clear that together we must make a decision on how our pupils' education can be better supported.

An excellent alternative

Should the decision be made to close the academy, we would propose that the academy site remain open for current Year 11 pupils until September 2019 so that they can continue working for their GCSEs.

As a trust we are pleased to be able to provide guaranteed places at nearby Bourne End E-ACT Academy to Burnham Park pupils in years 7-10. See page 5 for more information.

Who should take part in this consultation?

We would like to consult with everyone associated with Burnham Park E-ACT Academy including staff, parents, pupils and community members.

Why your opinion matters

As you are the people closest to the academy, we know that you understand the local area better than anyone else. We're keen to gauge your local knowledge and hear your thoughts on how our proposals could impact on the local community.

Meet us in person

We would like to meet you in person so that we can take the time to talk you through our proposals and to answer any questions that you may have.

Wednesday 6 February 2019
4.00pm-5.00pm
Burnham Park E-ACT Academy

Tuesday 26 February 2019
7.00pm-8.00pm
Burnham Community Library

Tuesday 12 March 2019
6.00pm-7.00pm
Burnham Park E-ACT Academy

Representatives from Buckinghamshire County Council will be in attendance, as will our Chief Executive David Moran.

How to take part?

We want to make taking part in our consultation process simple and accessible for all.

Option one

Complete our online response form:
<https://burnhamparkacademy.e-act.org.uk/consult>

Option two

Email us: consult@e-act.org.uk

Option three

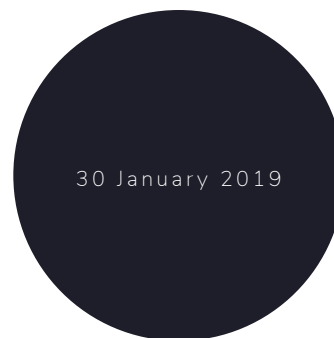
Complete the response form attached and send it by post to: E-ACT, Unit 9.2.1 The Leather Market, 11-13 Weston Street, London SE1 3ER

Post-consultation

Once we have reviewed your feedback, we will release a post-consultation report which will include our response to public feedback as well as an outline of our final proposals. The final decision on academy closure will be made by the regional schools commissioner and the Secretary of State.

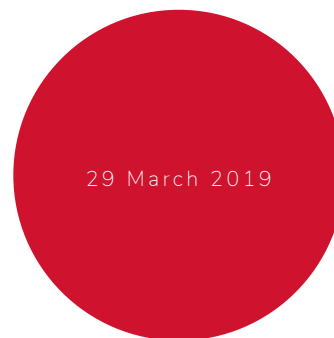
Should the academy be closed following consultation, the future use of the site would be determined by Buckinghamshire County Council.

Timescales



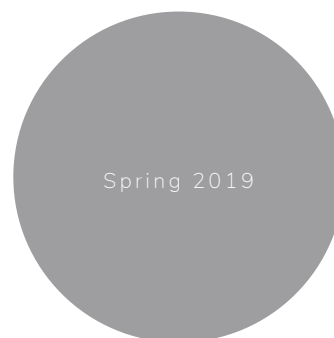
30 January 2019

Consultation formally opens



29 March 2019

Consultation period to close



Spring 2019

Our post-consultation report will include our response to public feedback as well as an outline of our final proposals

The impact of falling pupil numbers on the academy

At present, there are only 29 pupils in Year 7 at Burnham Park E-ACT Academy compared with a total capacity in Year 7 for 160 pupils. This means that the year group is only 18% full. Across the whole academy there are only 235 pupils which means that Burnham Park is less than 30% full.

Since the 2012-13 academic year, the academy has experienced a 63% fall in pupil numbers.

Academic year	Pupil numbers
2012-13	633
2013-14	666
2014-15	611
2015-16	544
2016-17	434
2017-18	322
2018-19	235

In an environment when education funding is already challenging, having a school with such a small number of pupils makes it very difficult to run. In this climate, the academy has struggled to deliver significant educational improvement and has been judged to require special measures by Ofsted.

Furthermore, the academy has struggled to recruit new teachers to key positions. This has inevitably impacted on educational outcomes.

Why are pupil numbers falling?

The academy has received significant educational and operational support from the trust since it joined E-ACT in April 2012.

In 2011, just 35% of pupils achieved A*-C grades in English and mathematics. In 2012, the year the academy joined E-ACT, 50% of pupils achieved A*-C grades in English and mathematics.

In their latest monitoring inspection report, Ofsted have acknowledged that:

- The headteacher has systematically and determinedly made changes that are leading to big improvements at the academy.
- Pupils are continuing to benefit from curriculum changes.
- The academy is benefitting from support provided by the trust's system leaders.

The academy has been rapidly improving under the headship of Mr Hughes. However, historical under performance and the fact that the academy was judged to require special measures by Ofsted at its last full inspection has meant that some young people in the local area have sought secondary education elsewhere.

Furthermore, Buckinghamshire County Council's projections show a continued decline in the demand for places at Burnham Park E-ACT Academy.

‘Since the 2012-13 academic year, the academy has experienced a 63% fall in pupil numbers.’

What will happen to pupils if the academy is closed?

We would like to assure you that any decision to close the academy would not be taken lightly, and that all pupils and their families would be given sufficient amounts of time and support to prepare for such an eventuality.

Should the decision be made to close the academy, we would propose that the academy site remain open until September 2019 for current Year 11 pupils so that they can continue working for their GCSEs.

Guaranteed places at Bourne End E-ACT Academy

As a trust we are pleased to be able to provide guaranteed places at nearby Bourne End E-ACT Academy to Burnham Park pupils currently in years 7-10 for the start of the academic year in September 2019. The same can be offered to primary school pupils currently in Year 6 who have Burnham Park E-ACT Academy as their chosen secondary school.

Comprised of over 500 pupils aged 11-18, Bourne End E-ACT Academy is located just five miles away from Burnham. Having only recently joined the trust, Bourne End E-ACT Academy pupils have this year achieved their best-ever A Level results by a significant margin, and the academy has experienced strong improvement in their GCSE results.

If parents and carers decide to move their child to Bourne End E-ACT Academy, our priority is to limit disruption to our pupils' learning. Pupils would sit the same exams as at Burnham Park and may be taught by the same teachers. Bourne End E-ACT academy is also able to offer greater subject choice.

To ensure a smooth transition, we could provide pupils with free daily transportation, by mini bus or coach, to and from Bourne End E-ACT Academy, and could assist families with the costs associated with the purchase of new uniform.

Additional support

Extra support would be provided to our most vulnerable pupils at Burnham Park.

Should the offer of a place at Bourne End E-ACT Academy be declined, those pupils and their families would be supported by the trust and Buckinghamshire County Council (as admissions authority) to find suitable alternative schools in the local area.

What will happen to staff if the academy is closed?

We value all of our staff and we want to keep them within the trust. All Burnham Park E-ACT Academy staff would be given sufficient amounts of time and close support by the trust to consider their futures, and there would be opportunities to stay in employment within E-ACT. A separate consultation will be carried out with staff.



All of our pupils,
their families
and our staff
will be closely
supported during
the transition

Accessibility

Should you require a more accessible version of this document please contact us using the email address consult@e-act.org.uk.



consult@e-act.org.uk

Contact us

We hope that you will find all of the answers you need within this document. However, if there is anything else we can help with, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us using the email address consult@e-act.org.uk.



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

Thank you

Your views are very important to us. We thank you for taking part in our consultation process.



www.e-act.org.uk



E-ACT
Unit 9.2.1 The Leather Market
11-13 Weston Street
London SE1 3ER

Consultation on the future of Burnham Park E-ACT Academy

Response form

Your details:

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Email address

Date

Tick all of the boxes that apply - I am:

A pupil at the academy

A former pupil

An academy parent or carer

A teacher at the academy

Non-teaching staff at the academy

A community member

Other

Please rest assured that we will not be passing your personal information on to any other organisation

Having read the consultation document, are the reasons for academy closure clear to you?

Yes No

Your comments

The trust is guaranteeing all Burnham Park pupils in years 7-10 a place at Bourne End E-ACT Academy. Do you agree with this proposal?

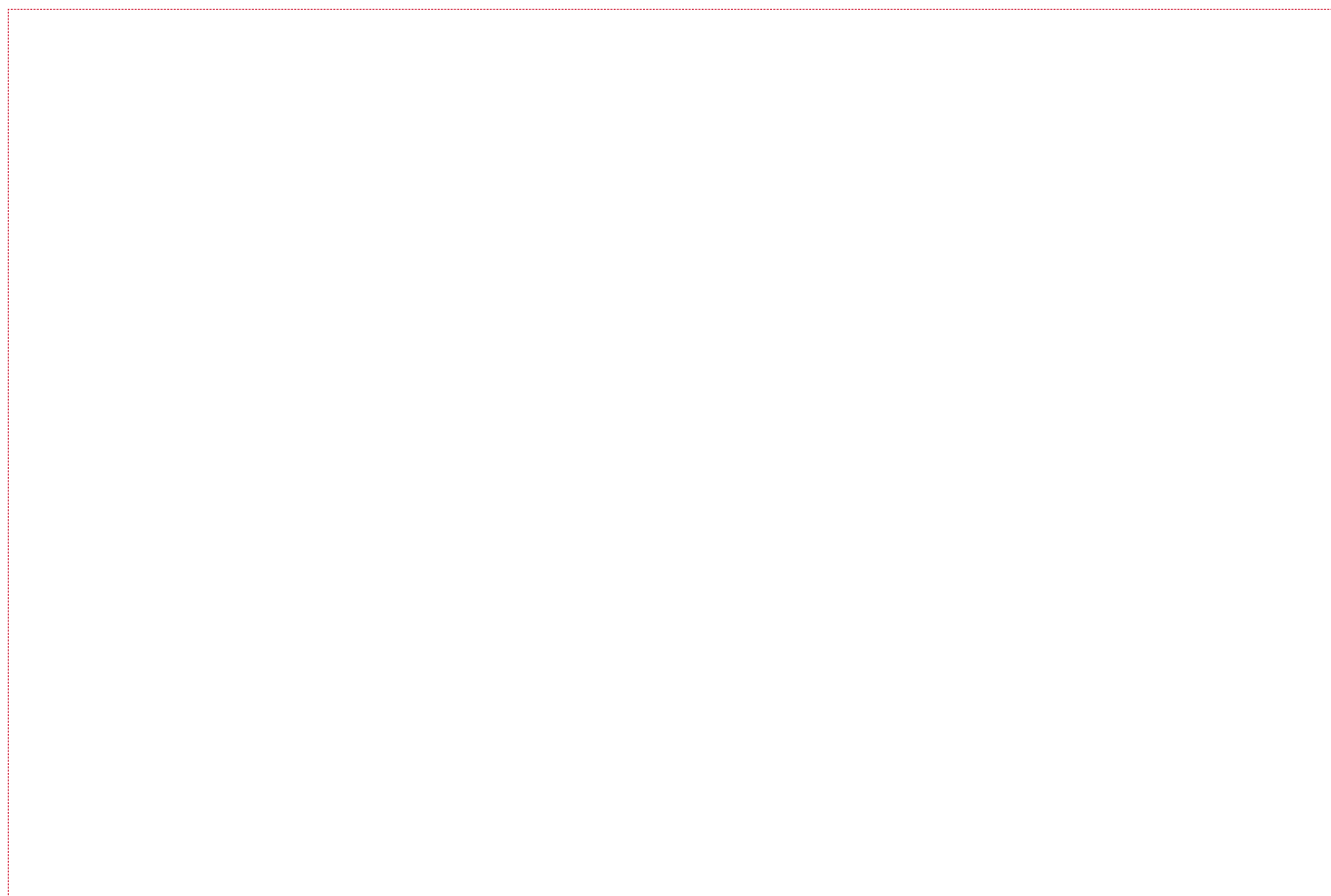
Yes No

Your comments

In your opinion, how else can E-ACT support the people associated with the academy during this consultation process?

Your comments

Please use this space to make us aware of your observations, suggestions or any other comments:



Sending us your response

Please send your completed form by post to [E-ACT, Unit 9.2.1 The Leather Market, 11-13 Weston Street, London SE1 3ER](#) or send us a copy by email to consult@e-act.org.uk

Important dates

Public consultation will close on Friday 29 March 2019, so we must receive your response by this date. Any forms received after this date will not be considered.

In spring 2019, we will be releasing a post-consultation report which will include our response to public feedback as well as an outline of our final proposals. A copy of the report will be sent to you directly if an email or postal address has been provided.

Once we have received your response

Our response to your feedback will be included in the post-consultation report. We will be unable to respond to feedback received on an individual basis, however, key updates and public meeting reminders will be posted on our website.

Sharing public feedback

Please note that under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, responses to the consultation may be published on our website. No names or other personal data would be attributed to those responses.

Thank you

We take this opportunity to thank you for taking part in this consultation.