

Listening period

An overview of the responses received
during the four-week listening period

Date of issue
July 2019

Having received the Secretary of State's substantive decision to proceed to closure of Burnham Park E-ACT Academy, the trust began its listening period on Monday 17 June 2019.

The listening period is an opportunity for stakeholders and other interested parties to submit their views on how the academy closure process can be best managed.

The trust contacted over 300 people and organisations to signal the opening of the four-week listening period. This included:

- Burnham Park E-ACT Academy parents and carers
- All public consultation respondents
- Community and religious leaders
- All primary and secondary schools in South Bucks, Maidenhead and Slough
- 16-19 education providers in South Bucks, Maidenhead and Slough
- Bucks county councillors
- South Bucks district councillors
- Wycombe district councillors
- Burnham parish councillors
- Bourne End parish councillors
- The leader, chief executive and director of children, learning and skills at Slough Borough Council
- The leader, managing director and director of children's services at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
- Admissions contacts at Buckinghamshire County Council, Slough Borough Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Trust reassurances

The main issues

The trust received a total of six responses during the listening period. The main issues highlighted fall into one of four categories detailed below:

- A secondary school in Burnham is needed.
- E-ACT has not improved the academy.
- Bourne End E-ACT Academy is not a viable alternative to Burnham Park E-ACT Academy.
- Transport burden for the local authority.

The trust feels that the issues raised by the six respondents are on the whole not about the closure process (the stated intent of this listening period). They are about the decision to close the academy.

As such, the vast majority of the issues raised have already been addressed in the trust's formal response to public consultation which was released in June 2019.

Additional reassurance

One respondent had questions about Bourne End E-ACT Academy. The following reassurances can be provided:

- E-ACT was approached by the DfE to consider the re-brokerage of Bourne End E-ACT Academy.
- Whilst the trust acknowledges the reasons for the respondent's concerns, Bourne End E-ACT Academy student numbers are healthy.
- E-ACT has ensured that there will be more members of staff at Bourne End than is required for the total number of students at the academy. The number of students per teacher will fall to 11, the best of any mainstream secondary school in both Buckinghamshire and Wycombe. The trust therefore expects to see considerable academic improvement at the academy.
- The trust will be putting into place a robust community engagement programme from September. This will include new plans for feeder school engagement and student recruitment.

Parent meeting at Burnham Park E-ACT Academy

Parents and carers were invited to the academy on Thursday 27 June 2019 from 6.00pm-7.30pm for a question and answer session on the academy closure process. Just over 40 people attended the meeting.

The outgoing chief executive David Moran was in attendance as were the headteachers and deputy headteachers of both Burnham Park E-ACT Academy and Bourne End E-ACT Academy.

The session was opened by David Moran before questions were taken from the floor. Parents were then invited to have informal conversation with E-ACT staff. An FAQs document was distributed at the event.

A summary of the questions asked and our responses are included below:

When will my child start at Bourne End E-ACT Academy?

Your child's first day at Bourne End E-ACT Academy will be Monday 9 September 2019, though they will have already visited their new academy on a collaborative learning day this term.

What do I need to do to ensure that my child can transfer to Bourne End E-ACT Academy?

Your child's files will be automatically transferred to Bourne End E-ACT Academy. Admissions forms will however need to be completed to ensure all records are up to date.

Where will the coach to Bourne End collect students from?

The coach will collect students from Burnham Park E-ACT Academy at 7.45am and will drop them back at the academy at 3.50pm.

Will there be a later coach for students attending after-school clubs?

A late afternoon coach is scheduled to depart Bourne End at 4.10pm, arriving in Burnham at around 4.45pm.

What if my child misses the coach?

We ask that every effort is made to ensure that your child is ready to board the coach at 7.45am. If however it becomes apparent that your child is likely to miss the coach, parents must contact Bourne End E-ACT Academy reception staff to discuss alternative arrangements.

Is there anywhere for my child to keep a bicycle at the coach pick up and drop off point?

There will be bicycle racks available, however, please note that these will not be supervised during the day.

What happens if my child is taken ill during the day?

The same process as at Burnham Park E-ACT Academy will be followed. It remains the parents' responsibility to collect their child from Bourne End if required. Individual circumstances will naturally be taken into consideration.

What uniform does my child need for Bourne End E-ACT Academy?

Your child will have already tried on the Bourne End E-ACT Academy uniform as part of uniform swap. They can swap their Burnham Park E-ACT Academy uniform for a Bourne End E-ACT Academy blazer, tie, PE shirt and PE hoodie on Tuesday 16 July. All other items can be purchased from high street retailers.

What will happen to the old Burnham Park E-ACT Academy uniform?

Uniforms will be donated to Libala Secondary School in Lusaka, Zambia. We are linked to the school, and students there are keen to make use of our uniform.

How can my child buy lunch at Bourne End E-ACT Academy?

Like at Burnham Park, Bourne End E-ACT Academy also has ParentPay in place. Students can order their lunch at the academy restaurant from menus that include vegan, vegetarian and halal options.



consult@e-act.org.uk



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

WWW

www.e-act.org.uk



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