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BRADFORD GIRLS'  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Co-educational up to 11, Girls only 11-16



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ASSOCIATES

# Engagement Report Bradford Girls' Grammar School

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October 2022

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## **1. Introduction**

In July 2022 the Department for Education confirmed that an application for Bradford Girls' Grammar School (BGGGS) to join Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT) had been approved and an Academy Order was issued. The Academy Order meant that the school could move forward in the next stage of planning.

As this is a voluntary transfer and BGGGS is already a Single Academy Trust, there is no requirement for an official consultation. However, parental engagement is extremely important to both BGGGS and BDAT who organised information and events to provide families with insight of the process surrounding the transfer and the decision making that took place.

The circulation of information and notification of a parent engagement and communication event to discuss the MAT transfer was planned for mid-September but was unfortunately postponed to 5<sup>th</sup> October out of respect for the official period of mourning for the death of Her Majesty The Queen.

Family engagement therefore commenced on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and concluded on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and families were given an opportunity to ask questions and share their views in a number of ways. Further within the report we have shared a breakdown of meetings that happened and are planned and communications which were issued. A copy of all feedback received as part of the process will also be issued to all families in the form of an FAQ document.

## **2. Engagement methodology**

The overall aim of the family engagement process was to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to ask questions and find out more about the how the decision was reached, the process that will take place and the benefits to BGGGS in joining BDAT.

The objectives of the process were to:

- Provide relevant background information for families;
- Explain the reasons for the transfer from a Single Academy Trust (BGGGS) to join a BDAT, a Multi Academy Trust;
- Set out the stages in the process for the school to join BDAT and the associated timelines;
- Answer questions raised.

The principles laid down by the project team for the engagement were that it should be:

- An open and transparent process;
- Accessible to all stakeholders in terms of:
  - The times of the events;
  - The language used (jargon-free wherever possible and acronyms fully explained);
  - Being well-publicised.

A variety of media were used in the engagement including:

- Direct letters to families;
- Text messaging;
- Publicised physical meeting involving presentations and question and answer session which took place at school on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 5.30pm;
- Frequently asked questions and comments slips;
- Online survey using Google Forms;
- A dedicated email address;
- School website with a regularly updated dedicated area publishing the correspondence to parents; presentations from 5<sup>th</sup> October meeting; frequently asked questions and all the questions received from parents, with answers from BGGs and BDAT.

### **3. Overview of the feedback received**

#### **3.1 Engagement meeting**

A meeting took place on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 5.30pm in the main school hall. This meeting was attended by 31 parents from the senior school and 14 parents from Lady Royd Primary School from a school community of 1026 pupils and 681 families. Questions and answers were captured at this meeting to be incorporated into a post-engagement FAQ document to issue to all families.

#### **3.2 Survey results**

Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback via the following methods:

- By email at [BDATparentinfo@bggs.com](mailto:BDATparentinfo@bggs.com).
- By completing the paper feedback form at the end of the FAQ document issued to families and returning it to reception at BGGs.
- By completing the online feedback form available at [www.bggs.com](http://www.bggs.com).

Emails from 7 parents were received via email. These were all replied to and a summary of the questions asked in the emails have been incorporated in the post-engagement FAQ document that was circulated to families after the engagement meeting and has been updated again at the end of the engagement period for distribution with this report.

No feedback was received through the online or paper feedback forms.

As well as the questions asked at both the meeting, in individual conversations and by email, BGGs and BDAT also received positive comments and words of encouragement from families about the transfer, such as this parent whose email read *“The school is amazing and I’m glad to see that you will continue the brilliant work! My daughter loves it there and I’m so happy we chose and got into this school.”*

### **3.3 Themes and key messages**

Details of the questions asked (some of which have been summarised as they were recurring questions) throughout the engagement process is available in the post engagement FAQ document which has been produced following the engagement process and that is available with this report.

### **4. Next steps**

Parents have been informed of further opportunities to continue this dialogue with BDAT and BGS colleagues who will be working with their children. These are planned for 7<sup>th</sup> November and 18<sup>th</sup> January.