



Liverpool College

Liverpool College: Sizing the College Right for Our Future

Liverpool College announced in June 2012 that it would convert to academy status in September 2013.

In setting out their plans for the conversion, the governors proposed a phased growth for the school from 725 to 1100 pupils ages 4-19, from Reception up to and including Year 13.

The plan further emphasized the creation of a College of five schools: Pre Prep (Reception-Year 2), Preparatory School (Year 3-6), Middle School (Year 7-9), Upper School (Year 10-11) and Sixth Form (Year 12-13). This structure was designed to provide the possibility of expansion in school numbers while maintaining the ethos of a “human-scaled” school where every pupil is known and challenged and their aptitudes and interests are developed.

Admissions:

The proposals of the governors outlined in their conversion plans have proved popular with parents and pupils in Liverpool and neighbouring authorities. The College has experienced severe oversubscription since its decision to convert to academy status.

For 2013 entry, there were 288 applications for 50 places in Reception with 158 first preference, 92 second preference, and 38 third preferences. For Year 7, there were 500 applications with 221 first preferences for 61 places. In Years 1-6, 8, 9, and 10, all of which were full except Year 3 and Year 10 where we added 10 new places, there were 251 pupils who applied for an in-year place.

For 2014 entry, there were 336 applications for the 50 places in Reception, 169 first preferences. For Year 7, there were 634 applications for 60 places with 260 being first preference. There were 304 applications for in year places in Years 1-6, 8, 9 and 10.

For 2015 entry, we know at this stage that there were 641 applications for 60 places in Year 7 with 273 being first preference. There were 362 applications for Reception. For both years, applications increased. The admissions oversubscription for the other years appears to be similar to previous years although it will not be confirmed until later this academic year.

During this time the Sixth Form has grown substantially. Despite smaller year groups in Year 11, the College attracted 167 applications for Year 12 last year and 74 external candidates (including 20 boarders) took up a place having met the criteria for entry. A similar number of pupils have applied this year.

Throughout this period of oversubscription, we have maintained a model of target class sizes of 25, two forms of entry in Reception, four in Year 7 and a Year 12 intake of 125. The

College has done so because of the classroom sizes, particularly in the Pre Prep, Preparatory School and in its science facilities. In 2014, a new building and renovation of Mossley Vale created 10 new teaching spaces for the expanding secondary phase of the College.

Why is the model under pressure?

- The model is under pressure from **oversubscription and parental demand**. The College has, for example, defended its model in more than 150 appeals since its conversion to academy status. This year there are 46 scheduled appeals for Year 7 alone.
- It is also under **financial pressure**. Since the time of our announcement the Department for Education has made the following changes:
 - (i) Increased the pupil premium, whilst lowering the per-pupil funding for pupils that do not carry the premium. The effect in the short and medium term of this decision has been deleterious to the model on which the governors took the decision to convert.
 - (ii) Increased employer contributions to pensions, and, in the near future employer contributions to national insurance.
 - (iii) Changed the funding arrangements related to pupils with a statement of educational needs, imposing greater financial burdens on the College to fund provisions for these pupils.
 - (iv) Cut the per-pupil funding for post 16 places.
 - (v) Announced the process of establishing a new national funding formula for state schools which, at this stage, appears to be disadvantageous to Liverpool schools.

The sum total of all these changes in the case of the College is equivalent to more than a 10% cut in real terms in the funding model on which the conversion was based and it is anticipated that when all these changes come into force the effect will be a more than 12% cut in real terms in funding for the school. This in turn puts great pressure on the breadth of our curriculum, particularly in the Upper School and Sixth Form, the retention and recruitment of staff, particularly middle leadership, and the provision of extra-curricular opportunities

The governors must therefore consider their response to these new funding realities and the financial and educational viability of the College and how the College should respond to these substantial changes in funding and demand.

Options:

Several options within 33 different admissions and financial scenarios have been explored with five objectives in mind:

1. Preserving the unique educational offer as set out in the academy conversion prospectus and experience of the College to its pupils.
2. Phasing growth so that leaders, managers, staff, and pupils can plan effectively and ensure that change management is effective and robust.
3. Maximising options for the future so that the College can respond to changes in educational and funding policy or educational need.
4. Leveraging the educational possibilities of an all-through school and making sure that the balance and proportion between numbers of primary and secondary pupils remains.
5. Ensuring the financial and educational viability of the College's programme in the medium and long term, in light of changes to the funding formula.

The governors considered:

- Increasing class sizes substantially.
- Narrowing the curriculum.
- Removing extra-curricular provision from the Colleges' educational provision.
- Increasing fundraising efforts.
- Finding savings in the operating and staffing budgets.
- Increasing income generation across the College and the campus.
- Restructuring staff and leadership.

Conclusion:

The decision of the governors in response to the new funding models imposed by government and the demand for places at the College is to pursue a **medium term** strategy to grow the school from a two form entry primary and four form entry secondary school as it is now to a three form entry primary and five form entry secondary school. It will also include phased growth of the sixth form from its current capacity of 250 pupils to 300 pupils. The expansion our primary provision in particular will enable more of our pupils

to experience Liverpool College as an “all-through” school and will help solve the anticipated need for more primary places in the area.

For this strategy to be implemented, and specifically for the primary phase of the College to become a 3 form entry school, the governors must obtain from the Local Authority or from the Educational Funding Agency sufficient capital funding to build new and expanded primary classroom facilities for both Pre Prep and Prep School on our campus. Until such facilities are built, the primary phase of the College will remain a two form entry school.

This strategy will begin to be implemented in the **short term** in the admissions policy for 2016. From 2016 we will admit a fifth form of entry into secondary school, but will continue to admit two forms into primary school. We will move to a maximum class size of 28 in secondary and 27 in primary classes.

Primary Growth:

- From 2016, the College will accept 54 pupils in two forms into Reception.
- In 2016, the College will accept into Years 1-6 additional pupils to a maximum of 54 pupils per year group.

This growth will require additional furniture for classrooms.

Secondary Growth:

- From 2016, the College will admit 140 pupils into Year 7 in five forms of 28 pupils.
- From 2016, the College will admit pupils into existing forms in Years 8-9 up to 28 in each form.
- In 2016, the College will admit an additional 25 pupils into Year 10.
- In 2017 and 2018, the College will admit an additional 13 pupils into Year 10.
- From 2017, the College will increase its Year 12 intake from 125 to 150.

This growth will require additional furniture for classrooms, adjustments to laboratory provision and will require the eventual creation of a fifth house and house space.

Chart of Phased Growth of College:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
R	54	54	54	54	54
1	54	54	54	54	54
2	54	54	54	54	54
Pre Prep	162	162	162	162	162
3	54	54	54	54	54
4	54	54	54	54	54

5	54	54	54	54	54
6	54	54	54	54	54
Prep	216	216	216	216	216
7	140	140	140	140	140
8	112	140	140	140	140
9	112	112	140	140	140
Middle	364	392	420	420	420
10	125	125	125	140	140
11	85	125	125	125	140
Upper	210	250	250	265	280
12	125	150	150	150	150
13	125	125	150	150	150
6th Form	250	275	300	300	300
TOTAL	1202	1295	1348	1363	1378

New Purpose Built Facilities in the Primary Phase (Medium Term Strategy):

The College will apply for funding from the Local Authority and from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to build a purpose built Pre Prep building on the asphalted playground immediately adjacent to the Prep School.

- This facility will improve educational provision in the Early Years and Key Stage 1.
- It will allow the College to expand to a three form primary entry model and help the local authority deal with the recognized need for more primary places in the Mossley Hill area.
- It will improve the traffic and parking situation around the College.
- It will increase the safety of pupils and allow for efficient use of resources including staffing across the primary phase.
- It will allow for catering and dining to take place near to and in the primary phase classrooms and facilities.
- It will provide an adequate number of toilets to match growth in pupil numbers.

Funding for this facility will make possible the expansion of the primary school into a three form primary and will, because of larger classroom sizes, give the College the option of increasing class size beyond 27 if it is deemed educationally or financially desirable to do so.

Only when this facility is built, will it become possible for the College to accept 28 pupils per class into Reception in three forms of entry from the September when the new building is complete.

HvMB
01.05.15