THE FERMAIN ACADEMY

CONSULTATION REPORT

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SCHOOLS TRUST

Transforming lives

CHILD CENTRED | ADAPTIVE TO NEED | AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

CONTENTS PAGE

Title Page	Page 1
Contents Page	Page 2
The Youth Engagement Schools Trust	Page 3
The Fermain Academy – Our Vision and Ethos	Page 4
The Initial Phase – Our Bid	Page 6
Statutory Consultation	Page 7
Stakeholders	Page 8
Methods of Consultation	Page 8
Statutory Consultation – The Results	Page 11
The Fermain Academy – Our Response to Feedback	Page 13
Next Steps	Page 15
Conclusion	Page 16
Appendices	
Appendix 1 – Questionnaire	Page 18
Appendix 2 – Email to Stakeholders	Page 19
Appendix 3 – Public Consultation Document	Page 20
Appendix 4 – Consultation Information Document	Page 22
Appendix 5 – Extension Email	Page 25

THE YES TRUST

The Youth Engagement Schools (YES) Trust had successfully won a bid to establish an Alternative Provision – The Engage Academy, located in Crewe. However, this project has faced governmental delays. As the Local Authority is in urgent need of placements to meet the needs of the vulnerable students in the area. The Youth Engagement Schools Trust is proposing opening a satellite site of The Fermain Academy in Crewe in response local need.

Our aim is to achieve far better outcomes with our specific cohort than is possible for local schools by improving each learner's life chances allowing them to thrive in modern Britain.

Our Core Values:

The Trust is committed to equality and opportunity for all, and making sure every individual has a tailored approach to education that allows them to build on their strengths and develop their weaknesses. We are committed to providing child centred education, by developing authentic relationships, and being adaptive & sensitive to each pupil's individual needs.

No child deserves to be written off or not given a chance to properly learn from less informed life choices. Our schools work to support our cohorts with autonomous curriculum's developing real life application of learning as well as high quality qualifications for further learning and work application.

The Trust specialise in the fields of alternative provision and specialist education settings and consistently looks to support with the development of these provisions through development, supporting and sponsoring both new and existing provision in these fields.

We want to help everyone C.H.A.N.G.E by gaining a positive attitude and the ability to succeed in life…

Challenge your self – Through bespoke teaching pathways we help all students challenge their ability, fostering accelerated progress no matter their start points. Giving students clear pathways to improvement destinations in all areas of personal growth (academic, vocational, personal, social and emotional).
Help each other – Though all academies serve different cohorts and needs within their student bodies, we are committed to helping all achieve their true potential. Within each academy there is the explicit view that we are one community working together to benefit all. Together we learn, challenge and succeed.

Aspire to be great – No idea is a bad idea, and through our academies we foster curiosity and creativity. Our individual academies all have innovative models of delivery, which help every young person find their niche, so they aspire to be great.
Nurture your potential – Even though our students may be dis-engaged or disillusioned with education and additionally often had extended periods away from formal schooling, this does not mean they are not gifted in certain areas. With a rich and deep curriculum in every academy we foster this talent stretching them to obtain higher qualification in their respective educational fields
Grow as an individual – We focus on each student's skills and interests to help focus specific study on progression into further / higher education, training and / or employment. With access to internal and external career days, all our students are equipped to make informed choices when they move onto their next step.
Enjoy learning – It is important to reinvigorate every student to once again love education so they can become confident lifelong learners. All our academies foster this in students inspiring them through well produced educational content and curriculum models, educational visits and guest speakers, allowing each student to realise they can succeed and will be a success.

THE FERMAIN ACADEMY – Our vision and ethos

Our Moral Purpose is: **TRANSFORMING LIVES**

We follow The YES Trust Core Values; meaning that we are:

- Child centred
- Adaptive and sensitive to need
- Authentic in our relationships

Our Vision is to support all learners, raising their aspirations through high quality engaging education which empowers and liberates their futures.

At **The Fermain Academy**, we believe that:

We can reengage those students who have become disconnected with not only mainstream education but with their own dreams and aspirations. We want to help students to recognise their achievements, and by delivering a personalised curriculum that will allow them to sit a minimum of five GCSEs (or equivalent).

We will prepare them for a world where they can truly realise their full potential. Designed to encourage all students to be respectful of, and generate their own alternative viewpoints and ideas, we'll deliver a

complete academic, social and emotional learning experience by placing students in smaller working groups led by adult role models that our students trust.

The safety and wellbeing – both emotional and physical – of all our students and staff is paramount, something we ensure by maintaining safe and stimulating learning environments and implementing robust systems of behaviour, as well as social and emotional support. Finally, we want to provide the best possible standards of care, support, and learning for all students and staff by promoting an environment in which our staff can develop and share their skills, knowledge and experience.

Learning should be exciting and purposeful

Child centred education- Students are placed at the very core of all we do. All approaches are child centred, ensuring that each student can maximise their potential through a bespoke and tailored approach in an environment and climate which enables each and every individual to succeed.

A Whole School Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing

In order to create a highly focussed provision, every detail of the Academy's education plan has been developed in collaboration with students, parents, and experienced professionals. It draws on the experience of existing research, known successful strategies, and recognised qualifications to create an inspiring educational experience for every learner. We will be pioneering in our approach to whole-school emotional intelligence coaching and support, working closely in tune with health professionals and other external agencies.

The Fermain Academy will be following the 8 key principals as documented by Public Health England to ensure our Academy is promoting a whole school approach to emotional health and well-being.

Figure 1. Eight principles to promoting a whole school and college approach to emotional health and wellbeing

Public Health England, (2015 p.6)

A Multi –Agency Approach

The Fermain Academy will be working collaboratively and cohesively within our community working alongside various agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students and their families.

A Reflective Practice

The Fermain Academy will regularly monitor, review and adapt our approach to ensure each student makes progress. Student progress will be monitored holistically, acknowledging and celebrating academic, social and emotional development.

INITIAL PHASE – OUR BID

The Youth Engagement Schools (YES) Trust proposes to establish a satellite site of The Fermain Academy; location to be confirmed, the provision will offer 80 student places, in the 11 to 16 age range. These students are unable to access mainstream education and may be at risk of permanent exclusion. We aim to achieve far better outcomes with our specific cohort than is possible for local schools by improving each learner's life chances allowing them to thrive in modern Britain.

The Local Authority has identified the demand for alternative provision places in South Cheshire, particularly in Crewe, has increased. The Fermain Academy has a strong track record of supporting students who are unable to access mainstream education. The proposed Crewe site will offer the same high standards of personalised, trauma-informed, and inclusive education that have characterised the provision in Macclesfield.

The Fermain Academy's satellite site will stand apart from existing local provision and add further capacity for the Local Authority and will provide support for secondary schools in the local area. The AP will develop a highly specialised curriculum to support students' specific needs and aim to inspire learning for any ability. Staff will be supported by an effective Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) working collaboratively to develop high-level plans, resources, and strategies for teaching. They will draw on the experience and personal expertise of other AP'S and Specialist schools within our Trust. In addition, the provision will work closely with, external support agencies, and act on recent academic research in order to provide the best possible provision for the vulnerable students in our care. The curriculum will incorporate focused programmes of study in a multi-functional approach using challenging yet achievable student targets and well-informed IEPs. These SMART targets will focus on developing aspirational personal growth so each student, no matter what her or his age or ability, can find an optimal framework to excel, achieve and become a lifelong learner.

STATUTORY CONSULTATION

The Fermain Academy are keen to be an integral part of our community. Our consultation ensured a wide variety of stakeholders were informed of our plans and allowed us to capture feedback. The statutory consultation commenced on Monday 19th May 2025 and closed on Monday 9th June 2025. However, we were informed by the Local Authority that representatives had not had opportunity to take part in the consultation due to unforeseen circumstances and heavy workloads. Therefore, we extended the consultation until 5pm on Friday 13th June 2025.

Information provided to stakeholders took the following forms:

1. Public consultation document (please see Appendix). This document was made available in digital and printed form and introduced the Trust, key members of staff, introduced the vision, ethos and proposal for the new Alternative Provision, admission information and key information on the consultation process. It also provided information on

how stakeholders could give feedback or have any questions answered.

2. The Fermain Academy and The Youth Engagement Schools Trust Website provided information about the proposed school, the consultation process and a downloadable consultation document as well as a link to an online form (please see Appendix).
3. Emails (please see Appendix) were sent to Cheshire East secondary schools and colleges providing copies of the consultation documents and a link to the online questionnaire.
4. Emails were sent to Cheshire East parent carer forum
5. Emails sent to various professionals who work with children and young people. Including CAMHS, Mental Health Charities, Social Care, CEIAS, Education Welfare (Missing from Education Teams), as well as Cheshire East Exclusion Team.
6. Update emails were sent as reminders and notification of the deadline extension was also sent to all stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDERS INFORMED AND INCLUDED IN CONSULTATION

- Secondary Schools
- Specialist Schools
- SEN Team
- Exclusion Team Cheshire East
- Children Missing in Education Team
- Safeguarding Team
- CEIAS
- Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum
- CAMHS
- Just Drop In

METHODS OF CONSULTATION

GROUP	METHOD OF CONSULTATION	KEY DATES
Parents/Carers	Cheshire Parent Carer Forum Email Update and Extension notification sent	2nd June 2025 4th June 2025
19 Secondary Schools	Email S10 Consultation Document and information.	20th May 2025

	. Update and Extension notification sent	Final call/Reminder email sent by The YES Trust 30th May 2025 4th June 2025
2 Further Education/College	Email S10 Consultation Information was shared with key SEND stakeholders and 'pushed' through St. Helens LA's various networks and portals, including the Schools network and the SEND local Offer. Update and Extension notification sent	20th May 2025 Final call/Reminder email sent by The YES Trust 30th May 2025 4th June 2025
3 Specialist Schools and Alternative Provisions	Email S10 Consultation Document and information. Update and Extension notification sent	20th May 2025 Final call/Reminder email sent by The YES Trust 30th May 2025 4th June 2025
Local Authority SEN Team Fair Access team	Email S10 Consultation Document and information.	20th May 2025 2nd June 2025

Exclusions Team Children Missing in Education Team	Update and Extension notification sent	4th June 2025
Safeguarding Team	Email S10 Consultation Document and information. Update and Extension notification sent	2nd June 2025 4th June 2025
CAMHS	Email S10 Consultation Document and information. Update and Extension notification sent	2nd June 2025 4th June 2025
Visyon and Just Drop In	Email S10 Consultation Document and information. Update and Extension notification sent	2nd June 2025 4th June 2025
Parent/Carer forums	Email S10 Consultation Document and information. Update and Extension notification sent	2nd June 2025 4th June 2025
CEIAS	Email S10 Consultation Document and information. Update and Extension notification sent	2nd June 2025 4th June 2025

STATUTORY CONSULTATION – THE RESULTS

Questionnaire responses

1. Which group do you represent?

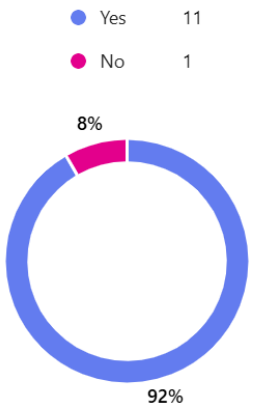
- Parent/Carer
- Professional working with children
- Member of the local community
- Other

	Parent/Carer	Professional	Local Community	Other	Total
Number of responses	0	11	0	1	12

2. Do you support The Youth Engagement Schools Trust's proposal to open a satellite site of the Fermain Academy in Crewe?

- Yes
- No

	YES	No	Total
Number of responses	11	1	12



12 people responded via the questionnaire, however a number of LA representatives responded by one joint feedback form. Of the 12 feedback forms received **11** people **agreed** with The Youth Engagement Schools Trusts proposal to open a satellite site of The Fermain Academy in Crewe.

Below are the reasons provided by participants for the response they gave.

- The site will support inclusion and cater for the needs in Crewe
- There is a clear need for additional provision for the most vulnerable learners in Crewe. This will help address the growing number of young people NEET in the area
- There is significant need for a facility like this in the area and would be welcome to enable learners to be in the best setting for them to succeed
- There is a clear local need for additional provision. We have worked closely with the Fermain for some time now and believe the work they do is impactful and important.
- There is a dire shortage of suitable Alternative Provision in Cheshire East. Opening this satellite site will provide AP for students in the Crewe area and also release space in the existing Fermain provision - thus providing additional capacity for students in the Macclesfield area.
- To continue to provide support to a wider group of young people
- This is long overdue and a much require resource for the local area. With the track record Fermain has, I think this is an ideal model for development of AP. Hopefully this will lead to further development as the whole sector is extremely overwhelmed and there is a huge requirement for further places.
- We are in desperate need of quality AP provision in this part of Cheshire East.
- There is a need for alternative placements in the area, and it will support with travel currently that is a cost and sometimes a barrier for our young people
- Crewe children deserve to be educated and not online learning where there are no AP spaces available.
- The bid submitted by the YES Trust to the DfE for the Alternative Provision free school was fully supported by Cheshire East Council. In light of the delays around the decision making by Central Government, Cheshire East Council would support the satellite school proposal as an alternative to the free school proposal. This would be on the basis that the Satellite school and the accommodation/setting proposed would be able to meet the needs of Cheshire East children and young people (CYP) and would enable the delivery of an enriched full-time curriculum.

Respondents were given the opportunity to feedback their thoughts on the Trust's rationale which was outlined in the consultation document. **11 of the 12 respondents** were overwhelmingly positive and fully supported the Trust's rationale stating that the rationale was strong and based on a firm foundation of evidence. With Cheshire East Council fully supporting the rational for this proposed satellite school in Crewe stating that it will address

the needs of Cheshire East CYP who are struggling to access full time education within mainstream schools.

Finally, an opportunity was provided to add any further questions or comments. 6 of the of the respondents did not want to offer any further feedback or questions. One professional, working with children and young people felt that this resource would support secondary education in Crewe. Cheshire East Council representatives support of the satellite AP was based on their shared expectation that the Trust would continue to provide places and improve the outcomes for Cheshire East Children and Young People with complex needs and trauma.

There were requests from a couple of professionals who requested that all schools in the local area would be able to access placements, and sought reassurances that one school or Trust would dominate the allocation of placements. Another professional shared concerns that their school budget did not have the flex to pay for this type of education, and so stated that the places would need to be funded from elsewhere.

Oakfield Lodge and The Manor Hall Trust asserted that they have always maintained a very positive working relationship with the YES Trust and the Fermain Academy and anticipated that clarity around the use of places in Crewe and beyond would enable that relationship to continue. Oakfield Lodge sought assurance around this urgently and welcomed a dialog around these concerns to ensure that both provisions would be able to operate in the same geographical location, collaboratively and without risk.

THE FERMAIN ACADEMY – RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK

The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, with the majority of respondents feeling the provision was much needed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children in the area. However, the consultation period did highlight the following concerns:

- Cost of placement
- Availability of placements

Oakfield Lodge also provided a detailed letter outlining the following concerns and requested reassurances.

- Duplication of existing provision
- Protection of PEX places
- Financial structure and clarity
- Collaboration with other Alternative Provisions

- Risk Mitigation
- Cohort composition of the Crewe Site
- Supporting students with an EHCP
- Commissioning of placements

The YES Trust are keen to be an asset to the local community and all our stakeholders and therefore would like to ensure open line of communication, so we can work cohesively.

Duplication of Existing Provision

The initial intention was to establish a new 80-place AP school at the former Crewe Baths site, which has been approved based on clearly demonstrated need within the Crewe area. While this remains a long-term goal, the government has not yet confirmed funding mechanisms for the capital works required. Given the urgent and ongoing need, the current proposal is to proceed with the expansion of Fermain Academy through a satellite site as a practical interim solution.

Protection of PEX Places

The satellite provision is intended to mirror The Fermain Academy's existing model, focusing predominantly on early intervention and non-PEX placements. The aim is to support schools in their broader inclusion efforts and reduce the number of permanent exclusions.

Financial and Structural Clarity

Placement commissioning will follow a similar model to The Fermain Academy's current structure, with both Local Authority and school-based commissions depending on identified need and service-level agreements. The Youth Engagement Schools Trust propose to offer a mix of full-time and part-time placements to meet the diverse needs of learners.

Collaboration with Other Alternative Provisions

As with all schools within The Trust collaboration will remain a key principle. As a Trust we value strong partnerships with all providers to ensure continuity and consistency for young people across the Specialist and Alternative Provision landscape.

Risk Mitigation

The satellite site's placements will be new and centrally funded.

Cohort Composition at the Crewe Site

It is anticipated that a student profile similar to Fermain's current cohort will be offered. This currently is approximately 70% school-placed pre-PEX, 15–20%

PEX, and 10–15% SEN. This balance will allow the Trust to meet a range of needs while maintaining stability within the provision.

Supporting EHCP and Specialist Needs

Although not formally a special school, Fermain Academy has a strong track record of meeting the needs of students with EHCPs and reducing reliance on high-cost independent placements. If a student with an EHCP can be effectively supported within our setting, we would, of course, do so through a single registration model, as we currently do. Should the Local Authority wish for the provision to develop a more specialist EHCP focus, we would be open to adapting our model in line with formal guidance and approvals.

Commissioned Places

The proposed expansion has been built on robust evidence of need, and the commissioning model will be multi-faceted, with placements drawn from a range of sources—not solely from the Local Authority.

NEXT STEPS

Following our statutory consultation our next steps are as follows:

- Building in Crewe to be identified and confirmed for use
- Once Building identifies work with the local community and residents to commence
- Project Management to commence including procurement of services to prepare building
- Recruitment process for the academies Head of School commence
- Further recruitment to begin late January, early February 2026.
- Continued collaborative planning with DfE and Building Contractors
- Prospective parent visits to The Axis Academy, to commence January 2026
- All information as well as a copy of this document will be available on our website. The website will be kept up to date with plans and processes as the build progresses.
- Social media pages to be launched to further share progress
- Mrs Lorna Lockhart, Trust Project Manager; will continue to work alongside the Local Authority, Schools, as well as SEN and Inclusion Teams to identify potential students and begin their staged and extended transition to The Fermain Academy.
- The Trust Team will continue to work closely with all stakeholders and local schools to build positive and strong relationships within the community.

CONCLUSION

This report highlights that the majority of stakeholders strongly support The Fermain Academy's expansion, recognizing its role in fostering inclusion and addressing educational needs in Crewe. Many respondents emphasised the importance of providing opportunities for students unable to access mainstream education and commended the Trust's well-founded rationale and evidence-based approach. There was also acknowledgment of the challenges faced by students and parents currently attending schools outside the area.

Overall, **92% of stakeholders expressed support for the expansion, while the remaining 8% sought reassurances regarding specific concerns**. Feedback from the consultation was shared with the Chief Executive and the Trust's Director of Finance, covering a wide range of topics, including financial implications, placement allocation, and collaboration with other Alternative Provisions in the region. In response, the Trust CEO provided direct answers to the questions raised, and meetings were arranged to further engage stakeholders and strengthen relationships.

THE FERMAIN ACADEMY

APPENDICES

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SCHOOLS TRUST

Transforming lives

CHILD CENTRED | ADAPTIVE TO NEED | AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

The Youth Engagement Schools Trust Consultation Survey

The Fermain Academy, an Ofsted-rated 'Outstanding' Alternative Provision (AP) academy based in Macclesfield, is seeking views on a proposal to open a satellite site in Crewe. The new provision will supplement the lack of development and long delay of the approved free school, and will offer up to 80 places for pupils requiring alternative education. The proposed site aims to open in September 2026, providing high-quality AP to students within Crewe and the surrounding area. This consultation is conducted in line with the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory requirements for a significant change to an academy, specifically the opening of a satellite site. In recent years, demand for Alternative Provision in South Cheshire, particularly in Crewe, has increased. Although a free school has been approved for the area, that project is currently not being progressed. In response to local need, the Fermain Academy, with the support of the Youth Engagement Schools (YES) Trust and the Local Authority, proposes opening a satellite site in Crewe. Our consultation period will run from Monday 19th May 2025 to Monday 9th June 2025. During this time, we will be inviting all stakeholders, prospective parents/carers and students, professionals, as well as the members of the local community to share their opinions on the proposal. We would request that you complete this short questionnaire to offer your feedback.

* Required

1. Which group do you represent? • Parent/Carer • Professional working with children • Member of the local community • Other *

   If you are a professional working with children, please state which agency you represent.

   Enter your answer

2. Do you support The Youth Engagement Schools Trust's proposal to open a satellite site of the Fermain Academy in Crewe? *

   ◯ Yes

   ◯ No

3. Please state the reason for your answer below: *

   Enter your answer

4. What is your opinion on the Trust's rationale as outlined in the consultation document? *

   Enter your answer

5. Please feel free to add any other questions or comments below. *

   If you include your preferred contact method, we will endeavour to answer any questions at the earliest opportunity

   Enter your answer

Submit

Never give out your password. Report abuse

Email sent to stakeholders

Good morning,

In recent years, demand for Alternative Provision in South Cheshire, particularly in Crewe, has increased. Although a free school has been approved for the area, the project is currently not being progressed and is facing long delays. Therefore, in response to local need, the Fermain Academy, with the support of the Youth Engagement Schools (YES) Trust and the Local Authority, is proposing opening a satellite site in Crewe. The location is to be confirmed, but some sites have been identified In Crewe and are currently under assessment for suitability.

The proposed satellite site will offer 80 full-time equivalent (FTE) places and is planned to open in September 2026. The Fermain Academy has a strong track record of supporting students who are unable to access mainstream education. The Crewe site will offer the same high standards of personalised, trauma-informed, and inclusive education that have characterised the provision in Macclesfield.

This consultation is conducted in line with the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory requirements for a significant change to an academy, specifically the opening of a satellite site. There are two documents attached offering further information. The Youth Engagement Schools Trust would like to hear from the local community in the coming weeks. We are keen to hear your comments so that we can offer feedback to ensure The Youth Engagement Schools Trust and The Fermain Academy are meeting the needs of the communities we serve. We are passionate about ensuring the best possible outcomes for the vulnerable students we are looking to support and educate.

We will record all views shared with us during the formal consultation period running from Monday 19th May 2025 until Monday 9th June 2025. We ask that you complete the short questionnaire via the following link. Alternatively, you can email your feedback to l.lockhart@theyestrust.org.

We look forward to receiving your feedback.
Kind regards,

THE FERMAIN ACADEMY

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SCHOOLS TRUST
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GOOD NEWS!

We are proposing a new satellite site for The Femain Academy in Crewe. Therefore we are now required to undertake a consultation period.

In recent years, demand for Alternative Provision in South Cheshire, particularly in Crewe, has increased. Although a free school has been approved for the area, the project is currently not being progressed and the project is facing long delays. In response to local need, the Fermain Academy, with the support of the Youth Engagement Schools (YES) Trust and the Local Authority, proposes opening a satellite site in Crewe.

WHY DOES CREWE NEED A NEW ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

In recent years, demand for Alternative Provision in South Cheshire, particularly in Crewe, has increased. The Fermain Academy has a strong track record of supporting students who are unable to access mainstream education. The proposed Crewe site will offer the same high standards of personalised, trauma-informed, and inclusive education that have characterised the provision in Macclesfield.

THE FERMAIN ACADEMY

OUR PROPOSAL

Proposed change: Opening of a satellite site of the Fermain Academy in Crewe.

Location: To be confirmed (suitable sites within Crewe have been identified and are under assessment).

Type of provision: Alternative Provision (Key Stages 3 and 4).

Number of places: Up to 80 full-time equivalent (FTE) places.

Opening date: September 2026.

Governance: The satellite site will remain under the governance of the Fermain Academy and YES Trust.

Admissions: Referrals will be made through direct school placements on dual role, existing local authority protocols, managed moves, EHCP reviews, and permanent exclusion pathways.

THE FERMAIN ACADEMY

The Fermain Academy is the founding school of The Youth Engagement Schools Trust. The Fermain Academy opened as a brand new Alternative Provision free school in September 2015. With facilities to cater for up to 90 students aged 13-16 at any given time, the academy is a safe place of learning for those who, for whatever reason, have become disengaged from mainstream education.

The Fermain Academy is an award winning, nationally recognised Alernative Provision (AP). The Fermain Academy helped shape and establish the core values that run through everything we do as a Trust today.

We are committed to providing **child** centred education, by developing **authentic relationships**, and being **adaptive and sensitive to each pupils individual needs.**

THE FERMAIN ACADEMY

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The Youth Engagement Schools Trust would like to hear from the local community in the coming weeks.

We are keen to hear your comments so that we can offer feedback to ensure the Trust and The Fermain Academy are meeting the needs of the communities we serve. We are passionate about ensuring the best possible outcomes for the vulnerable students we are looking to support and educate.

We will record all views shared with us during the formal consultation period running from Monday 19th May 2025 to Monday 9th June 2025.

Ways to get in touch….

We offer a number of other ways to share your views and opinions on our proposal:

You can respond to this consultation in any of the following ways:

Online form can be accessed using the following link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/VDD04at90X

Email: Lorna Lockhart at l.lockhart@theyestrust.org

Post: FAO: Lorna Lockhart, Consultation Response, The Youth Engagement School Trust, Office 4b, Riverside Mountbatten Way, CW12 1DY

Key Members of the Team:

CEO – Nic Brindle

Oversees all schools in the Trust, and leads the strategic direction of everything we do.

Director of Education – Helen Phillips

Leads and oversees all aspects of education and safeguarding in our schools

Director of Business – Chris Heptinstall

Leads the financial and operations activities across the Trust

Pastoral and Project Lead – Lorna Lockhart

Leads projects for new schools within the Trust and acts as the pastoral lead during the pre-opening phase

THE FERMAIN ACADEMY

Consultation on the Opening of a Satellite Site of the Fermain Academy in Crewe

Three-Week Statutory Consultation under the Academies Act 2010

May 2025

Introduction

The Fermain Academy, an Ofsted-rated 'Outstanding' Alternative Provision (AP) academy based in Macclesfield, is seeking views on a proposal to open a satellite site in Crewe. The new provision will supplement the lack of development and long delay of the approved free school, and will offer up to 80 places for pupils requiring alternative education. The proposed site aims to open in September 2026, providing high-quality AP to students within Crewe and the surrounding area.

This consultation is conducted in line with the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory requirements for a significant change to an academy, specifically the opening of a satellite site.

Background and Rationale

In recent years, demand for Alternative Provision in South Cheshire, particularly in Crewe, has increased. Although a free school has been approved for the area, the project is currently not being progressed and is facing long delays. In response to local need, the Fermain Academy, with the support of the Youth Engagement Schools (YES) Trust and the Local Authority, proposes opening a satellite site in Crewe.

The Fermain Academy has a strong track record of supporting students who are unable to access mainstream education. The Crewe site will offer the same high standards of personalised, trauma-informed, and inclusive education that have characterised the provision in Macclesfield.

Details of the Proposal

Proposed change: Opening of a satellite site of the Fermain Academy in Crewe.

Location: To be confirmed (suitable sites within Crewe have been identified and are under assessment).

Type of provision: Alternative Provision (Key Stages 3 and 4).

Number of places: Up to 80 full-time equivalent (FTE) places.

Opening date: September 2026.

Governance: The satellite site will remain under the governance of the Fermain Academy and YES Trust.

Admissions: Referrals will be made through direct school placements on dual role, existing local authority protocols, managed moves, EHCP reviews, and permanent exclusion pathways.

Benefits of the Proposal

Provides local access to high-quality AP in Crewe, reducing the need for students to travel long distances.

Builds on the Fermain Academy's strong reputation and expertise.

Responds directly to identified need from Cheshire East Council and local schools.

Enables earlier and more effective intervention for vulnerable students.

Supports inclusive education goals within the region.

Consultation Process

This is a three-week consultation running from *Monday 19 May 2025 to Monday 9 June 2025.* During this time, we welcome feedback from:

- Parents and carers
- Students
- Local schools and educational professionals
- Local Authority representatives
- Community members
- Other stakeholders

How to Respond

You can respond to this consultation in any of the following ways:

- Online form: Please click the link here
- Email: Lorna Lockhart at l.lockhart@theyestrust.org
- Post: FAO: Lorna Lockhart, Consultation Response, The Youth Engagement School Trust, Office 4b, Riverside Mountbatten Way, CW12 1DY

Next Steps

At the end of the consultation period:

- All responses will be reviewed and summarised.
- A report will be submitted to the Trust Board and the Department for Education for approval.
- If approved, site preparation and staffing will begin in readiness for a September 2026 opening.

Further Information

If you would like to know more about this proposal or have questions, please contact Lorna Lockhart at l.lockhart@theyestrust.org. Alternatively, visit our website: www.theyestrust.org

We thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views.

Extension Notification Email Sent

Good morning,

Following on from the email below, I am writing to inform you that the consultation period has been extended until 5pm on Friday, 13th June 2025. This extension aims to provide additional opportunity for feedback on the proposal. Please not hesitate to share any further thoughts or contributions before the new deadline.

Thank you for your continued engagement and valuable input. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to reach out.

Kind regards