

Proposed free special school opening January 2024



Report on Section 10 public consultation

1 November 2022 to 13 December 2022

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Executive Summary

The Gallery Trust proposes to open Bloxham Grove Academy, a new free special school located in Bloxham, North Oxfordshire. In order to proceed with the opening, the Trust is required to conduct a Section 10 public consultation as to whether the Department for Education should enter into a Funding Agreement with The Gallery Trust. This is a requirement of the Academies Act 2010 (Section 10).

The provisional opening date for the academy is January 2024 and the student roll will grow gradually over 4 years from approximately 41 students in Year 1, to 100 in Year 4. Students at Bloxham Grove Academy will have a range of special needs, including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Cognition and Learning needs, and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. The academy will be accommodated in a new, purpose-built building currently under construction on a site adjacent to The Warriner School, Bloxham.

The academy will increase provision of special school places in Oxfordshire, which is currently insufficient to meet demands. There is a lack of special school provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Cognition and Learning Needs, and Social Emotional Mental Health needs outside of Oxford city. This is due to an increase in population growth in the county and in the number of Education Health and Care plans produced by the Local Authority for students.

The Gallery Trust undertook a Section 10 public consultation from 1 November 2022 to 13 December 2022 to seek the views of interested parties. Six questions were asked in the questionnaire, and the response to the statutory question as to whether a Funding Agreement should be signed between the Department for Education and The Gallery Trust was overwhelmingly positive, with 106 of the 113 respondents in favour. 49 respondents took the opportunity to offer additional comments, and 14 asked to receive information about becoming a Local Academy Board member at Bloxham Grove Academy.

This document and its appendices provide information on:

- The consultation methodology
- The information provided to stakeholders
- The range and nature of stakeholders consulted
- The results of the Section 10 consultation
- The response of the Trust to comments and feedback received in the course of the consultation
- Conclusions of the Trust

Consultation Methodology

The Trust produced a leaflet regarding the purpose of the consultation and to provide information about The Gallery Trust and Bloxham Grove Academy so stakeholders could make informed decisions when completing the accompanying online or Word questionnaire. The leaflet is presented in Appendix 1 and the questionnaire is presented in Word format in Appendix 2.

The Trust distributed the leaflet and questionnaire directly and indirectly to over 800 stakeholders across Oxfordshire with an invitation to participate in the consultation, as well as making the information available on the Bloxham Grove Academy website. The questionnaire was available as an online survey and a Word document and provided a link to the Department for Education's model Funding Agreement so respondents were fully informed about the context of the statutory question as to whether the Department should sign the Agreement with The Gallery Trust.

The questions asked in the questionnaire were:

1. Which group do you represent?
2. Where do you live in relation to the proposed site in Bloxham?
3. Do you support the proposal to open Bloxham Grove Academy?
4. Do you support the vision, values and aims of The Gallery Trust and Bloxham Grove Academy?
5. Do you agree that opening the proposed Bloxham Grove Academy will provide extra choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Oxfordshire?
6. Do you agree that The Gallery Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open Bloxham Grove Academy?
7. Please add any further comments

Additionally, respondents were asked to provide their contact details if they wished to be contacted about becoming a Local Academy Board member at Bloxham Grove Academy.

Views on the Section 10 consultation were invited in a range of ways through:

- completing an online questionnaire
- completing a Word version of the online questionnaire
- in person, at a public meeting

Stakeholders were contacted and invited to contribute to the consultation through a range of methods:

1. emails from The Trust containing a link to the online questionnaire, with the consultation leaflet and a Word version of the questionnaire attached, were sent to:
 - Head Teachers of schools within The Gallery Trust with a request for the email to be shared with Chairs of Local Academy Boards, staff and parents/carers
 - Head Teachers of schools in North Oxfordshire with a request for the email to be shared with Chairs of Local Governing Bodies
 - Head Teachers of Special schools in Oxfordshire
 - Members of Parliament, Oxfordshire
 - Bloxham Parish Council Councillors (via Bloxham Parish Council Secretary)
 - Oxfordshire County Council Local Authority Officers
 - Banbury Town Council Councillors
 - Members and Trustees of The Gallery Trust
 - NHS professionals
 - Charities supporting families.
2. articles were published in the Banbury Guardian, Banbury FM, and Bloxham Online (see Appendix 4) were published as a result of a press release issued by The Trust (see Appendix 3) which provided links to the consultation leaflet, the questionnaire and an invitation to the public meeting.
3. at a public meeting held at The Warriner School on 17 November 2022. The event was publicised through emails, the press release and on the Bloxham Grove Academy website. Three parents attended the meeting and participated in positive discussions with the Trust's CEO, Director of Schools and the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
4. an article published in Oxfordshire County Council's weekly newsletter, *Schools News* which is sent to all schools and governors in Oxfordshire provided links to the consultation leaflet and online questionnaire (Appendix 5).

Consultation response

The Trust received significant support for the proposal that the Department for Education enters into a Funding Agreement with The Gallery Trust to open Bloxham Grove Academy.

Results of the survey:

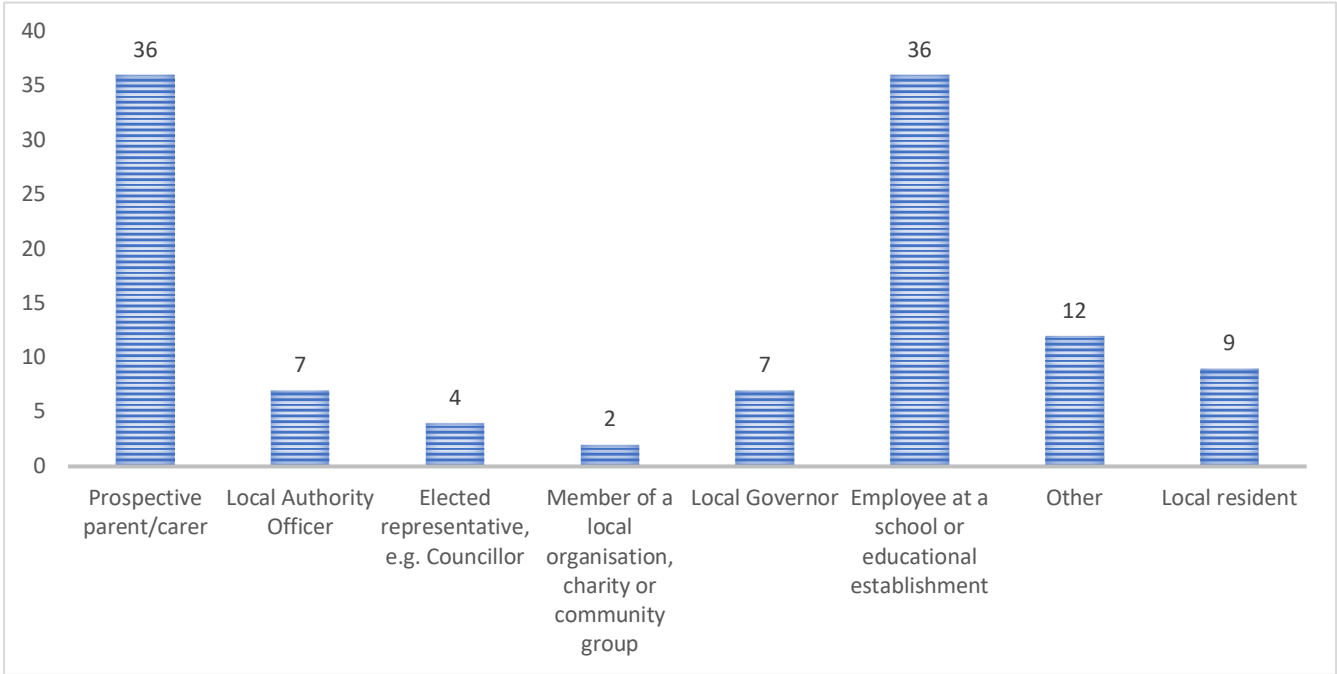
- 113 survey responses were received
- The majority of responses were from prospective parents and carers (32%) and from employees at educational establishments (32%)
- 94% supported the proposal to open Bloxham Grove Academy
- 87.5% supported the vision, values and aims of The Gallery Trust and Bloxham Grove Academy
- 94% agreed that opening Bloxham Grove Academy will provide extra choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places for students with SEND
- 94% agreed that The Gallery Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open Bloxham Grove Academy.

In addition, 14 respondents expressed an interest in finding out more about joining Bloxham Grove Academy's Local Academy Board.

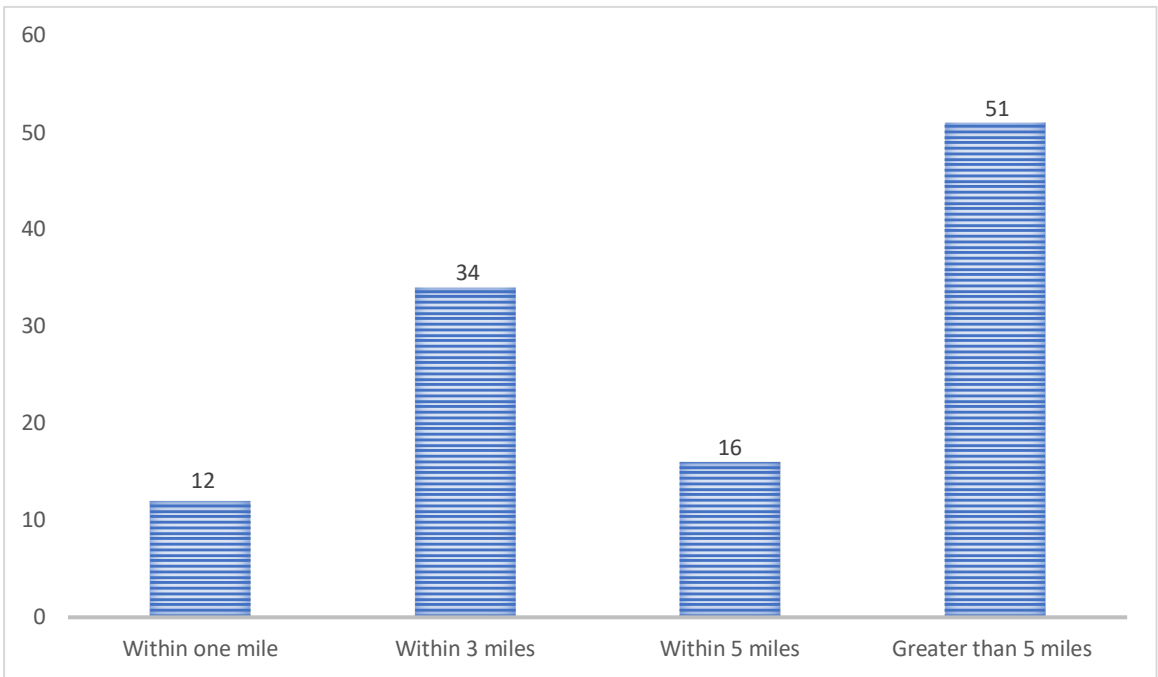
Survey responses

The survey received 113 responses to 6 questions.

Q1. Which of the following best describes you?



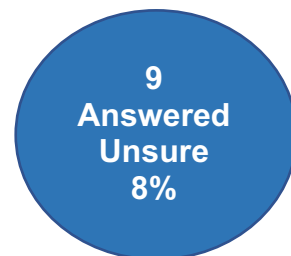
Q2. Where do you live, approximately, in relation to the proposed site in Bloxham?



Q3. Do you support the proposal to open Bloxham Grove Academy?



Q4. Do you support the vision, values and aims of The Gallery Trust and Bloxham Grove Academy?



Q5. Do you agree that opening the proposed Bloxham Grove Academy will provide extra choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Oxfordshire?



Q6. Do you agree that The Gallery Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open Bloxham Grove Academy?



Comments received in the questionnaire

Some comments have been edited to protect personal and other data, including information relating to schools, and 2 positive responses have not been included to avoid identification of individuals.

Positive Comments

- 1. As a parent of a child with SEN needs this would be a very welcome development. Knowing I could have my son in a high-quality specialist provision for his secondary education close to our house would be wonderful. Not only reassuring for a child with anxiety but allowing me as a working parent to be able to be immersed in my son's schooling the same way I am with his older brother who attends mainstream.*
- 2. Oxfordshire has been lacking in school spaces for special children for far too long. We need more schools like this to provide for the community, so that all children who need these schools are able to access education and secure better futures. It is stressful and worrying enough to raise a special child and worry about its future, without also having to fight for the right to an education for that child.*
- 3. Too many children in North Oxfordshire simply aren't getting the education and opportunities they should be. We are in desperate need of a new provision. I personally would find it helpful if SEN children from local mainstream schools could have access to the SEN clubs you may run as currently we are excluded from everything and only go to and from school.*
- 4. Banbury needs this school - our only local option is the Frank Wise which is bursting at the seams! Located next to the Warriner will also support local parents as it gives them the options of sending neuro typical siblings to the Warriner if the neuro diverse child attends Bloxham Grove.*
- 5. This is a much-needed school and there are children in Banbury and the surrounding area that are not getting the education and support they deserve due to the lack of SEN schools locally. This new school will allow children from the local area to gain a better quality of education and support with better trained staff and better resources giving our children the best chance of leading a fulfilled and happy life. The number of SEN children is growing in the area and there needs to be more schools like this to support them to be the best they can be. In mainstream schools they get lost and don't get the correct support. I for one support the opening of this much needed and important school.*
- 6. I warmly welcome the proposal. I think a special school would be a fantastic addition to the village of Bloxham. It increases diversity and inclusion, and being located next to the secondary school, will help the teens there learn compassion and understanding. There is clearly a need for the school, otherwise it would not be proposed! Why not here?*

7. *We are currently looking at specialised provision for our child. The options are limited as most are a bus/taxi journey away of more than 30 minutes. Having a child whose anxiety is heightened by travelling means we are extremely limited for options. This is not fair when our son should have the same opportunities as any other child. He currently attends mainstream, but they just cannot meet his needs. We desperately need more provision in our area for SEND children. We fully support this plan.*
8. *There is a distinct lack of places for students with additional needs in Oxfordshire. There are currently students in mainstream not receiving the level of specialist help they require to achieve their best outcomes. This not only impacts the individual students with SEN but all of the other children in the class. Oxfordshire desperately needs additional places.*
9. *Delighted to see this must needed expansion of SEN provision in Oxfordshire including pupils with ASD.*
10. *This school is essential to special education needs provision in the county and the The Gallery Trust is best placed to operate it. Children with SEND should not have to travel much further than their mainstream counterparts to access their education offer. This school will allow some of those in the north of the county to be educated closer to home and allow the advantages that will bring to them and their families.*
11. *This is a vital resource to support students in the north of Oxfordshire.*
12. *This is a much-needed development. Hopefully the first of many.*
13. *The additional SEN provision is needed in this area.*
14. *Having been a Headteacher of a number of schools in Oxfordshire, I understand first-hand the urgency with which we need this provision. The children are not having their needs best met currently no matter how well-meaning mainstream schools are. Other counties use this model extremely successfully and I welcome this wholeheartedly.*
15. *There is an urgent need for Special school places in Oxfordshire. Many children are placed in mainstream settings, who try their best to meet need but ultimately the children deserve to be in a Special School Setting, who have equipment, space and staffing to allow them to flourish. My only request is that this new school is for children in Oxfordshire only and not opened up to children out of county - as I am certain you could fill this school up at least twice over with children from the local area!*
16. *This would be a great addition to the area, we have twin boys on the spectrum which we would be applying to attend in the future.*

17. *Special school places in Oxfordshire are at capacity and the 100 places available at Bloxham Grove will make a significant difference to children and families who have been unable to access appropriate education or have needed to travel a significant distance cross border or into Oxford city to access the right provision. This is an essential facility for the North of the County and I fully support the development; we need many more schools of this type.*
18. *I believe this school is a much needed and overdue resource for local special needs children and I welcome it with open arms.*
19. *We need more!*
20. *The area is in desperate need of more services catered to children and young people with additional needs and their families. Not only will this help children currently struggling in mainstream settings, this could in turn offer possible respite opportunities for their families if After School Clubs and holiday schemes are set up at the school.*
21. *Desperately needed to free up places in existing schools nearer me in the South of the County. Why only 1 Specialist provision academy?*
22. *A school like this is very much needed provision is good at primary level, the transition to secondary is a massive step for children on the spectrum and this would be ideal.*
23. *Much needed facility for Sen students in this area*
24. *Too many children with special needs have to travel outside of Banbury to get an education. I'm sure families will welcome this school and hopefully it will provide more support locally.*
25. *The Academy is much needed in the county and I wholeheartedly support its creation.*
26. *The area is seriously lacking in schools that provide additional needs. Some children are having to travel miles to attend schools that meet their needs, other children are having to attend mainstream school, this is at a detriment to their health as well as progress academically.*
27. *There's a massive need for more support for children with send. This needs funding as many pupils are being let down.*
28. *I think it's brilliant we are finally getting another SEND school with our ever growing community we are not providing for send students and this would definitely help them. My son currently goes to Iffley Academy in Oxford and has to travel a long way. Having a school closer would help a lot of students and parents.*

29. *I currently work in a special school which is full, having more places available for children in the area would be amazing.*
30. *Great idea, increased capacity is surely only a good thing and will provide parents needing this service with more options and ease.*
31. *It is so important to provide more schools to accommodate children with special needs. There seems to be a growing number of children who need support to help them achieve their aims. I fully support the Bloxham Grove Academy and wish you every success.*
32. *Cherwell currently has no local authority schools for children with EHCP who have a diagnosis of autism. Currently the local education authority is paying out large fees to privately run autism schools where the money should be invested in schools that are funded by the local education authority.*
33. *My child was meant to attend this school when it was first being built, but has ended up at the sister school The Iffley Academy, this has worked fantastically for him but the travel has not always been easy especially with his anxiety around travel but the school it self has helped him thrive, I am so happy to have him in such a wonderful school and his sibling may need the same support but I'm hoping he will be able to attend Bloxham Grove Academy instead. Bloxham Grove is very much needed in this area & will help so many families.*
34. *I have twins with SEN. There is no way they could cope with a long taxi journey with a stranger to a school miles away. There are no places at Frank Wise. Too many children in North Oxfordshire simply aren't getting the education and opportunities they should be. We are in desperate need of a new provision. I personally would find it helpful if SEN children from local mainstream schools could have access to the SEN clubs you may run as currently we are excluded from everything and only go to and from school. OCC disability team have no staff to send out despite being allocated a care package.*

General comments and queries: respondents in favour of the Department for Education signing the Funding Agreement

1. *I'm not sure why this provision has only been identified for kids with learning difficulties as myself and many other parents of kids with autism and anxiety/semh needs but no learning disability cannot get a school place.*
2. *I support young people with high functioning autism. All of our clients have been dragged through mainstream school and have experienced a very traumatic time. These young people are aged 18 - 25 and are full of potential. However, due to the lack of bespoke and holistic support at school, they have entered adulthood isolated, anxious, lacking self-esteem and struggling to find their purpose. It's a complete shambles that this continues in our day of age. These SEN schools are a 'must', but please don't forget the children with high functioning autism. My service is maxed out with a long waiting list - just to unpick damaged caused through school, and to*

hopefully, give them the foundations to give education another shot in young adult life. This need not be the case if they had this support when needed much earlier on in childhood.

- 3. I am not clear from the literature provided as to whether Bloxham Grove Academy will require additional subsidy from parents over and above the usual support from the County Council. Put bluntly; is it elitist?*
- 4. Sooner than 2024 would be better*
- 5. It would be good to offer places to students at ks3 and ks4*
- 6. The very busy approach road and junction in Bloxham is a concern for many. Would it be feasible to make the school day begin later and also finish at a different time to the Warriner school to help with congestion and make drop off and pick up times at the new school a smoother process and easier for its pupils and parents?*
- 7. Please provide more information about how you intend to work with the local community and other schools.*
- 8. There needs to be adequate on site parking for the parents that will use the new school so the road can be left free for use by the Warriner parents that need to access the school as there is not enough parking available currently.*
- 9. We should have been consulted before now.*
- 10. While supporting this application for a funding agreement, I would like to restate the need for further SEND provision in this area that can deal with the increasing demand for places for SLD & PMLD children due to the long-predicted expansion of housing in the local area. This school will alleviate pressure over time on other local schools for catering to the needs of children defined by this application, but it will not enhance the scope to provide for those with more significant needs in respect of learning disabilities and profound and multiple learning disabilities.*

Negative Comments: respondents not in favour of the Department for Education signing the Funding Agreement

- 1. This concerns me greatly. It will have an impact on the Warriner School and the village of Bloxham is not suitable for such a build. The infrastructure is exhausted and road system not suitable. The increase traffic attending the school will increase carbon footprint when we should be reducing it. An absolutely ridiculous decision to locate the school in this village.*
- 2. I think that the proposed location is not appropriate. It will create transport issues for parents/children/staff and an unacceptable increase in traffic around the village.*

3. *This school is much needed but is in totally the wrong place. It is certain that very few - if any - of its pupils will live in Bloxham yet residents will have to endure extra traffic and congestion. It has also ruined green field land and impinged on a rural environment. I cannot support it in any way.*
4. *Bloxham and the Warriner already struggles with school traffic, inconsiderate parents park roads causing congestion, dangerous parking and confrontations. The site is unsuitable for more traffic. The Warriner is already full, and kids don't get much time at the farm as it is, without having to share with another facility and this extends to other school resources, we feel any partnership with another school could impact on levels of education for those at Warriner. They would be better open the new school as part of Warriner and not starting a whole new school. But mainly we feel the site is unsuitable as it already can't handle traffic and parents collecting children, I have to leave an hour early to make sure I can get close to the school to get my child, I sit outside the school for an hour.*
5. *A school like this is needed in the Oxfordshire area. However this is yet more building and extension of what is already the largest school in the area, in a village but which now appears to serve more and more people from town where there is a shortage of schools. Traffic along that narrow lane is ridiculously high for a village at school drop off and pick up despite the high number of buses being used. The junction is unsafe for walkers/school children and cyclists. So it is ridiculous to think it is a good location for another 100 children, who will be likely driven or taxied into school. Given all the existing building in Banbury would it not have been more sensible to build in town where people have more options for public transport or walking, as well as more brownfield sites to build on rather than tearing up more green sites around an existing school and edge of village site. The only way this location would work would be to have totally different school hours to Warriner.*

Trust response to comments

The Trust is grateful for all participation in the consultation.

The Trust response to comments from respondents in favour of the Department for Education signing the Funding Agreement

There are many meaningful and powerful comments from respondents, particularly from parents and carers and education professionals, which give an insight into the pressures on parents and schools when pupil places in special schools are in short supply. Many of the respondents feel strongly about the lack of special school places, and the difficulties which arise when students have to travel long distances to receive their education.

The Trust provides holiday and after school clubs within its schools and will develop plans for this provision at Bloxham Grove Academy nearer to opening. Bloxham Grove Academy students will attend the school from throughout Oxfordshire but many students will live in within the local vicinity.

The Trust response to comments from respondents not in favour of the Department for Education signing the Funding Agreement

Four of the 5 negative responses which are not in favour of the signing of the Funding Agreement are not directed at the school itself. These 4 comments not in favour of the school progressing to opening are from local residents and are linked to concerns regarding the location of the school in a rural village, the road infrastructure, parking at the start and end of the school day, and a possible increase in local traffic congestion.

The Trust's response to these comments, and to some similar concerns expressed in the favourable responses regarding traffic congestion, is that it will provide a staggered approach to start and finish times of the school day at Bloxham Grove Academy with The Warriner to reduce congestion. The design of the car park at Bloxham Grove Academy, with a central parking island, will allow vehicles to wait and circulate within the school site at drop off and collection times, without encroachment onto Bloxham Grove Road. The Trust recognises residents' concerns regarding congestion and will work to reduce traffic congestion.

The fifth negative comment is from a local resident whose child attends The Warriner and is concerned that access to the farm for Bloxham Grove Academy students and other Warriner facilities and resources will have a negative impact on pupils at The Warriner. The Trust will work closely with The Warriner to ensure that pupils at The Warriner are not adversely affected by collaboration between the two schools.

The Trust response to general comments and queries from respondents in favour of the Department for Education signing the Funding Agreement:

There are comments relating to the admissions requirements for students to the school and the special needs of students who will be eligible to attend. Bloxham Grove Academy's admissions indicators are agreed with the Local Authority and careful consideration of students' SEND needs will take place when students are referred by the Local Authority for consideration for admission.

There is a query as to the funding of the school and whether it requires additional subsidy from parents. The schools within The Gallery Trust are funded by Oxfordshire County Council and the Department for Education, and no contribution to funding is made by parents.

The school is under construction and the building will not be ready to open to pupils until January 2024.

Places will be offered to students within the age range 7 – 18.

The Trust is keen that Bloxham Grove Academy becomes part of the local community. The school will share its plans on how it intends to work with the local community and schools nearer to opening.

A previous consultation took place in Spring 2019, with public exhibitions at The Warriner School in February and March 2019.

The comment suggesting that the timings of the school day at Bloxham Grove Academy varies from The Warriner in order to reduce congestion will be implemented. There is adequate on-site parking.

Conclusion

Having run an extensive consultation for a period of six weeks in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Act, the Trust has fulfilled its statutory requirement to engage with a wide number and range of stakeholders regarding the opening of Bloxham Grove Academy. The response has been overwhelmingly positive with 94% of respondents in favour of the Department for Education signing a Funding Agreement with The Gallery Trust to open Bloxham Grove Academy.

The Gallery Trust will seek to agree a Funding Agreement for Bloxham Grove Academy with the Secretary of State for Education.

If you have any further comments, please email consultation@thegallerytrust.co.uk.

The Trust extends its thanks to all participants in the consultation.

Appendices

Appendix 1:	The Gallery Trust Section 10 consultation leaflet
Appendix 2:	The Gallery Trust Section 10 consultation questionnaire
Appendix 3:	Press release
Appendix 4:	Press coverage
Appendix 5:	Article published in Oxfordshire County Council Schools News, “In Site”



The **GALLERY** TRUST

A community of special schools



Help us to improve outcomes for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Section 10 consultation regarding the opening of
Bloxham Grove Academy, Bloxham, Oxfordshire

Welcome

We are delighted that our proposed free special school, Bloxham Grove Academy, has progressed to the pre-opening phase. We are now required to undertake a public consultation to determine whether we should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education so we can open the academy. This is a statutory requirement which is set out in Section 10 of the Academies Act, 2010.

Bloxham Grove Academy will open in a new building located next to The Warriner School in Bloxham, North Oxfordshire. The planned opening date is January 2024, and the school will open with 41 students. The pupil roll will grow gradually over 4 years, reaching capacity at 100 students. All students will have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Our aim is to achieve the very best outcomes for students by providing high standards of teaching and learning and pastoral care. Students will enjoy their education in an inspirational, purpose-built academy which will mirror the success of other academies within The Gallery Trust.

It is important that we take into account the views of stakeholders in the opening of our new school, and we look forward to receiving your views so we can provide students, parents and carers and the communities we serve with the best school possible.



Kay Willett, MBE,
Chief Executive Officer



About The Gallery Trust

The Gallery Trust is a Special Multi Academy Trust which is dedicated to improving outcomes for learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire. The aim of the Trust is to provide outstanding education through:

- Our commitment to special education – striving to provide the best specialist learning experience for all students, allowing them to reach their potential
- Opportunities for all to learn – ensuring that students and staff have access to learning pathways which enhance their lives
- Genuine respect and value – creating relationships which promote trust, confidence and respect within environments which are safe and secure

The Trust is on a journey of expansion, growing from a Multi Academy Trust based on a single academy in 2013, to its position as the largest Special Trust in Oxfordshire. In addition to Bloxham Grove Academy, there are currently six special academies in the Trust located throughout Oxfordshire, with one further academy in the pre-opening phase, in the west of Oxfordshire.



About Bloxham Grove Academy

The academy will open in 2024 with 41 students on roll and will grow gradually to reach a total of 100 students over the next four years. It will be located in a brand-new building which is currently under construction located next to The Warriner School in Bloxham, North Oxfordshire.

Students will have a range of special needs, including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Cognition and Learning needs, and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. All students will have an Education, Health and Social Care plan which identifies their educational, health and social care needs and sets out the additional support required to meet those needs. Average class sizes will be 10 students, and teaching will be provided by qualified and knowledgeable staff with a high staff to student ratio (4:1). Students from age 7 to age 18 will attend the academy.

Bloxham Grove Academy will achieve the very best outcomes for all learners and provide the most appropriate education for the special educational needs of the students, promoting high standards and the fulfilment of potential. We will have high aspirations for every learner with a tailored curriculum designed to enhance their academic

and social development, and focusing on important areas such as independence skills and preparation for adulthood which will have a real and positive impact throughout their lives. The academy will replicate the outstanding provision offered by another Gallery Trust school, Iffley Academy, Oxford.

The vision of Bloxham Grove Academy is that all students will be:

- provided with an academic provision in which the highest levels of teaching and learning are consistently delivered, and pupils are empowered to learn in a positive and creative environment where they can reach their full potential
- taught by staff who understand their needs, are well qualified and respect their special needs and diversity
- taught in an exciting, safe and stimulating learning environment which is designed specifically to meet their SEND
- educated in a community which demonstrates a positive ethos, inclusivity and a culture of mutual respect.



Meeting the demand for special school places

Students will attend the academy from throughout the county, but mainly from the north of Oxfordshire. At the moment, some students have to travel long distances to attend special schools which can meet their specific needs. Bloxham Grove Academy will allow students living in North Oxfordshire to receive their education closer to their homes, reducing their daily travelling time.

Bloxham Grove Academy will add to the number of places available to children with special needs in Oxfordshire. The current number of special school places is not sufficient to meet demand and there is a lack of special school provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Social Emotional Mental Health needs outside of Oxford city. This is due to increased population growth in the county and an increase in the number of Education Health and Care plans produced by the Local Authority for students. Over recent years, the number of Education Health and Care plans with Autism Spectrum Disorders identified as the primary need has nearly doubled, and students identified as having Social Emotional and Mental Health needs and specific learning difficulty as their primary need have also grown significantly faster than others. (Special Educational Needs Sufficiency of Places Strategy, 2018 – 2027, Oxfordshire County Council).

Bloxham Grove Academy will be funded by the Department for Education and by Oxfordshire County Council.

How will children be placed at Bloxham Grove Academy?

Admissions to the academy will be managed through referrals from the Local Authority, Oxfordshire County Council, who will also make final decisions on which students will be offered places at the academy. It is likely that referrals for places will be considered in Spring 2023, for a January 2024 start.

Have your say – the consultation process

The Gallery Trust has been given approval by the Department for Education to open a new free special school in Bloxham, Bloxham Grove Academy, to meet the need for additional places for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in the north of Oxfordshire. The opening date is January 2024, but before we can sign a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education, we are required to consult with interested local parties, such as local residents, prospective parents, professionals and agencies, councillors and community groups.

We welcome your views on the opening of this new free special school and whether you think the Department for Education should enter into a Funding Agreement with The Gallery Trust so we can open Bloxham Grove Academy. We will listen to your comments and act on your feedback so we can develop the best possible school for our community of students with special needs. The consultation will run for a period of six weeks from 1 November 2022 to 13 December 2022.

There are a number of ways you can let us know your views.

Complete the online consultation questionnaire on our website at
<https://bloxhamgroveacademy.co.uk/>

Complete the online consultation questionnaire at
<https://thegallerytrust.co.uk/survey-2022/>

Complete and return the questionnaire accompanying this brochure by email to
consultation@thegallerytrust.co.uk

Complete and post the questionnaire accompanying this brochure to **The Gallery Trust Free School Consultation, c/o Iffley Academy, Iffley Turn, Oxford OX4 4DU**


Thank you for your support.

When the consultation is completed, the Trust will prepare a report which will be provided to the Secretary of State for Education. The report will be published on The Gallery Trust's website.

Appendix 2

Section 10 consultation questionnaire

Thank you for completing this consultation on whether the Department for Education should sign a Funding Agreement with The Gallery Trust to allow The Trust to open Bloxham Grove Academy. We welcome your views and thank you for your time.

	 <i>Please tick appropriate box</i>
1. Which of the following best describes you? Please tick all the categories that apply to you	
Prospective parent/carer	
Local Authority Officer	
Elected representative such as Councillor	
Member of a local organisation, charity or community group	
Local Governor	
Employee at a school or educational establishment	
Other – please state:	
2. Where do you live, approximately, in relation to the proposed site in Bloxham?	
Within one mile	
Within 3 miles	
Within 5 miles	
Greater than 5 miles – please state:	
3. Do you support the proposal to open Bloxham Grove Academy?	
Yes	
No	
Unsure	
4. Do you support the vision, values and aims of The Gallery Trust and Bloxham Grove Academy?	
Yes	
No	
Unsure	
5. Do you agree that opening the proposed Bloxham Grove Academy will provide extra choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Oxfordshire?	
Yes	
No	
Unsure	

6. Do you agree that The Gallery Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open Bloxham Grove Academy?

A sample Funding Agreement can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements>

Yes

No

Unsure

Please add any further comments you would like to make. If you would like to receive a response to your feedback, please provide your name and email address (or telephone number) and tick the Data Protection box.

Comments:

Optional:

Name:

Email address:

I confirm that I wish you to use my contact details to respond to my comments:

Please tick the box ☐

Thank you for completing this consultation. There are a number of ways you can submit your views before the consultation closes on 13 December 2022:

- Visit <https://bloxhamgroveacademy.co.uk/> or <https://thegallerytrust.co.uk/survey-2022/> and complete the online consultation questionnaire
- Email this questionnaire to consultation@thegallerytrust.co.uk
- Post this questionnaire to The Gallery Trust Free School Consultation, c/o Iffley Academy, Iffley Turn, Oxford OX4 4DU

If you are interested in becoming a Local Academy Board member at Bloxham Grove Academy, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please provide your name and email address (or telephone number):

I confirm that I wish you to use my contact details regarding my interest in becoming a Local Academy Board member:

Please tick the box ☐

Data protection consent

The Gallery Trust takes your privacy seriously and will only use data submitted regarding your views as part of the Section 10 Consultation for Bloxham Grove Academy and/or to receive your interest in becoming a Local Academy Board member. Data submitted regarding your views on the consultation will be shared anonymously with the Department for Education.

For Immediate Release: 05 November 2022

CONSULTATION LAUNCHED INTO OPENING OF NEW SPECIAL SCHOOL IN BLOXHAM

A consultation into a new special school in Bloxham has been launched, with stakeholders being asked if the Department for Education should enter into a Funding Agreement with The Gallery Trust so the Trust can move ahead with its plans to open the school. Bloxham Grove Academy will help to meet the increasing need for high-quality special school places in north Oxfordshire.

Under current proposals, the new school would open in January 2024 with 41 pupils and will grow gradually over four years reaching capacity at 100 pupils. Housed in a brand new, purpose-built building, the school will cater for local pupils aged 7 to 18 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The Gallery Trust is now seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders to determine whether it should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education. As part of the consultation, stakeholders are invited to complete a questionnaire which is available at <https://bloxhamgroveacademy.co.uk>. Local stakeholders are also invited to attend a public meeting on 17 November between 6pm and 7.30pm at The Warriner School in Bloxham. Those wishing to attend are requested to confirm their attendance by emailing consultation@thegallerytrust.co.uk.

Launching the consultation, Kay Willett, Chief Executive of The Gallery Trust, said:

“We are really excited to have won the bid to open a special school in north Oxfordshire. We have a strong record of supporting children and young people across the county to achieve excellent outcomes and we look forward to helping children in this part of Oxfordshire grow and thrive to the very best of their abilities. In opening Bloxham Grove Academy, we will work closely with members of the local community and we welcome their views on the school as part of our consultation.”

Notes to editors:

1. The Gallery Trust is a Special Multi Academy Trust dedicated to improving outcomes for learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire. There are currently six special academies in the Trust including Iffley Academy, Mabel Prichard School and Bardwell School.
2. The public consultation, which runs from 1 November to 13 December 2022, is a statutory requirement set out in Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010.
3. Further information is available at <https://bloxhamgroveacademy.co.uk/>.

Appendix 4

Banbury Guardian

Your views are wanted on a proposal for a new special school near Banbury

A consultation into a new special school in Bloxham has been launched.

By Phil Hibble

8th Nov 2022, 5:07pm- 2 min read

Updated 8th Nov 2022, 5:08pm

As we previously reported, plans have been put forward for the new 'Free School' for 100 children with complex special needs and disabilities to be built next to The Warriner School, on land used by The Warriner School Farm in **Bloxham** Grove. It will cater for children aged seven - 18 years and is to be established by The Gallery Trust and supported by **Oxfordshire County Council**.

Now stakeholders are being asked if the Department for Education should enter into a funding agreement with The Gallery Trust.

Under current proposals, the new school would open in January 2024 with 41 pupils and would grow gradually over four years reaching capacity at 100 pupils.

The Gallery Trust is now seeking views to determine whether it should enter into a funding agreement with the Department for Education. As part of the consultation, people are invited to complete a questionnaire which is available at <https://bloxhamgroveacademy.co.uk>.

People are also invited to a public meeting on November 17 between 6pm and 7.30pm at The Warriner School in Bloxham. Those wishing to attend are requested to confirm their attendance by emailing consultation@thegallerytrust.co.uk.

Launching the consultation, Kay Willett, chief executive of The Gallery Trust, said: "We are really excited to have been asked to open a special school in north Oxfordshire.

"We have a strong record of supporting children and young people across the county to achieve excellent outcomes and we look forward to helping children in this part of Oxfordshire grow and thrive to the very best of their abilities."

"In opening Bloxham Grove Academy, we will work closely with members of the local community and we welcome their views on the school as part of our consultation."

Banbury FM

Bloxham Grove Academy should be ready to open in January 2024

The new school for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), based next to the Warriner School in Bloxham, should be ready to open in January 2024. It is hoped that 41 students will make up the initial intake at Bloxham Grove Academy. Over the following 4 years numbers will grow, reaching capacity at 100 students. Admissions will be managed through Oxfordshire County Council, who will also make final decisions on which students will be offered places at the academy. The first referrals are likely to be considered next spring.

Bloxham Grove Academy will be run by The Gallery Trust. As part of achieving academy status, and in order to enter into a funding agreement with the Department for Education, the Trust is legally obliged to hold a consultation exercise. That exercise has now begun with all stakeholders invited to share their views, including local residents, prospective parents, professionals and agencies, councillors and community groups.

Kay Willett, MBE, The Gallery Trust's Chief Executive Officer, said: "Our aim is to achieve the very best outcomes for students by providing high standards of teaching and learning and pastoral care. Students will enjoy their education in an inspirational, purpose-built academy which will mirror the success of other academies within The Gallery Trust.

"It is important that we take into account the views of stakeholders in the opening of our new school, and we look forward to receiving your views so we can provide students, parents and carers and the communities we serve with the best school possible."

More information is available [here](#).



BLOXHAM ONLINE



THE VILLAGE OF BLOXHAM

- [HOME](#)

SCHOOLS

[B. Guardian Article on New School](#)

The Banbury Guardian Online is currently carrying an article about the new school due to open in Bloxham Grove Road.

[You can read about it here.](#)

Oxfordshire County Council In Site Schools News 8 November 2022

Public consultation, new special school

Headteachers, Governors

Please contribute to a public consultation regarding a new free special school in North Oxfordshire

The Gallery Trust's proposed new free special school, Bloxham Grove Academy, has progressed to the pre-opening phase. The Trust is now required to undertake a public consultation to determine whether the Department for Education should enter into a Funding Agreement with The Gallery Trust so The Trust can proceed with opening the Academy. This is a statutory requirement set out in Section 10 of the Academies Act, 2010.

Bloxham Grove Academy will open in a new building located in Bloxham, North Oxfordshire. The provisional opening date is January 2024, and the school will open with approximately 40 students. The pupil roll will grow gradually over 4 years, reaching capacity at 100 students. All students will have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and Education Health and Care Plans. Students will enjoy their education in a purpose-built academy which will mirror the success of other academies within The Gallery Trust, the largest Special Multi Academy Trust in Oxfordshire.

Stakeholders are invited to complete a short online questionnaire which can be completed in approximately one minute. The link to the questionnaire is [here](#). Please note that if you would like to receive a response to your comments in the online questionnaire, you will need to provide your name and email address in the comments box. Otherwise, we will not be able to respond to you as the questionnaire responses are anonymised. Alternatively, please complete the [Word questionnaire](#) and email it to consultation@thegallerytrust.co.uk or post it to The Gallery Trust Free School Consultation, Iffley Academy, Iffley Turn, Oxford OX4 4DU.

After the consultation closes on **13 December 2022**, The Gallery Trust will prepare a report for the Department for Education based on the responses. If the Department for Education finds that the outcome of the report is positive, it is hoped that The Gallery Trust will be able to move ahead with the finalisation of the Funding Agreement.

A [leaflet](#) is provided which provides information about the Section 10 consultation, Bloxham Grove Academy and The Gallery Trust.

We look forward to receiving your views so we can provide students, parents and carers and the communities we serve with the best school possible. Thank you.