

New Secondary School Q&A

Why is a new secondary school needed?

In Sutton and the surrounding areas we face an urgent need for additional secondary school places; Sutton Council predicts that around 20 additional forms of entry will be required in local secondary schools by 2017 and up to 26 by 2020. Work is underway to expand a number of local secondary schools in the next couple of years, but that will leave the need for 10 to 16 forms of entry – which can only be provided by building one or two new secondary schools.

Why is Greenshaw the right school to be developing a new secondary school?

Greenshaw is a successful and popular local school with the proven capacity to support and develop other schools; Greenshaw has been approved by the Department for Education (DfE) to be the sponsor of both primary and secondary schools; Greenshaw works closely with other local schools and the local authority and has the backing of all local secondary schools to be sponsor of a new secondary school in Sutton.

How can the new school be provided?

A new secondary school must be a sponsored academy or a free school. When the need for a new school is identified by the local council, the council applies for funding from the DfE which it then uses to commission an academy sponsor to open and run the new school; alternatively, an academy sponsor can apply to the DfE for funding to open a 'Free School'.

What is the difference between a Free School and other schools?

A Free School is in every legal and practical sense the same as an academy – it is state-funded funded in the same way and has to follow the same rules on admissions etc. The only difference is that the capital to build a free school comes direct from the Department for Education, and not from the funding allocated to the local Council.

Why is Greenshaw proposing a Free School?

If the application for funding for a Free School is successful it would bring in additional monies to the borough that would not otherwise be available and, along with the money the Council has secured, means there would be better chance of getting all the school places that are needed.

What will the new school be like?

The new school will be a non-selective, mixed comprehensive school for local children. It will be a separate academy school, funded in its own right, but operating under the umbrella of Greenshaw and benefiting from sharing in Greenshaw's success and its capacity.

What will it mean for Greenshaw?

Greenshaw will continue to develop in the interests of its students, in the same way it has been doing, but will also benefit from working together with the new school, sharing expertise and capacity and realising economies of scale.