

Dear Staff of Rotherham Aspire

**Re: Ethos Academy Trust-Consultation for the proposal to open a new special free school for children with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs in Rotherham**

In February 2022 the Department for Education approved our application to move forward to the pre-opening phase for a new special free school in Rotherham for children from Key stage 2 to Key Stage 4 with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. The school will build on the excellent work of Aspire and the Rowan Centre and is part of the borough wide solution for SEND and will bring SEMH provision together under one new facility.

We are now entering the next phase of this exciting journey and we are looking to create a new school which will prepare pupils for new and exciting learning opportunities. The education offer will be varied, have a focus on ensuring children are exposed to a rich and varied curriculum that meets all individual needs. The overarching aim will be to engage all pupils in their learning.

Under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 the Trust is required to consult with stakeholders on our proposals for the new school and as a result this letter and its supporting literature outline two key areas of our consultation activity:

1. Further detail on where and how you can find out more about our proposed new free school
2. Planned events and activities to encourage feedback on our proposals, particularly with regards to whether you believe the Secretary of State should enter into a funding agreement with the Trust to open the proposed new school

As a key stakeholder in the process we would be keen to hear your views on the proposal and answer any questions you may have. All information you supply will be treated as confidential unless you volunteer your personal details and request a response to a query and/or would like a copy of our final report and findings sending to you on conclusion of the statutory consultation.

**How do I find out more?**

Enclosed with this letter is a frequently asked questions document which gives detail on our vision for the school and statement of provision (admissions policy).

There are a number of events and meetings taking place which you would be most welcome to attend. To find out more please log on to <https://www.eat.uk.com/free-school-consultation/have-your-say/> for a copy of the latest schedule.

A meeting for staff who currently work at Rotherham Aspire is scheduled as follows:

**Thursday 5 May**  
**3.30pm**  
**Rotherham Aspire**

Please visit our web page on <https://www.eat.uk.com/free-school-consultation/have-your-say/> and complete our booking form to indicate that you would like to attend this meeting. Alternatively please email [Consultation@eat.uk.com](mailto:Consultation@eat.uk.com) to book your place.

You can also go online at <https://www.eat.uk.com/free-school-consultation/> to find further details on our plans and to respond to our online questionnaire.

If you are unable to attend our meetings but would like a conversation with us, then please email [Consultation@eat.uk.com](mailto:Consultation@eat.uk.com) or call 01924 478482 to arrange a suitable time.

**When do I need to feedback by?**

Our consultation runs from 4 April 2022 to 27 May 2022 inclusive and we hope to issue our final report and findings by no later than 17 June 2022.

Ongoing communications about the school will be kept up to date on our website <https://www.eat.uk.com/free-school-consultation/>

We look forward to hearing your views and working with you to support the development of our new school going forward.

Yours sincerely



Jayne Foster  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ethos Academy Trust