



CHATTEN FREE SCHOOL

Section 10 report

Predicted opening date:

09/2021

Section 10 public consultation:

16/10/2020 – 04/12/2020 (6 weeks + half term break)

Report date:

7/12/2021





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Summary

Chatten Free School is a SEND Free School for pupils of ages 4-19. The school will cater for pupils with severe autism, many of whom will be pre-verbal and display challenging behaviour as part of their autism. The school will be part of the Hope learning community that currently includes; Market Field School and College and Southview School. Chatten Free School will be located in Witham, Essex.

Chatten free school will provide an outstanding and highly individualised education for pupils with severe autism. This includes providing pupils with a 1:1 as long as it is needed and a bespoke programme of education supported by the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis. The core values and aims of the school are: happiness, independence and respect for all.

The formal statutory consultation began on the 16th of October 2020 and ended on the 4th of December. This means that that consultation ran for seven weeks including the half term break.

Relevant stakeholders responded very positively throughout this period of consultation despite some limitations on the process imposed by the current restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic.

The majority of responses were very positive, some concerns were raised which we have taken into account and responded to in this document.





Hope Learning Community

Hope Learning Community (HLC) is a multi-academy trust and the core supporter of Chatten Free School. The trust includes Southview School and Market Field School and College which is overseen by the CEO Gary Smith OBE.

All schools in the trust have an excellent reputation in the county of Essex. Market Field School is hugely oversubscribed as an SEND provision.

HLC embraces the Olympic values of; **Respect, Excellence and Friendship** for the good of all our children and young people who may need that little bit of extra help:

Respect – will be acted out by demonstrating the worth of every individual and their right to a meaningful place in our world.

Excellence – will be relentlessly pursued. Anyone who is part of our learning community will be expected to be the best they can and to strive to excel every day

Friendship – We will hold our hands out to anyone and everyone. We all need to be understood and valued as individuals in our own right.

HLC is committed to going the extra mile and making that difference. They have the drive, passion, determination and influence. They are committed to collaboration with other Special educational needs and disability (SEND) providers in the area to share the drive for positive change.



Statutory consultation

The statutory section 10 consultation commenced on October 16th 2020 and ran for 7 weeks to the 4th of December 2020.

Distribution:

1. Fliers were distributed to key shops in the local area which included links to the virtual info packs and a contact number to request physical copies.
2. Posts on a number of SEND parent Facebook groups
3. Posts on a number of Facebook local community groups
4. An article in the local paper which included a link to the information and survey
5. E-mails sent to local head teachers and to Headteacher of SEND provisions in the Mid Essex area.
6. Regular Facebook posts on the Chatten Facebook page
7. Information shared with current HLC families through school DOJO.
8. Information shared with current HLC staff through e-mail.

NB: We would ordinarily have preferred to have held several consultation meetings with key stakeholders, however the COVID crisis prevented this from being possible. Despite this we are very happy with the level of uptake and positive feedback.

Information

Information provided to stakeholders took the following forms:

1. Public consultation pages (please see appendix 1). These pages were made available in digital and printed form and detailed the:
 - a. Proposer group
 - b. Overview of the education and curriculum
 - c. Details on the building and access/transport plans
 - d. Perceived positives for the local community
 - e. An explanation of the identified demand
 - f. A brief explanation of the admissions process
 - g. An explanation of the consultation
 - h. A link to a model funding agreement
2. The Chatten Free School website included an even more detailed explanation of many of the about factors.



Stakeholders

A wide range of stakeholders were consulted including:

1. Local residents and businesses
2. Head Teachers and staff at local mainstream schools
3. Head Teachers and staff in Mid-Essex (and wider) SEND provisions
4. Parents of SEND children in and around Essex

The following page outlines how the groups were engaged and the response rates.

Upon initial inspection it appears that the responses from local residents and business is very low despite considerable effort to engage. However, we believe that this is because many of the local residents/employers who filled in the survey were likely parents as well as residents. As this is a school consultation it is likely that these individuals may have chosen to identify as a parent before identifying as a resident.

The primary stakeholders in this consultation are SEND parents for which we received the most responses (almost 50% of the responses were from parents).

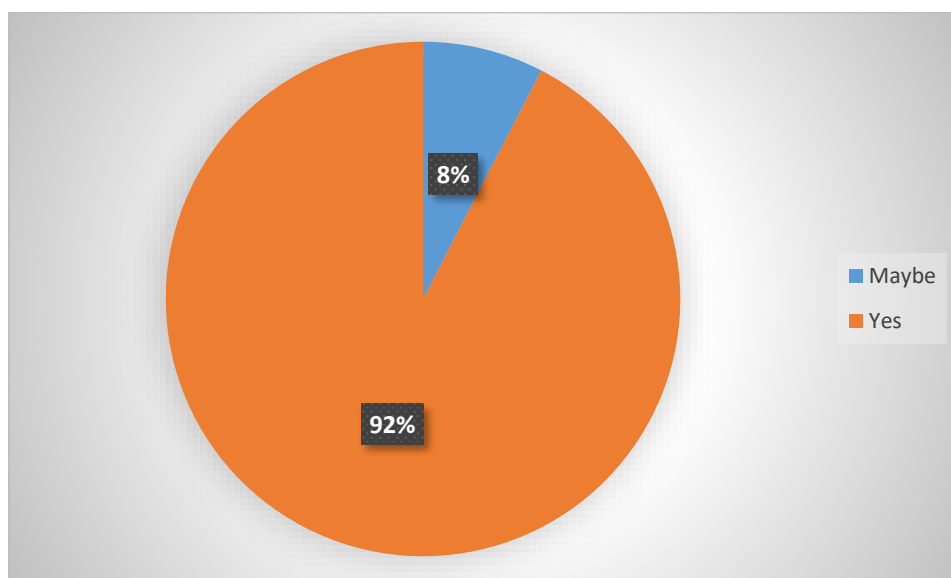
Stakeholders	Methods of consolation	Responses
Local residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flyer displayed in 3 local shops detailing where to find information online and how to request a physical information pack. Posts on several local community Facebook pages Requests to admin of other community Facebook pages Article in the local newspaper (Braintree and Witham times) which included link to information and survey 	7
Local Business		5 local residents 2 local employers
Head Teachers and staff at local mainstream schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mail sent to six local mainstream school Head Teachers including the large mainstream secondary nearby this included a request to share the information with the wider school staff team 	33 22 work in ed sector
Head Teachers and staff at SEND school in Mid Essex and wider.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mail sent to five SEND school Head Teachers this included a request to share the information with the wider school staff team. E-mail sent to HLC current staff team 	11 work for the HLC trust
Parents of SEND children in and around Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posts on several SEND parent Facebook groups which were all re-shared several times Article in the local newspaper (Braintree and Witham times) which included link to information and survey. CEO Gary Smith shared information with current HLC families through the MFS school DOJO page 	45
Additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information was shared with several larger SEND pages via re-sharing on Facebook which enabled contact with SEND familiar outside of Essex. Adam Dean (Head Designate) shared the information via his LinkedIn profile which includes links with a number of education professionals and member of the local authority. 	6 registered as other 1 Local authority

Quantitative results

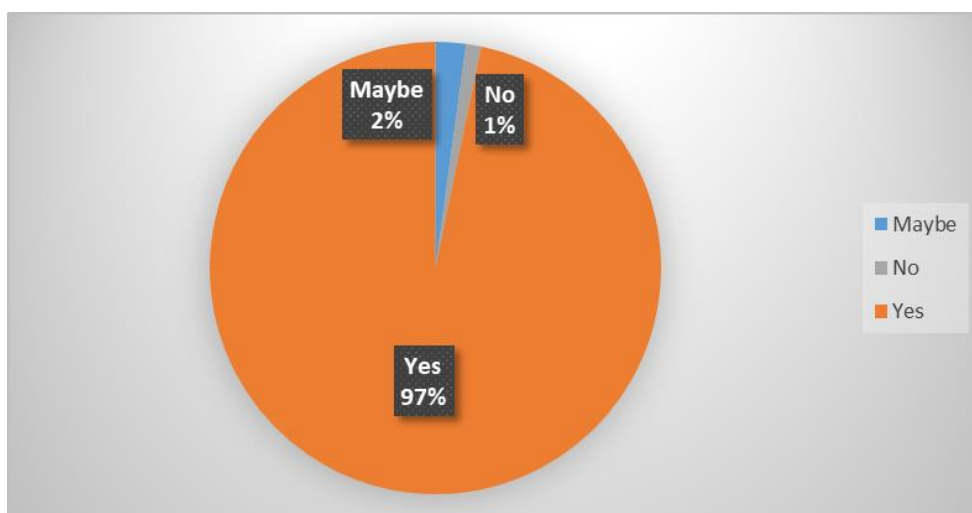
92 responses were received all of these were received through the online MS forms app despite paper versions being freely available.

Replies to the questions were as follows:

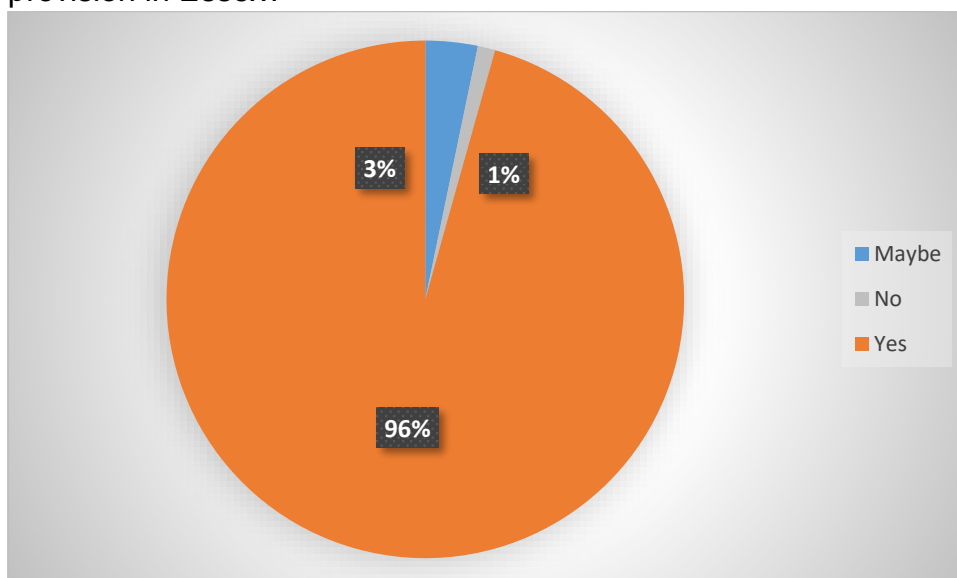
1. Do you think that the Secretary of State for Education should enter into a funding agreement with Market Field Learning Community to run Chatten Free School?



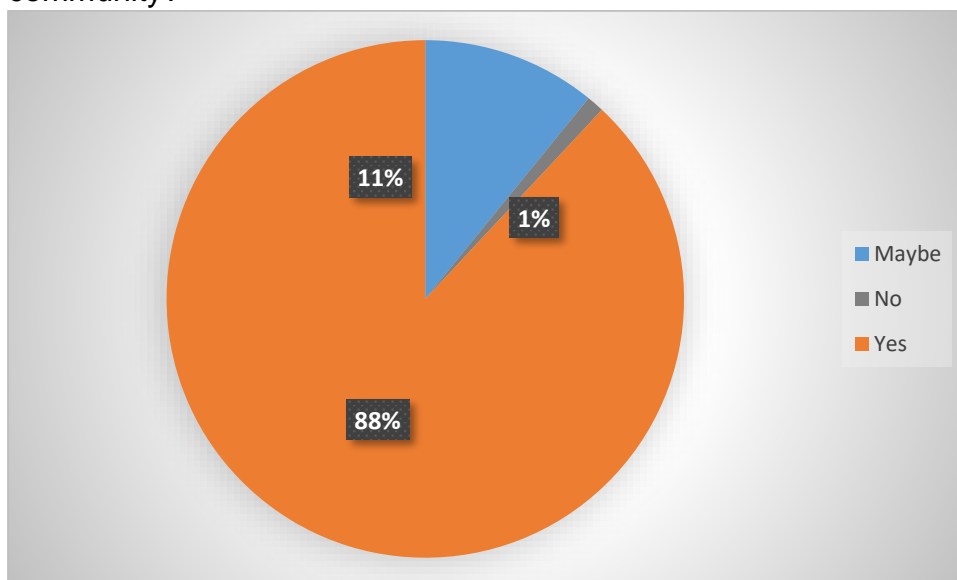
2. Do you believe that the proposed provision will have a positive impact on the lives of pupils who attend?



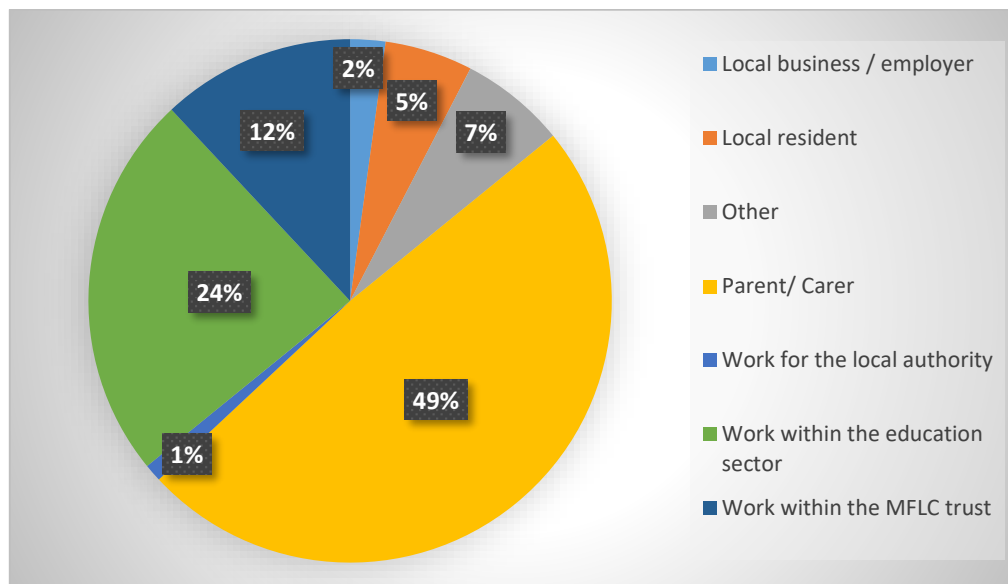
3. Do you believe that the proposed provision will have a positive impact of SEN provision in Essex?



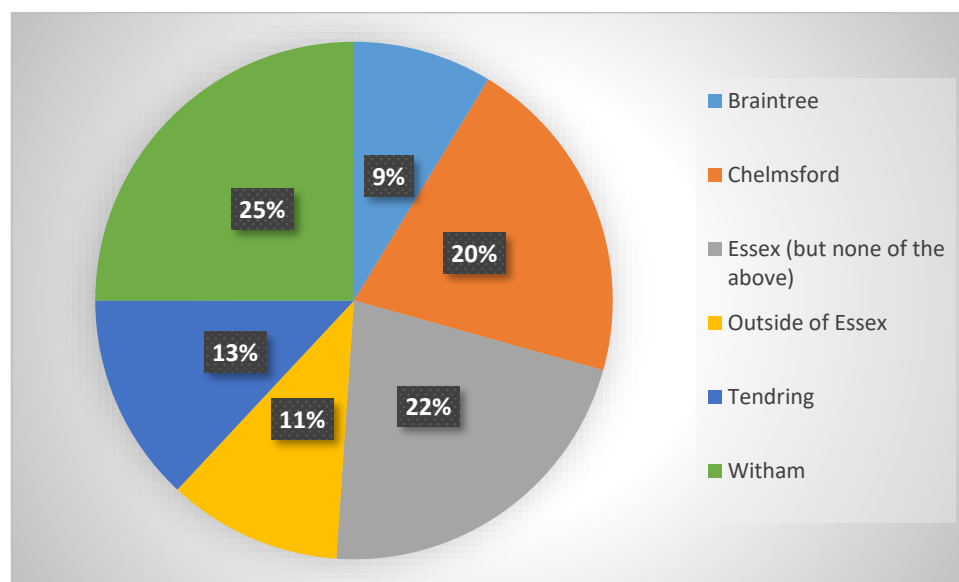
4. Do you believe the Chatten project will have a positive impact on the local community?



5. Which group best describes you?



6. Where do you live? (please select the closest)



Analysis and responses

We were very pleased with the number of responses we had to the consultation questionnaire and that for each question posed there was a significant majority in responding positively. Across the four questions an average of 93% responses were



a clear yes response, an average of 6% responded with a maybe and on average less than 1% responded with a no.

Positive responses

The majority of the responses (93%) were positive for each of the four questions. Respondents were not required to provide any additional information for a positive response however they were given the opportunity to do so under the question 'If you have any other comments or queries please list them here'. The survey received 17 statements of support (see appendix 5).

Positive responses included reference to

1. Previous positive experiences with the trust and some of the individuals involved in the project
2. Positive references to the educational methods used by the school.
3. The general need for more SEND provisions in Essex
4. The positive impact that the school could have on autism awareness and on the local community as a whole.

Neutral responses

Only 9% of the responses across all four questions were a 'maybe'.

33% of the 'maybe' responses came from the compulsory first question:

Do you think that the Secretary of State for Education should enter into a funding agreement with Market Field Learning Community to run Chatten Free School?

There were no comments in the optional comments section which might explain the reason for this. However, we believe that it is most likely that this came from a lack of understanding of the question itself as opposed to a genuine lack of surety on if a funding agreement should be entered into.

45% of the maybe responses came from the fourth question:

Do you believe the Chatten project will have a positive impact on the local community?

As the school is a SEND school and will not cater exclusively for the children of local residents it may have been difficult for a small % to respond with a confident 'yes' to this question.

Of the 10 respondents who answered 'maybe' to this question only 2 of them were actual local residents. The rest were either working in education or parents.



Although there was a space for additional comments around 'yes' and 'maybe' none of the people who responded 'maybe' to this question' left a comment relating to this question in that section.

One respondent who responded positively to this question did leave a response (we have redacted some details of the comment as they might have been used to identify the respondent"

"My only concern is regarding increase in traffic. There are already 5 education providers on that corner of the road and it's dangerous for all the children (I have observed children being hit). I do believe if it is well thought out then these problems can be overcome. (...) I know there is a huge need for this school and would love to be able to support it."

Schools response:

We appreciate the feedback around our school and we are glad that the respondent is largely in favour of the project. We also acknowledge the concerns raised about traffic. We are confident that these concerns have been addressed in the design of the school and the parking arrangements. On 9th of May 2019 HLC held a public planning consultation around the building plans for Chatten Free School where concerns around traffic were aired and taken into account. Of course we will continue to monitor the situation.

Negative responses

Out of 92 respondents less than 1% of the responses were negative to any one question. This equates to three answers of 'no' on three separate questions from three separate people. While it is important to recognise and celebrate that a huge majority of respondents had a positive response we also think it is important to respond to concerns raised.

1. This statement was given in response to question 4 which asked about impact on local community.

"The levels of traffic in the area at school drop off and pick up times are already too high. The local estate suffers with parking along the road as it is and the road is dangerously busy with just one zebra crossing"

Schools response:

We acknowledge the concerns raised around parking and would like to reassure the respondent that this has been taken into consideration following the public planning consultation on the 9th of May 2019. The school will cater for pupils SEND requirement and this many will come in via taxi and it is likely that many will share

the same taxi. A large turning circle has been built into the plan to ensure there is no build-up of traffic outside the school during pickup/drop off time. This turning circle extends into the staff carpark when/if needed. In addition a very large carpark is included in the plans which will ensure that the school does not add to any current difficulties regarding traffic/parking in the local area.

2. This statement was given in response to question 3 which asked about impact SEND provision in Essex.

"We need more schools for children who are struggling at mainstream yet not severe enough to meet these admissions. The middle children who are often forgotten about. There are not enough places for these children. There are several in Essex for severe children in comparison although still not enough to meet the needs. ECC are failing SEN children."

Schools response:

We thank the respondent for their comments. We would like to point out that the local authority has confirmed that there is a need for the type of provision offered by Chatten in the local area. We cannot comment on the levels of other SEND provision in Essex as we do not represent the local authority.

3. This statement was given in response to question 2 which asked about impact on pupils who attend the provision:

"There's no doubt that Essex, and pretty much every area of the UK, requires more SEN provision. The question is does it require this type of provision. From the puzzle piece in the logo to the reliance on behavioural theory, this whole application is like stepping back in time, and not in a good way. It's clear that the people who have written this have no engagement with the autism community. Please build the school. Please fund SEN provision. But also please update your knowledge. It's embarrassingly out-dated. At a minimum, you need to engage with the autism community, perhaps having a role as a Neurodiversity governor or trustee so someone from the community is overseeing the project. Nothing about us without us. You also need to update your knowledge. The latest large scale studies of ABA done by the Tricare insurance scheme in the USA have shown, at best, that ABA has no effect, and, at worst, it is harmful. In addition, I would suggest that you read about the Intense World Theory of Autism, which has a strong base in neuroscience and has much support from the autism community as fitting in with their life experiences. Ultimately, I would fight tooth and nail to keep my child out of this school."

Schools response:



We would like to thank the respondent for their feedback and we are happy to acknowledge that the respondent recognises the need for the school.

We recognise that some sections of the autistic community are not in favour of the puzzle piece used to represent autism and will take this under advisement going forward. The puzzle piece was not meant as a representative of autism in this particular case.

With regards to the comments on behaviourism we would direct the respondent to the section on our website (ABA FAQs) which addresses a number of common questions and misconceptions around applied behaviour analysis. This section also includes links to other documents which may put the respondents mind at ease.

Further to this we intend to work very closely with the families of our pupils to ensure we provide the very best support and education possible. This is demonstrated in our section on our website regarding family partnership. As a matter of course we will engage with our pupils in all respects.

Beyond this we have ensured that we have staff and governors who are qualified in autism education to a MEd level, a qualification which includes considerable engagement with the autistic community. When we are open we hope to invite members of the autistic community who are also trained or experienced in the use of applied behaviour analysis (of which there are many) to provide some balanced feedback.

Additional responses

Under the 'any other questions or queries' we received a number of positive and neutral responses already referenced. In addition to those already covered we also received the following:

*"I would urge the school to utilise Neurodivergent and Autistic consultants, such as Kieran Rose (www.theautisticadvocate.com, who works with schools, organisations and charities all over the world) in order to support Autistic pupils in the best possible way. Too many Provisions fail their Autistic pupils because staff *think* they know what they are doing, but inadvertantly create environments and use strategies that force Autistic children to Mask due to trauma. You have the opportunity to do something wonderful, why not take the opportunity to do it and not repeat the same mistakes as so many others?"*

Schools response:



Thank you for your feedback and suggestions they are greatly appreciated and we fully recognise the need for the school to engage with appropriate people and expertise to ensure the best possible outcomes for pupils.

We fully intend to work very closely with the families of our pupils to ensure we provide the very best support and education possible. We believe the pupils families know them better than anyone else and are the best advocates for their children. We have ensured that we have staff and governors who are qualified in autism education to a MEd level, a qualification which includes considerable engagement with the autistic community. When we are open we hope to invite members of the autistic community who are also trained or experienced in the use of applied behaviour analysis (of which there are many) to provide some balanced feedback.



Conclusion and next steps

There has been extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders since the earliest stages of the development of the school. We believe that this formal consultation was thorough and actively sought the opinions of key stakeholders. We are very pleased with the amount of response we received. Feedback has been predominantly supportive and positive.

We are very confident that our school will provide a much needed provision for pupils who meet the Chatten admissions criteria whilst simultaneously taking the pressure off of other SEND schools and providing more places in those schools. This has been the most common response received from those in support of the school.

HLC will now begin the process of agreeing a Funding agreement for Chatten Free School with the Secretary of State for Education.

We would like to thank all stakeholders who have taken the time to read and hear about our plans and provide feedback. We will continue to work with you and appreciate your ongoing feedback and support.



Appendix 1 – consultation doc

For the online version [click here](#)



2020

Chatten Free School



Statutory
Consultation

Chatten Free School

Statutory Consultation



Public Consultation:

Have your say

- New Special School planned for Essex
- Chatten Free School
- Opening under the Market Field Learning Community Trust
- Consultation closes 4th December 2020

What is this consultation?

Market Field Learning Community intends to open a new SEND free school known as Chatten Free School. This consultation provides information on the project and requests you share your views with us. It can be completed online by going to our website www.chatten.co.uk and following the link to the section 10 page at the top of the page and then clicking the link at the bottom of that page to access the survey. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code later in the document. If you do not have access to an online device, you can fill out this paper copy and return by post to the details at the end of this document. This document provides an overview of the project – you can access more details via the website.

The Proposed Academy

Chatten Free School is a school set to open in September 2021 under the Market Field Learning Community (MFLC) trust.

Chatten is a school designed to meet the needs of pupils with severe autism. Most pupils will be pre- or developing verbal. Many will display high levels of challenging behaviour although the lack of said behaviour is not exclusionary nor is the presence of challenging behaviour the only important factor in gaining a placement.

The Essex Local authority has confirmed the need for Chatten Free School and agreed top up funding to be available for pupils to attend.

The school will offer full time education and therapeutic behavioural support to 75 pupils in Essex and potentially surrounding areas. Pupils will be aged 4-19 and will have an EHCP.

The school will be built and located at the end of the New Rickstones Academy playing Field on the Rickstones road CM8 2MQ.



Our Vision and Ethos for the Academy

We are looking to establish a school which mirrors and reflects the ethos, values and vision of our sister schools and academy trust (Market Field School, Southview School, Market Field learning community).

We believe that through a consistent and thorough individualised curriculum using effective and evidence based learning techniques we can ensure that our pupils leave us as independent as possible and able to access the world around them in a rich and meaningful way.

Our primary vision for our pupils is:

Happiness
Independence
Respect

We have high expectations of the progress our pupils can make with the correct support and we believe that their input, needs and happiness should be valued in the wider society.

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Education and Curriculum

Chatten Free School will seek to meet individual educational needs using a bespoke 1:1 curriculum. Our focus as a school will be to teach the skills and competencies that our pupils will need in order to be as independent as possible in later life.

We will address communication as a priority and our intention is that all pupils will leave us with some functional means to communicate their basic wants and needs. After this we will focus on other essential skills for our pupils.

We will cover the national curriculum in a way which is appropriate to our individual pupils.

Staffing will be at a 1:1 level to ensure we can deliver a fully individualised curriculum.

The building

On the 9th of May 2019 MFLC held a public planning consultation around the building plans for Chatten Free School. This was well attended and feedback was considered in how to move the building plans forwards. Work has now begun on site and we have provisional opening date set for the 1/9/2021.





Access and transport plans

Because Chatten Free School is a SEN school the majority of pupils will likely come in via taxi or mini bus. The School is designed with a turning circle to support pupil access and a separate staff and visitor carpark. Both of these elements will minimise any queueing to the site.



Local impact

As the school is a SEN provision it is not limited to a particular catchment area. However, we believe the school will have beneficial local impact in a number of areas:

Employment: The School is set to employ 100+ staff to support the high level needs of our pupils. It is likely that people in the local area will apply for positions working at the school and thus the school will improve employment prospects in the local area.

Local business: As a school focused on supporting independence the pupils will be encouraged to visit and make use of local community amenities and businesses.

SEN awareness: As with our local sister school (Southview School) we aim to work with the community and local mainstream schools to raise awareness of SEN and autism in the local community.

The demand for the school

On the 15th of September 2016 the Local Authority confirmed in writing that 'there is a need for the type of proposed provision in the local area' They suggested that they would name Chatten Free School in 25 pupil's EHCP's in year one, 50 in year two and 75 in year three.

Admissions

The School is designed to meet the needs of pupils with an autism diagnosis and those who can be said to be 'severely affected' by their autism. Pupils will likely have limited vocal communication and may display highly challenging behaviour.

As we are a SEN school we will work with the Local Authority's (LA's) Statutory Assessment Service (SAS) to ensure admissions are appropriate for the provision we provide.

You can access a full copy of our admissions document at www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk.

You can also access further details of our school and curriculum at www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk



Why are we consulting with you?

It is our intention to open Chatten Free School in the 2021/2022 academic year and your opinions count.

In 2016, the DfE approved MFLC's application to open a free School

This application has the full support of the Essex County Council.

As part of this planning process we have a legal obligation to consult interested parties on whether the Secretary of State should sign a funding agreement with MFLC which will enable Chatten Free School to open.

The Funding Agreement is a contract that details key aspects of the Trust's responsibilities and how the school must function, such as how it abides by the Admissions Code and SEN Code of Conduct. It also outlines the circumstances in which the Secretary of State can intervene should the school's performance be considered unacceptable.

An example of a model funding agreement can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>

What you need to do

Please visit: www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk and scroll to the bottom of the page where you can complete the survey online. Or scan the QR code below:



Alternatively, if you do not have access to a computer or the internet you can complete the paper survey below and post it back to Market Field School (School Rd, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET) care of Adam Dean

Many thanks

Adam Dean

Head Designate

Chatten Free School



Appendix 2 – consultation survey

Please note this is the survey as it appeared on paper. The online version was identical in ways apart from the formatting.

Chatten Free School Public Consultation survey

Note: You can also complete this survey online at

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qiwxvQSfpU2HU-kGvGKiaCnxehUW8l9PlqizXcAiCX5UNjhRSDBPQ0xPUkIVSkxBSUIXMTFVWDE3Qj4u>

Or scan the QR code below:





Having considered the information provided here and/or on the website, please answer the following by drawing a circle around your response to each question:

1. Do you think that the Secretary of State for Education should enter into a funding agreement with Market Field Learning Community to run Chatten Free School?

YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

2. Do you believe that the proposed provision will have a positive impact on the lives of pupils who attend?

YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

3. Do you believe that the proposed provision will have a positive impact on SEN provision in Essex?

YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

4. Do you believe the Chatten project will have a positive impact on the local community?

YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

5. If you answered NO to any of the above, please give your reasons here:

6. If you have any other comments or queries, please list them here:

About you

Please circle any of the following that applies to you:

7. Which group best describes you:
- Parent / Carer
 - Student
 - Work within the education sector
 - Work for the local authority
 - Local business / employer
 - Work within the MFLC trust
 - Other
8. Where do you live? (please select the closest)
- Witham



- Chelmsford
- Braintree
- Tendring
- Essex but none of the above
- Outside of Essex

9. Would you like to hear from us?

Please tick here if you want to be contacted by a member of Market Field Learning Community regarding this consultation or to receive updates about the new school opening:

()

If you ticked the above, please give your contact details below:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Thank you for completing the consultation survey.

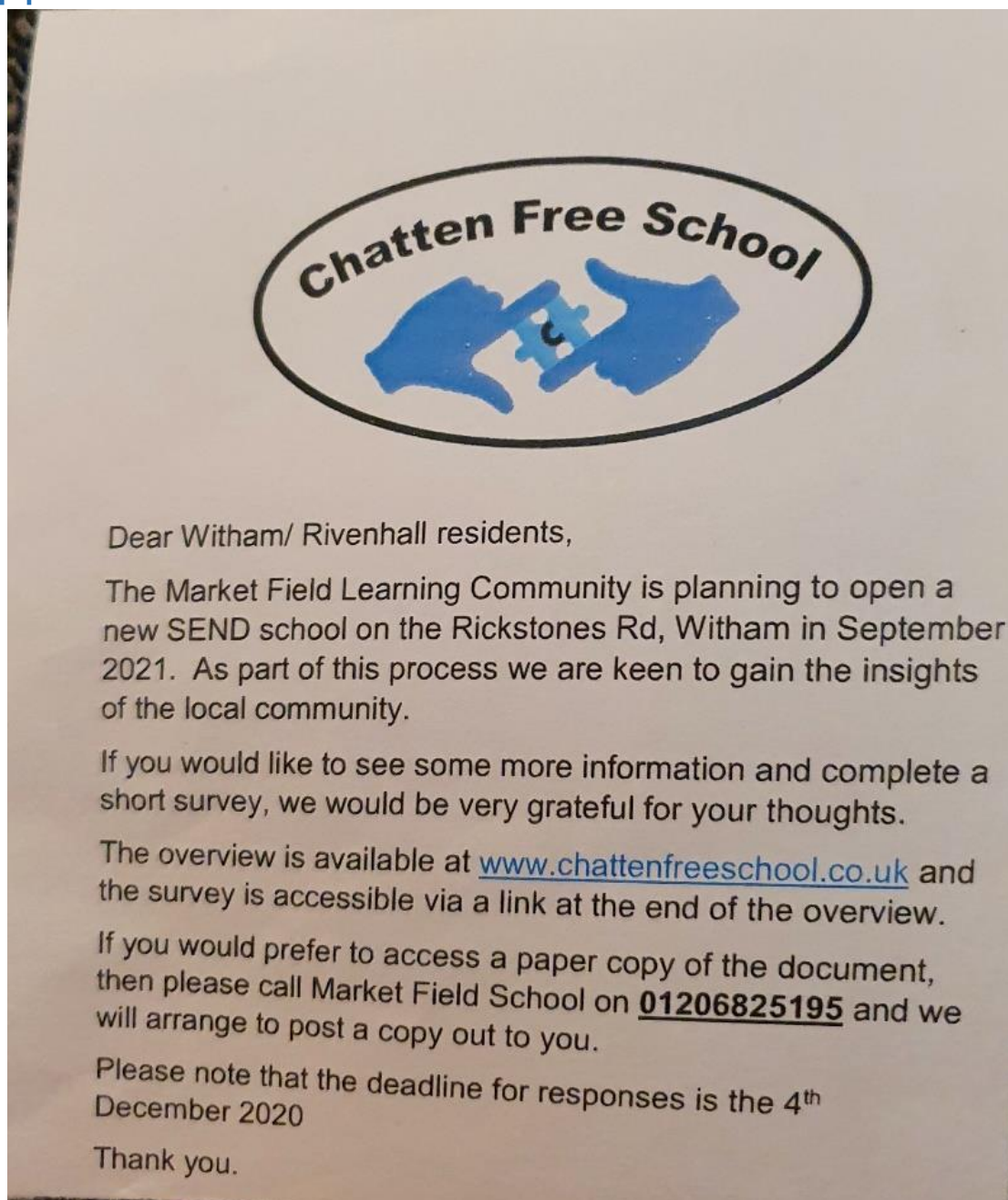
Please put it in a sealed envelope to be returned no later than 4/12/2020

Market Field Learning Community will not share your information with external parties.

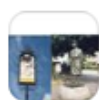
Consultation ends on 4th December 2020 any forms received after this date will not be considered in the survey.



Appendix 3 - Promotional material



Posted in a number of local shops in the Witham and Rivenhall area



Witham Notice Board




Comment as Chatten Free School



Chatten Free School shared a link.



 New member

· 16 October at 09:13 · 

Dear Witham residents,

The Market Field Learning Community is planning to open a new SEND school on the Rickstones Rd, Witham in September 2021. As part of this process we are keen to gain the insights of the local community.

If you would like to see some more information and complete a short survey we would be very grateful for your thoughts.

The overview is available at www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk by clicking the 'section 10 link' and the survey is accessible via a link at the end of the overview.

Thank you.



CHATTENFREESCHOOL.CO.UK

HOME | Mysite

Welcome to Chatten Free School. We hope you find our website helpful. Please feel free to look around at the information we have available.



Chatten Free School

16 October at 06:00 · 🌐



Hello everyone, thank you for your patience. You will be pleased to know that building work on the project has now begun and we have been given a provisional opening date of 1/9/2021.

On top of all this excitement our new webpage is now live at www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk.

We are still working hard on lots of different elements of the school and will be doing so right up until we open. We are not currently able to accept admissions and we are currently unable to discuss individual admissions directly. You can view our admissions policy on the site and keep an eye out for updates in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, the next stage of pre-opening involves us engaging in a consultation with members of the public. We would be incredibly grateful if you would consider going to the website and navigating the page marked 'section 10' after you have read the information there you can click the link to complete the survey at the end of the document.

Very exciting times – keep an eye out for more regular updates.

All the best, Team Chatten!



CHATTENFREESCHOOL.CO.UK

HOME | Mysite

Welcome to Chatten Free School. We hope you find our website helpful. Please feel free to look around at the information we have available.



Chatten Free School

16 m · 🌐



If you haven't already please do consider viewing and completing our section 10 consultation survey. It's a really important part of the process and your time is much appreciated.

On average the survey takes around 1 minute to complete.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx...>





Chatten Free School

16 October at 10:00 · 🌐



<https://www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk/copy-2-of-s10...>



CHATTENFREESCHOOL.CO.UK

S10 CONSULTATION | Mysite

Market Field Learning Community intends to open a new SEND fre...

People who shared this



Purposeful Communication Programme

16 October at 08:54 · 🌐



This is so needed in North Essex.

[Show Attachment](#)



1



Like



Comment



Share



ABAA4All

16 October at 08:13 · 🌐



More ABA provision coming to Essex via the new Chatten Free school, in Witham and opening next Sept. Pls fill out their 'parents interested survey' via link, called a 'Section 10 Consultation'

[Show Attachment](#)



6

1 share



Like



Comment



Share



Essex Family Forum

16 October at 07:37 · 🌐



The building has begun!

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5

2 comments



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Mr. Smith
Market Field School

Oct 16

Good news to share! We have been given an opening date for Chatten School which will be built in Witham and open next September, a consultation is starting today which can be found on www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk click on section 10.
I felt you should all be aware, it's been planned for nearly 4 years!
Stay safe
Gary

♥ 74 likes 💬 12 comments ✓ 365 views



Adam Dean BCBA

Board Certified Behaviour Analyst Special needs teacher at Market Field School...

4d • 🌐

...

Very proud to announce that Chatten free school finally has a provisional opening date (01/09/2021) The website is now live (spent a large part of the last few months on this) and our section 10 consultation survey is also live for the next 7 weeks via the website. Incredibly exciting times ahead.

https://lnkd.in/e_T6XQX #send #school #essex #education #abatherapy #autismsupport



21 • 2 Comments



My name is Adam Dean, and I am the Head Designate for Chatten Free School. This is a new SEND provision opening in Witham in September 2021. I am contacting you because you are either geographically nearby or a school that caters for SLD SEND in the wider Chelmsford/Braintree/Witham area.

As part of the process for opening we are engaging in a consultation to gain the thoughts of others around the project.

I would be most grateful if you would consider viewing an overview of the project and the completing a short survey.

The overview is available at www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk and the survey is accessible via a link at the end of the overview.

I would be grateful if you would consider sharing this link with some of your colleagues within your school.

If you are a SEND provision, I would be grateful if you could share the link with parents if you utilise an online communication system. This is because we are also keen to gain the thoughts of SEND parents in the local area.

If you can share this with parents, I would appreciate it if you could use the following wording.

"Dear parents

The Market Field Learning Community is planning to open a new SEND school on the Rickstones Rd, Witham in September 2021. As part of this process we are keen to gain the insights of Essex parents of children with SEND.

If you would like to see some more information and complete a short survey, we would be very grateful for your thoughts.

The overview is available at www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk and the survey is accessible via a link at the end of the overview. More information will be following soon on our website and Facebook page.

Thank you."

Kindest regards and thank you for your time

Adam Dean, MEd, BCBA

Head Designate for Chatten Free School





£8MILLION PROJECT: An artist's impression of the new Chatten Free School, in Witham, which will cater for severely autistic pupils and is set to open in September next year

School aiming to make a difference

SEN facility will teach 75 autistic pupils

by Alex Gidden

alexander.gidden@newsquest.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans to build a special educational needs school in Witham are now moving forward at pace.

Construction work has already begun on the Chatten Free School and it is hoped the

I hope the school will have a really significant impact on not just the children's lives, but also their families. We very

"The hall is going to be set up like a shopping mall and will have a couple of shops in it.

"There's going to be a cafe, public toilets and a pretend doctors and dentist.

"It's so much harder for children with severe autism to get used to going to these places and using them

Article included link to the section 10 survey and details of how to get a paper copy.

For the online version please [click here](#)



Appendix 4 – School stakeholders

The following is a list of schools who were sent the consultation directly:

- Southview School (SEND)
- Colombus School (SEND)
- Edit Borthwick (SEND)
- Treetops (SEND)
- New Rickstones Academy
- Elm Hall Primary School
- Templars primary and nursey school
- Fresh start school
- Rivenhall CoF E primary School
- Powers infant school
- Powers Hall Academy

The following e-mail was sent:

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Adam Dean and I am the Head Designate of Chatten Free School. This is a new SEND provision opening in Witham in September 2021. I am contacting you because you are either geographically nearby or a school that caters for SLD SEND in the wider Chelmsford/Braintree/Witham area.

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If you are a SEND provision, I would be grateful if you could share the link with parents if you utilise an online communication system. This is because we are also keen to gain the thoughts of parents of SEND pupils in the local area.



If you are able to share this with parents, I would appreciate it if you could use the following wording.

“Dear Essex parents of SEND pupils

The Market Field Learning Community is planning to open a new SEND school on the Rickstones Rd, Witham in September 2021. As part of this process we are keen to gain the insights of Essex parents of children with SEND.

If you would like to see some more information and complete a short survey, we would be very grateful for your thoughts.

The overview is available at www.chattenfreeschool.co.uk and the survey is accessible via a link at the end of the overview. More information will be following soon on our website and Facebook page.

Thank you. “

Kindest regards and thank you for your time



Appendix 5 – positive responses to ‘other comments’ section

1. This is a fantastic opportunity to build a school which will have a huge impact on many families lives.
2. I have an 11-year-old daughter who has been taught using ABA techniques since she was We would welcome an ABA provision for older kids in Essex. We live just outside Essex in Chadwell heath.
3. This is fantastic and this school is desperately needed
4. It is fantastic that Chatten Free is being built. This would make such a positive impact for the pupils that will be attending it, and hopefully it will bring more autism awareness to Witham town.
5. Fantastic proposal and exactly the sort of provision that is needed nationwide
6. We do not have enough Sen schools in the area particularly for severe autism and therefore this is extremely exciting.
7. Exactly the type of school which is needed by so many children in order to develop the skills they will require later in life and to allow as much independence as the individual is capable of.
8. Two of my boys have attended HLC. (...) who is Severely Autistic with severe learning difficulties, pre verbal... (...) achieved so much in the Autism base and benefited from a tailored 1-1 program, with SALT, and other therapies. He can use PEC's symbols and understands Makaton Sign language. He is now 21 years old and loves life. He loves to bake, and helped his Carer build his new bake. I do not know how I would have survived without the amazing support from HLC. My (...) is an escape artist, who doesn't sleep, and used to Poo smear 24/7. He no longer poo smears, and he comes home regularly every week from his residential home, and we now have a lovely time making and eating rainbow cake (licking of spoons & bowls at the end is essential. The Support & advice was second to none. My other son (...) who has speech & Language Disorder & MLD, hyper mobility, severe nut allergy, was also very well supported by MFCL. I shall be eternally grateful to Mr Smith and Mr Dean, and staff at HLC who made it possible for my boys to feel included, to grow in their independence, and thrive as young men.
9. In my working role I was originally told of this new provision several years ago and I have watched the ongoing progress and development since being told. I am now aware that building has commenced and I am delighted that this provision is now coming into being a wonderful school for the ASD children who need something more than what is currently on offer in our county. What really delights me is that as this provision is open and starts to fill with the appropriate students, many of whom are already in special schools around



Essex in places that are not working for whatever reason, places then become available at schools like Market Field for the other youngsters who are struggling to get an education in the mainstream sector. Well done to all involved, I just wish this wonderful school had been built sooner

10. I think Chatten Free School is the best thing that's ever happened to Witham!
11. Students like my son have no where to go with this new school at least some young people will have access to education
12. This looks a fantastic and much needed facility to take the strain off the other oversubscribed provisions in Essex
13. This is a fantastic addition to educational provision with Essex. Its commitment to use evidence based practices (i.e. behaviour analytic practices) is most welcome.
14. This school is hugely needed and will be such a valuable addition to the SEND schools in Essex
15. I think Chattern Free School will fill a gap for local pupils who are in urgent need for a school like Chattern
16. The school sounds an amazing fit for my little boy. He is six years old, non verbal with self injurious behaviour, currently attending a mainstream school with band 4+ EHCP