

Encouraging response to the proposal for the new Trinity Academy: Phase 2

Introduction

The ongoing plans to redevelop Trinity Academy into a modern and flexible centre of learning have now moved to Phase 2 after the completion of the Bangholm Sports and Outdoor Centre in Summer 2022. All of this activity is a core outcome of the Future Schools initiative, information on which can be found here:

[Reimagine where you learn \(futureschoolsedinburgh.com\)](https://futureschoolsedinburgh.com)

Phase 2 encompasses the outline plan for the redevelopment of the school campus with the consultation document available to view here:

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/new-trinity-academy/>

As the Parent Council, we think the proposed development is an exciting opportunity for the future of our children. Although most of the children at the school currently will not necessarily benefit directly, the proposal ensure that future pupils feeding into Trinity Academy from the catchment primary schools will have a learning environment which matches the excellent teaching provided by Nick Burge and his team.

“Experience shows that parents voices matter and can make a difference - please add yours!”

Trinity Academy Parent Council is supportive of the proposal, which would see the creation of a new building which will replace five of the existing teaching blocks. The new building will be a four-storey construction on the existing site which, along with the retention of the existing listed Victorian Building, will create a new community campus with contemporary learning and teaching space for a 1200 student roll. Additionally, the plan allows for the creation of specific outdoor spaces for learning sport and expressive arts. Overall a campus to be proud of.

The plans are now being considered by the Planning Team at the Council, and to quote:

“With an open approach and desire to create a two-way dialogue, we invite comment and seek feedback from all those interested in and affected by this project.”

TAPC Response

The Trinity Academy Parent Council response will be sent directly to the appropriate team within the Council and also be copied to the responsible councillors. The response is as follows:

“As representatives of the Trinity Academy Parent body, we are broadly supportive of these proposals.

It is clear that the current Trinity Academy Campus has reached the end of its functional life.

With a pupil roll growing from circa 700 in 2019 to a planned roll of 1008 in the 2023/2024 academic year, significant pressure is being placed on providing appropriate learning spaces for our children.

Many of the parents and carers with children at Trinity Academy are aware of the simple day-to-day challenges our children navigate. Be it issues with the basic pressure of numbers and available space or the distances travelled between classrooms when a bell rings, the building is not currently "Getting It Right For Every Child."

The proposed plans to create the social and learning "heart" as well as the improved outdoor spaces are particularly impressive and are to be commended.

One area where we continue to have concerns however is in the issue of connectivity between the proposed campus and Bangholm as well as routes into the school from some of its feeder Primary schools.

Whilst Phase 1 was in planning, consideration was given to improving the access from Hawthornvale Path onto the Bangholm site. This improvement was not made, however, and the entrance to the site is basically a muddy puddle for much of the school year.

We now have to consider that as a two-site campus, pupils will routinely transition between Phase 2 and Phase 1 locations with no specific plan to improve interconnectivity between sites. This places our children at risk and we would ask that this is considered for inclusion in the plan. An appropriate solution would be to ensure access from the campus grounds directly to Hawthornvale Path and a small improvement to the access area at the Bangholm end. Improving access at both ends will encourage children to take the safe route rather than risk crossing Craighall Road with all the dangers this entails.

The proposed Phase 2 development offers a chance to make Trinity Academy a true school of the future and to offer children in the catchment primary schools the best possible learning environment."

Along with Trinity Academy Parent Council, we would encourage you to add a supportive comment on the proposal by clicking on this link and completing the short survey it contains:

[New Trinity Academy - Page 1 of 3 - City of Edinburgh Council - Citizen Space](#)

Note that the closing date for responses is **9th June 2023**.

Thank you!

Paul K Jeffrey
PC Chair