



Consultation

E-ACT

OPENING MINDS,
OPENING DOORS

#thinkbig

#teamspirit

#dotherightthing

Our Vision for Education in Central Bristol

We would like to invite you to take part in formal consultation on the future of E-ACT The Dolphin School and its proposed merger with E-ACT Fairlawn Primary School.

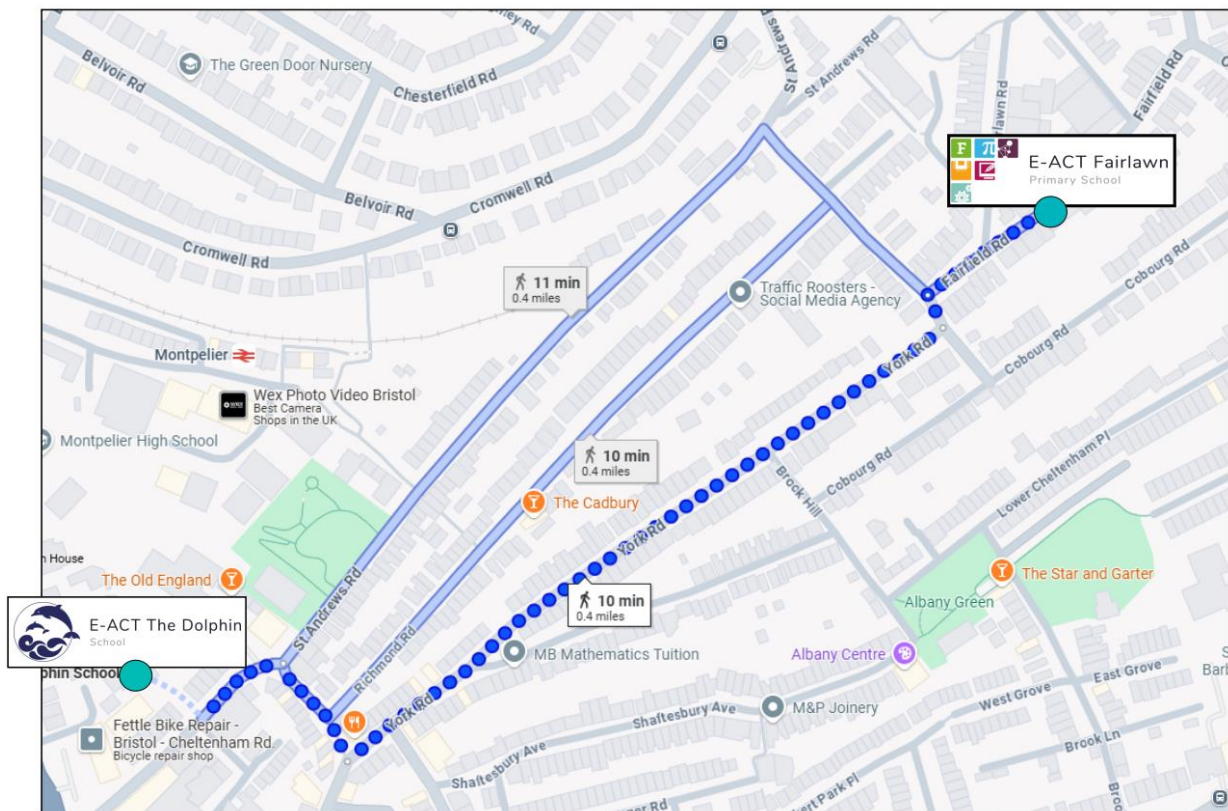
Your views are very important to us and we would like to know what you think of our proposed plans. We would like to hear from everyone associated with both academies, including staff, parents, pupils and community members.

This consultation is being carried out in partnership with Bristol City Council who will be in attendance at the consultation meetings.

E-ACT

E-ACT is a charitable education trust responsible for 38 academies across England. We are proud to be part of a community that includes over 25,000 pupils and 3,500 staff across the country.

E-ACT The Dolphin School and E-ACT Fairlawn Primary School are both valued members of our trust family in Bristol. Located less than a mile apart, they serve the vibrant communities of Montpelier, St Pauls and Easton.



Our aim

We want to work together with you to provide an inspiring, well-rounded education to the young people of central Bristol to rival that of any school or academy within the city.

Our pupils are at the heart of everything we do. Therefore, any decision on the future of E-ACT The Dolphin School will be made in the best interests of the young people we serve.

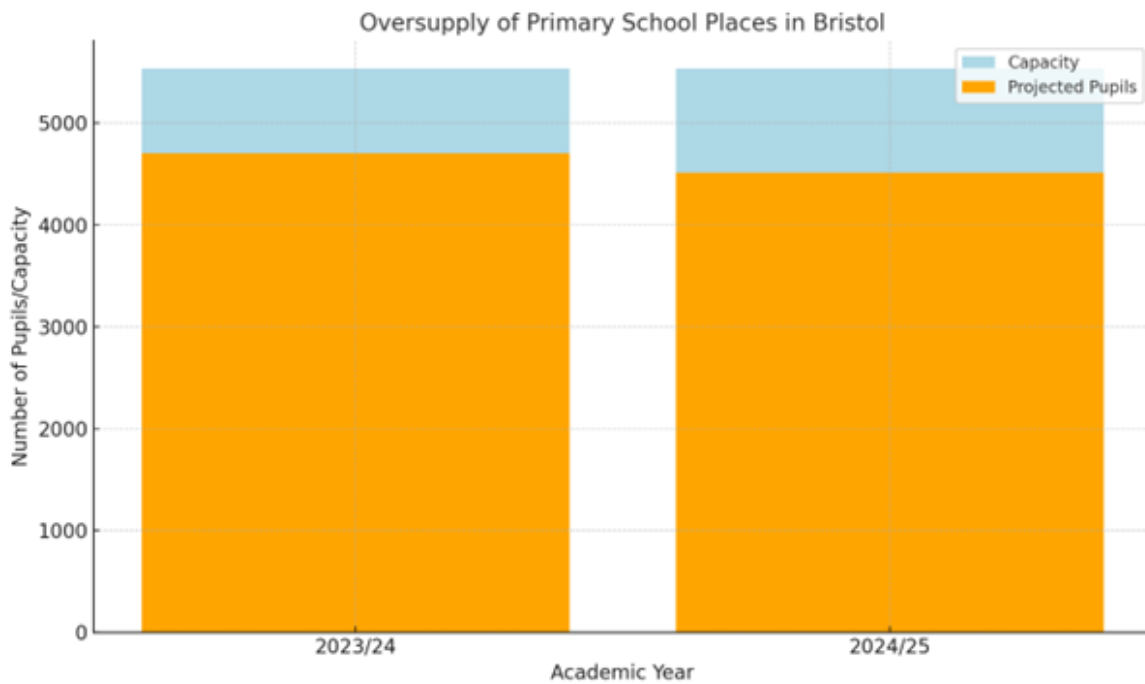
What is the purpose of consultation?

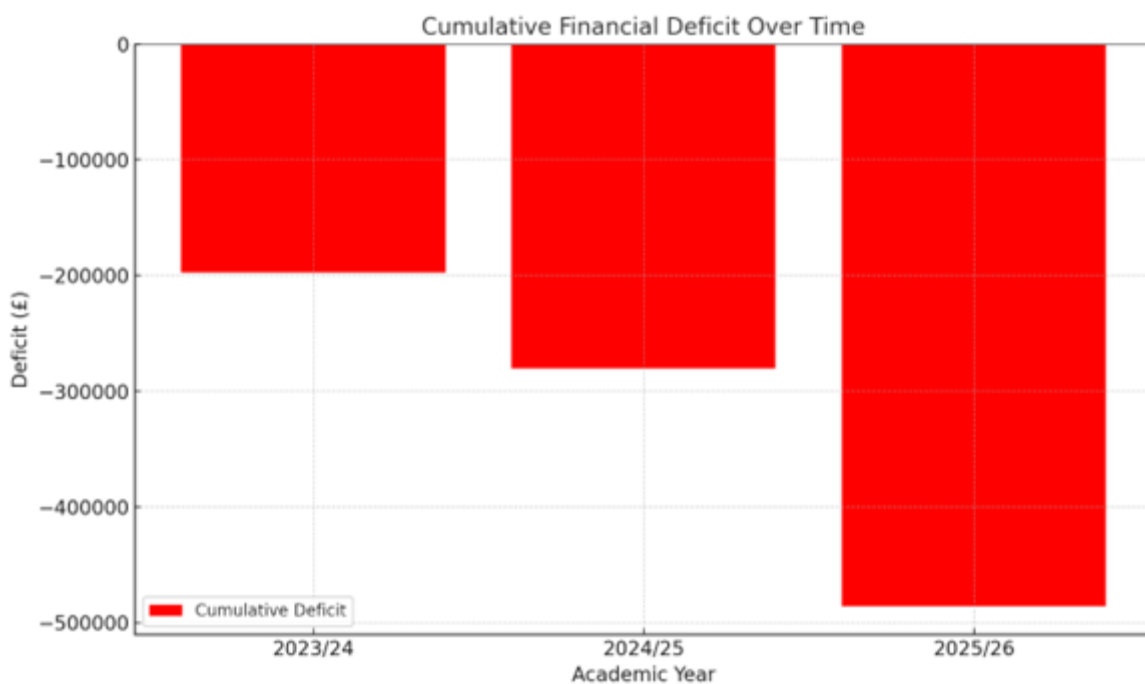
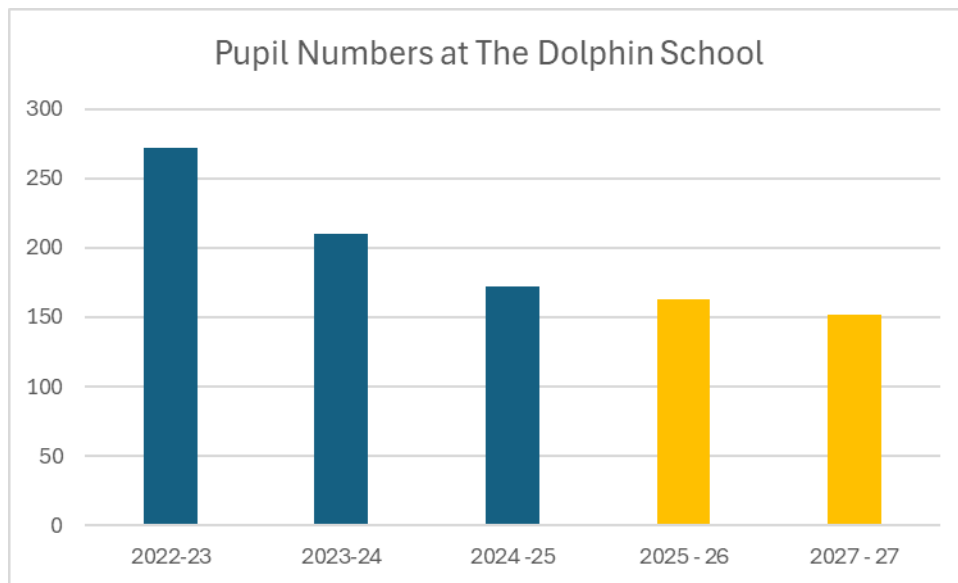
We are proposing changes that will impact the future of E-ACT The Dolphin School, so it is very important to us to consult with everyone who has an interest before any final decisions are made.

As the people closest to our schools, you understand the local community better than anyone else. We're keen to gauge your local knowledge and hear your thoughts on how our proposals could affect the area.

What is being proposed?

The educational landscape in Bristol is changing; on the one hand, there is growing demand for places in secondary and in sixth forms, whilst on the other, the numbers of children needing primary places is shrinking. In light of this, we must make strategic decisions about how we can best serve our community's needs.





Schools across the country are already facing real difficulties with the amount of funding that is available from the government. Having a school with a small number of pupils makes it very difficult to run and provide the best possible education. In this climate, the academy has struggled to deliver significant educational improvement and has been judged to require improvement by Ofsted

We are proposing to:

Merge E-ACT The Dolphin School with nearby E-ACT Fairlawn Primary School

The proposal would:

- Ensure excellent primary education continues in fit-for-purpose facilities
- Maintain staff employment within the E-ACT family

Supporting our pupils

We want to assure you that supporting our pupils is our highest priority. Under these proposals:

- All current Dolphin pupils would be guaranteed places at E-ACT Fairlawn Primary School
- Fairlawn's 'Good' Ofsted rating and strong academic outcomes provide an excellent foundation for local children
- The short distance between schools (less than a mile) minimises disruption
- Additional transition support will be provided to all pupils
- Enhanced support available for vulnerable students and those with SEND

Supporting our staff

Our staff matter to us and we deeply value their experience, expertise and commitment to the local community. We want them all to continue to be part of our E-ACT family. Under these proposals:

- All Dolphin staff would be offered roles within E-ACT in Bristol.
- Full consultation and individual meetings with every staff member
- Commitment to avoiding any redundancies

Timeline

February 2025:	Consultation formally opens
February – March 2025:	Engagement events and meetings
March 2025:	Consultation closes
April - May 2025:	Application to DfE
May 2025:	DfE Analysis and decision

How to take part

We want to make taking part in our consultation process simple and accessible for all.

Consultation events

We would like to meet you in person so that we can take the time to talk you through our proposals and to answer any questions that you may have. You are invited to come and meet us at the following times:

Week of 3rd February:

Staff Consultation (Dolphin)	4th February	3.45pm
Parents' Evening (Dolphin)	5th February	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Community Drop-in (Dolphin)	6th February	2.00pm - 4.00pm

Week of 10th February:

Staff Consultation (Fairlawn)	11th February	3.45pm
Parents' Evening (Fairlawn)	12th February	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Community Drop-in (Fairlawn)	13th February	2.00pm - 4.00pm

Public Meeting – end of February – date and venue to be confirmed.

Senior E-ACT leaders and representatives from Bristol City Council will be in attendance.

Other ways to respond

1. Complete our online response form: These can be found on the school's website <https://www.fairlawnschoolbristol.org/> or <https://www.dolphinschoolbristol.org/>

2. Email us: consultation@E-ACT.org.uk

3. Write to us: E-ACT, Unit 6, Septimus, Hawkfield Business Park, Bristol BS14 0BN

Our commitment

Your views matter greatly to us. Thank you for taking part in this important consultation about the future of education in central Bristol. We commit to:

- Listening carefully to all feedback
- Supporting every pupil and staff member through any changes
- Working closely with our community
- Being transparent in our decision-making
- Focusing on educational excellence