

## A GLC Consultation: 14th November – 16th December 2022

We are seeking your views on the following:

### 1. The expansion of Tilbury Pioneer Academy by up to 30 pupils in each year group.

#### 1.1 Introduction:

Thurrock Local Authority [LA] has approached the Gateway Learning Community [GLC] to request an expansion of Tilbury Pioneer Academy. This is to accommodate significantly increased numbers of pupils requiring school places in the coming years. This has been identified in Thurrock's Pupil Place Plan. <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/pupil-place-plan-2021-v04.pdf>

If approved, this expansion will mean that a greater proportion of local young people will be able to gain access to their local school.

The expansion is being supported by the GLC Board, Tilbury Pioneer's Local Governing Body and Head teacher, as well as the LA.

This consultation is being held to gain the views of a wide range of stakeholders before a formal application for expansion is submitted to the Department for Education. The final decision rests with the Regional Director, East of England who will make his final judgment after examining the full application.

#### 1.2 The local context.

As part of the consideration, we have looked to see if pupils could be accommodated at other GLC primary schools.

- Lansdowne Primary Academy is already a 3-form entry [FE] school with no room on its site for further expansion.
- Gateway Primary Free School is designated as a 3FE school, but operates as a 2FE school. This is because spare accommodation has been taken by the co-located Gateway Academy [secondary school] which has responded to a growing demand for places by expanding by one form of entry, to 7FE [i.e. an additional 150 secondary-aged students]. Additionally, the Free School has used some of its accommodation for a much needed nursery. The Gateway / Free School campus has therefore reached a limit of 1530 students.
- Herringham Primary Academy is a 2FE school and could expand to 3FE, but it is sited in Chadwell, away from the location that the Local Authority needs to target.

#### 1.3 Funding the new accommodation;

To accommodate the new pupils, the LA will fully fund either a new building [matched to the design of the building that opened in 2020] or, the complete, top to bottom, refurbishment of the remaining Manor Junior School building.

#### 1.4 Timeline

We anticipate that the full business case will go to the Regional Director in January 2023

If approved, it is likely that the first cohort of pupils would start in September 2023.

We would then grow the school year by year after that so that it would reach its full capacity by 2030. Building works are subject to planning approval and are likely to be concluded by September 2024.

- 2 A change to the Gateway Primary Free School’s Funding Agreement to reflect the current pupil numbers, i.e. a change from 630 pupils, in the age-range 3-11, to 480 pupils in the age-range 3-11.

### Amending the Gateway Primary Free School’s Funding Agreement

As part of this consultation, the Gateway Primary Free School is seeking to formally amend its Funding Agreement to be confirmed as a two form entry school [i.e. 480 pupils, including a 60-place nursery in the age-range 3-11].

### History

1. Gateway Academy was granted academy status in 2006 with pupils then accommodated in the two predecessor schools [St Chadds and Torells]. The Gateway Academy moved into its new building, on a new site in 2008. From 2006 to 2012 the Gateway Board set a Pupil Admission Number [PAN] of 180 per year group [with a maximum capacity set at 900];
2. Due to the significantly increased demand for places, the GLC Board increased the Gateway’s PAN from September 2013 to 210 [in Year 7], growing year by year to a full capacity [by 2017] of 1050 [see Table 1].

Gateway Academy growth [Table 1]

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
7	180	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210
8	180	180	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210
9	180	180	180	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210
10	180	180	180	180	210	210	210	210	210	210	210
11	180	180	180	180	180	210	210	210	210	210	210
Total	900	930	960	990	1020	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050

3. The GPFS, opened as a Free School [starting with only Year 6 and R-aged pupils] in Sept 2012 each with an agreed PAN of 60. GPFS was originally accommodated in the Gateway Academy building during the construction of its new building. In 2013, the GLC was approached to take on Manor Primary School which was then in ‘Special Measures’. The new school, TPA was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. The GLC agreed a radical plan with parents, to relocate all pupils in years 3-6 from TPA to the newly opened GPFS, leaving only years R-2 at the TPA site. Years 3-6 at Manor each had a PAN of 90. The GLC agreed an admissions policy with the Admissions Ombudsman in order to protect the places at GPFS for the junior-aged pupils from TPA [identified in the purple shaded area in Table 2]. As the 90 strong TPA cohorts worked through the system, they were replaced by new cohorts with a PAN of 60. Simultaneously, TPA re-introduced ‘junior’ provision and was back to full capacity in 2016 [before being judged to be a ‘good’ school in 2017] See Table 2

Gateway Primary Free School expands as Manor [pupils in purple] decline [Table 2]

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
R	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
1		60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
2			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
3			90	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
4			90	90	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
5			90	90	90	90	60	60	60	60	60
6	60	60	90	90	90	90	The	60	60	60	60
Total	120		540	510	480	450	420	420	420	480	480

The GLC Board restricted the GPFS PAN to 420 in light of the expansion of the Gateway Academy [from a PAN of 180 to 210] and informed by the LA’s Pupil Place Plan, which [at that time] showed sufficient places across the 4 primary schools of the GLC.

However in 2021, as part of its strategic plan to offer nursery provision at each GLC primary school, the GLC applied for and, was granted a Deed of Variation to expand the school's age range to accommodate a 60-place nursery. This took the number of pupils on the Gateway / GPFS site to 1530 in September 2022 [see Table 3].

Total number of pupils on the Gateway / GPFS site [Table 3]

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
GA	900	930	960	990	1020	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050
GPFS			540	510	480	450	420	420	420	480	480
Site Total	900	900	1500	1500	1500	1500	1470	1470	1470	1530	1530

**The consultation opens on 14<sup>th</sup> November. The consultation will be open for 5 weeks and will close on the 16<sup>th</sup> December**

You are invited to comment through the following channels.

Survey: <https://forms.gle/KPt8eb2fpWY86Hnj7>

Email: [diane.pierson@theglc.org.uk](mailto:diane.pierson@theglc.org.uk)

Letter: Diane Pierson, GLC, Gateway Academy, RM16 4LU

Zoom: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 1pm

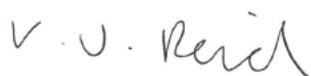
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5299846484?pwd=UkRWK1M5OU9VUVFtcWNsbi9HSDBxZz09>

Meeting ID: 529 984 6484

Passcode: se5C9z

Yours sincerely



Viki Reid  
 Chief Executive Officer