

Bure Park Specialist Academy



Section 10 Consultation Report

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BACKGROUND

Boudica Schools Trust (BST) operates 10 schools across the North and East of Norfolk covering Primary, Secondary and Special school provision.

Our special school, Eaton Hall Specialist Academy (EHSA), which is based in central Norwich, provides both education and term-time residential care for boys who require additional support around their social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. The school has been consistently rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted for both its education and residential provision.

Norfolk County Council (NCC) has an ambitious agenda to expand and enhance its resources for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and is investing £120 million to support that agenda.

The creation of additional school places for boys with SEMH is a key element of the SEND vision and in May 2019, NCC invited bids from providers who would be interested in running a new free school which would provide education and residential places for boys with additional SEMH needs. The school was to be located in Great Yarmouth, as NCC had identified high levels of SEMH need in the area, which to date has resulted in boys from the Yarmouth area often having to travel long distances to access appropriate school places.

The location for the new school had already been identified by NCC on the site of the former Alderman Swindell School which had closed in July 2018. NCC undertook the due process required for submitting their plans for the design and construction of the building and planning approval was granted in February 2020.

Following a rigorous application and selection process, BST was informed in November 2019 that it had been identified as the preferred provider for the school and immediately began working in partnership with NCC and the Department for Education (DfE) on the pre-opening phases of development, with the school scheduled to open in Autumn 2021.

BPSA's vision is to improve life chances for all our pupils by addressing pupils' social and emotional wellbeing. All elements of teaching and learning at BPSA will have these needs at their heart. We will aim to restore equilibrium to the child and family, return the child to the home setting and, where appropriate, to mainstream education.

The school will offer a broad and balanced academic diet based on the National Curriculum. Given that the aspiration is for as many pupils as possible to reintegrate into mainstream education it is important that the curriculum offer mirrors the experience of their mainstream peers.

Consultation process

The consultation ran for 6 weeks from 1/2/21 to 13/3/21 inclusive and consisted of a six-question questionnaire.

Due to Covid restrictions, it was not possible to have open public meetings and as such, the Trust focussed on raising awareness of the consultation through other means as detailed below:

- 700 hard copies of the consultation document were delivered to households within a half-mile radius of the school site.
- News articles which included details on how to take part in the consultation were carried by the main local media outlets for the area, The Great Yarmouth Mercury and the Eastern Daily Press.
- A dedicated page was created on the main Trust website and details of the consultation were distributed via social media including Twitter and LinkedIn.
- Norfolk SEND parent/carer Family voice included an article with details of how to take part in the consultation in their newsletter
- Norfolk SEND News newsletter which NCC circulates to all schools in Norfolk included an article with details of how to take part in the consultation
- Video calls with two local MPs

The fundamental purpose of a Section 10 Consultation is to establish whether the Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State. However, BST felt it was also important to understand a bit more about the make-up of respondents and their views on other key issues related to BPSA. Given that, BST decided to ask 6 questions as follows:

- 1) First can you please tell us about yourself? Please tick the description you feel best describes you?**
- 2) Where do you live in relation to the school site at Beresford Road?**
- 3) Do you agree that there is a need for a school that caters for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs in Great Yarmouth?**
- 4) Do you feel our Statement of Provision will enable the right children to access the school?**
- 5) Do you think Boudica Schools Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to open and run Bure Park Specialist Academy?**
- 6) Any further comments you would like to make about our plans**

Summary of responses

A total of 30 responses were received, 21 of which were via the online questionnaire and the remaining 9 of which were via hard-copies of the questionnaire.

Video meetings were undertaken with two local MPs who had requested greater detail in relation to the plans and both of whom were fully supportive of the Trust and the new school. However, those views are not reflected in the following responses as they did not reflect the specific questions asked in the questionnaire.

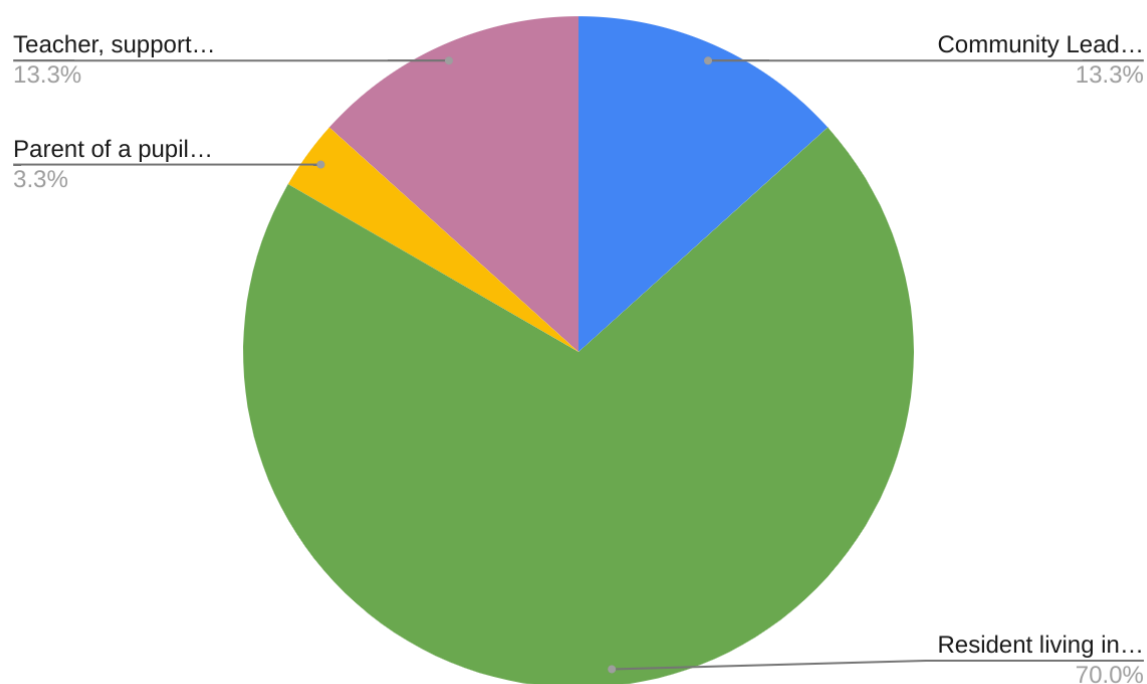
(all % figures rounded to the nearest whole number in text).

Question 1

First can you please tell us about yourself? Please tick the description you feel best describes you?

- ☐ School pupil or student
- ☐ Parent of a pupil or student with SEND
- ☐ Resident living in Great Yarmouth
- ☐ Resident living outside Great Yarmouth
- ☐ Teacher, support worker or headteacher working in a local school
- ☐ Community Leader (Councillor, MP or Voluntary Sector leader)
- ☐ Local Authority officer
- ☐ Other please specify

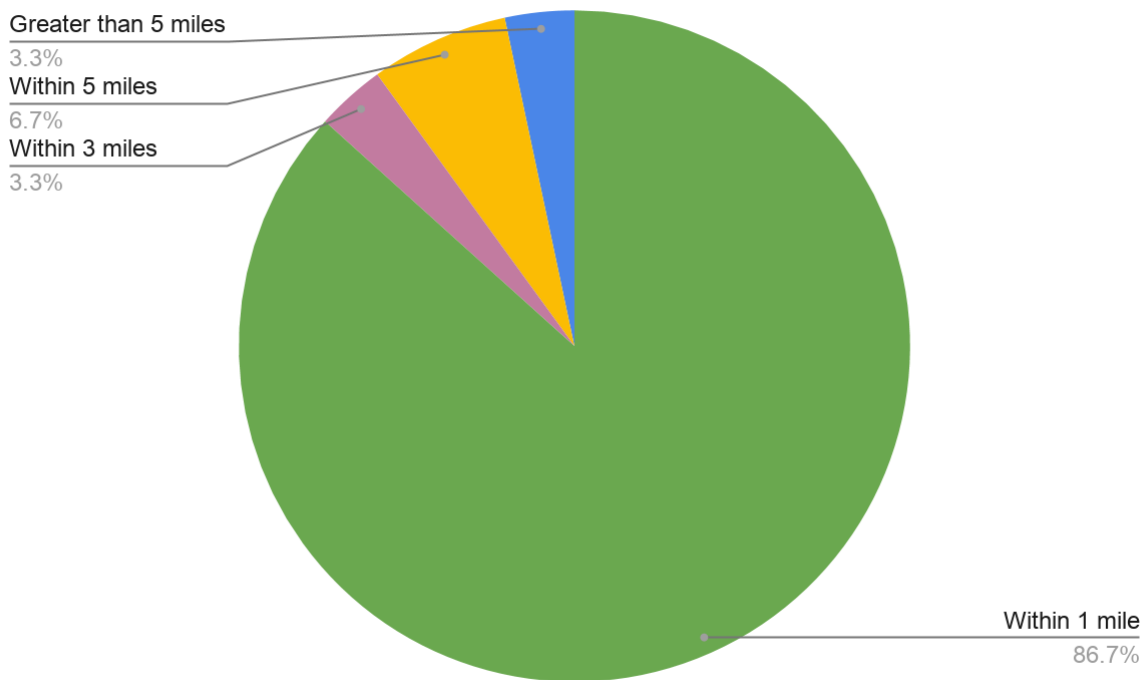
The majority of respondents (70%) described themselves as a resident living in Great Yarmouth. Community Leaders and local school staff were the next largest respondent groups, each making up 13% of respondents, with Parent of a pupil or student with SEND making up the remaining 3%



2. Where do you live in relation to the school site at Beresford Road?

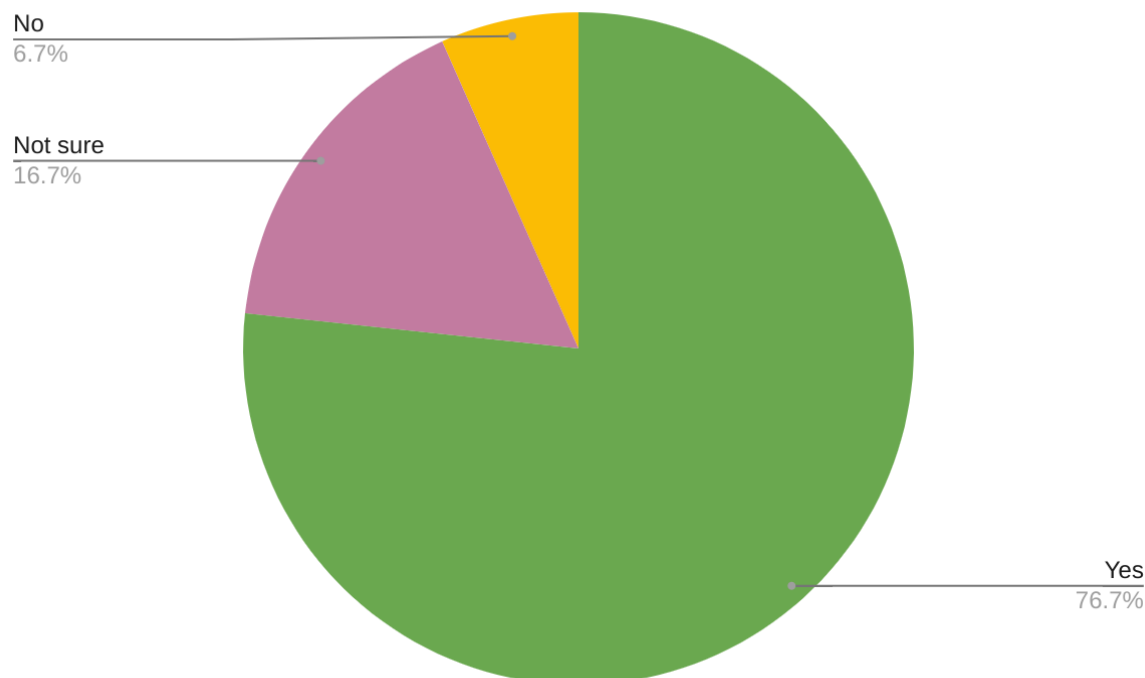
- ☐ Within 1 mile
- ☐ Within 3 miles
- ☐ Within 5 miles
- ☐ Greater than 5 miles

The majority of respondents (87%) describe themselves as living within 1 mile of the school site at Beresford Road. Those who describe themselves as living within 3 miles equated to 3%, those within 5 miles 7% and those greater than 5 miles were 3%



3. Do you agree that there is a need for a school that caters for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs in Great Yarmouth?

The majority of respondents (77%) agreed that there was a need for SEMH school provision in Great Yarmouth. Only 7% did not agree, with the remaining 17% describing themselves as unsure.



Additional comments made in relation to this question were as follows:

I had no prior information about this type of school in the Great Yarmouth area.

There is a severe lack of spaces in special schools in the local area, especially for SEMH needs. This has resulted in many children being out of mainstream provision and waiting for a place to come up.

There is high demand for all kinds of specialist education provision in Great Yarmouth.

There is a need to have a school for children with genuine SEMD but not for a borstal for 90 boys with either criminal records or that have been expelled from their previous schools. The local residents are being duped.

That is a good thing for these poor children.

This is needed.

Yes agree - but not where it has been built right on our doorstep - we will have trouble selling our houses - it should have been built elsewhere.

A school like this has been needed for a long time. Children have had to travel miles for their education.

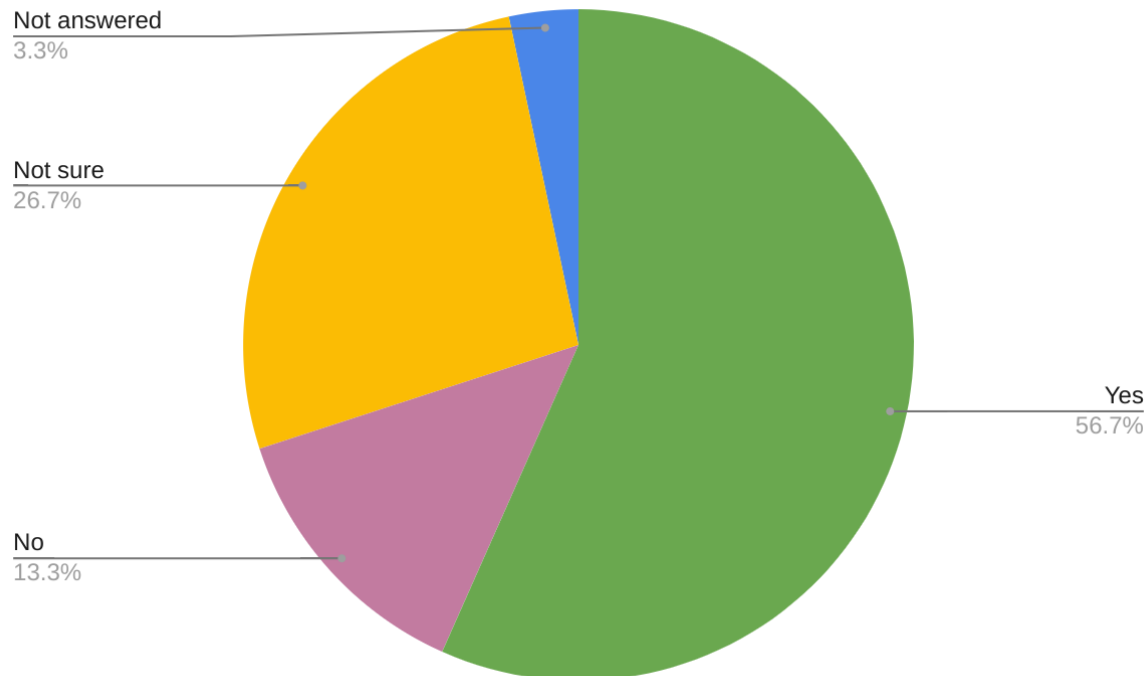
I think it is a fantastic school for pupils to give the students learning and life skills they need

Sorry to say it has been built in the wrong area.

I think the school is inappropriate to the area. The building's an eye sore to the residents. Why consult now when the decision seems to have already been taken.

4. Do you feel our Statement of Provision will enable the right children to access the school?

The majority of respondents (57%) felt that the Statement of Provision will enable the right children to access the school. 13% did not feel that it would, while 27% were unsure. 3% did not provide a response to this question.



Additional comments made in relation to this question were as follows:

Apart from if they are female!

Where is your Statement of Provision? Who are the 'right' children?

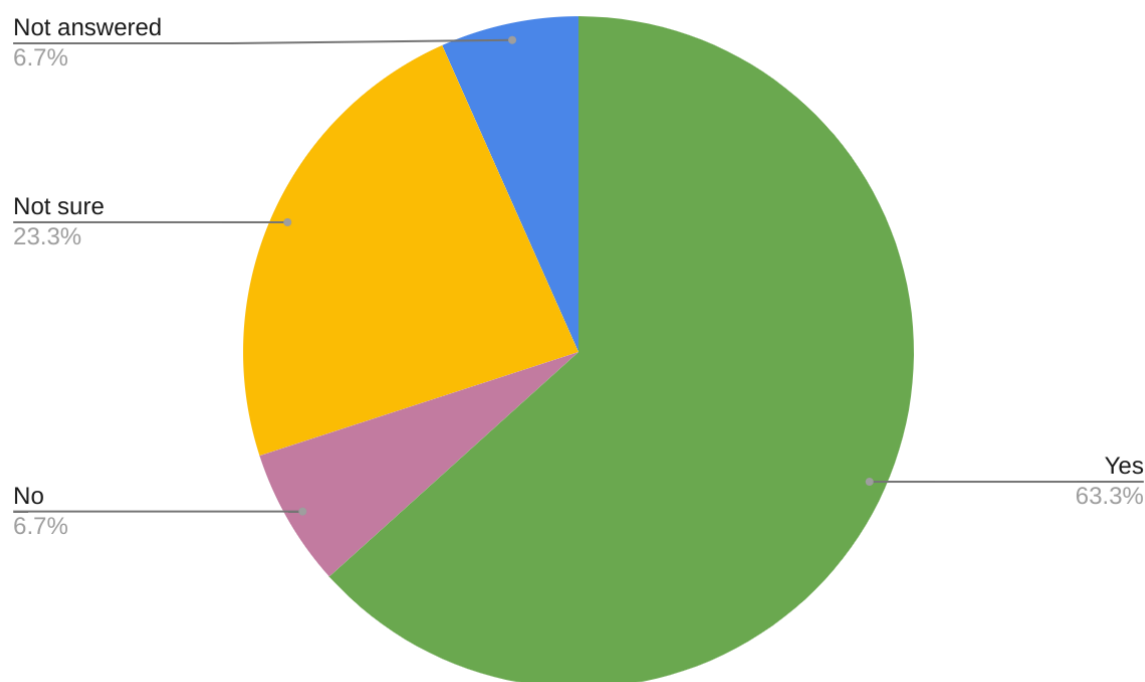
It's really disappointing that the school is open only to boys. While I understand the statistics around the need for the provision for boys in the area, I'm surprised that discrimination based on gender is allowed! I have a daughter with SEN who would easily fit in to a male dominated environment. I don't see why she should have to travel over 20 miles to a specialist provision when there will be a school on her doorstep that could cater for her needs.

A school like this should not be set-up in a residential area.

5. Do you think Boudica Schools Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the

Secretary of State to open and run Bure Park Specialist Academy?

The majority of respondents (63%) think that BST should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State, with only 7% saying no. 23% were unsure and 7 % did not provide an answer.



There were no additional comments in relation to this question.

6. Any further comments you'd like to make about our plans?

I would like Bure Park Academy to work with the Local Authority to ensure similar provision is available for girls in the Borough.

As a very close neighbour to the school I have considerable concerns about the security of the site and the impact of the provision on the local area. I hope there will be opportunities to reassure the local community in the run up to opening that having such concentration of pupils in one space in a residential area will not be to the detriment of the neighbours.

The school has been built right in the middle of a large and dense area of housing. Residents all around the school have had their once clear and open grass field views replaced by very close and high buildings. Local residents also will no doubt be worried and even anxious about the possibility of elevated noise levels and disruption that may be caused by pupils. These issues should have been addressed to the local residents prior to permission to build.

The disruption within the local area has been quite considerable. There are signs along the road that workers on the site are not to park along the Keyes Avenue yet they do, this causes a slalom when passing by. Also houses along Perebrown Avenue at the southern end have an incredibly ugly view from the front of their property by a building rising higher than their own. The construction is very inconsiderate to local residents and not in keeping with the architecture within its vicinity.

It is absolutely appalling that you are planning to have a borstal for 90 boys in a residential area. This will

cause a drop in the value of property in the area, crime to increase and issues for the local businesses. Would you want this facility in your area?

I am impressed with the vision for the new school. At last parents of children with these special needs can be catered for locally without long journeys to other areas.

Is the site to be called Bure Park? Why not keep the name Alderman Swindell? The name has been there for many years - why change it?

Response to the findings

The findings of the consultation show that the majority of respondents support the creation of the school, understand the need for SEMH provision locally and feel BST should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State. BST will now seek to complete the process of establishing a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to ensure the school can open in Autumn 2021.

However, it is also important that we acknowledge and take into account areas of concern that have been raised, which have been summarised with our corresponding response below:

- **Concern about the location and buildings** - BST was not involved in selecting the location, or in the design of the buildings. NCC followed due process throughout the planning stages, including a full public consultation.
- **Concern about the background of the boys who will attend the school** - The pupils who will attend the school will all bring some degree of challenging behaviour. In addition, many will also have experienced difficult home lives. As such, we will need and are committed to providing high quality staff who will be able to appropriately support the pupils.

However, it will be important for BST to work closely with the local community to help ensure that any misguided views about the pupils and/or the school are addressed. BST is confident that once the school is open and we are able to engage more directly with the local community, many of the concerns about the school and the boys will be addressed.

- **Disappointment that the school will only be for boys** - As part of its SEND review, NCC undertook extensive research and needs-analysis, which identified the need for a boys-only school in the Great Yarmouth area. BST cannot comment on the level of need for similar provision for girls as the SEND review was conducted by NCC.
- **The name of the school** - We did consider retaining the name 'Alderman Swindell' but ultimately decided against that, since we wanted to avoid any confusion with any existing or previous schools in the area and we felt that as a new school, it should be allowed to develop its own identity. However, we were keen that the name should reflect something of the local area which is why we chose 'Bure Park'.

Appendix 1 - Consultation Document

Bure Park Specialist Academy – Section 10 Consultation

Following a rigorous selection process Boudica Schools Trust (BST) was delighted to be selected by Norfolk County Council and the Department for Education as the preferred provider for Bure Park Specialist Academy.

Bure Park is part of a £120m investment that Norfolk County Council is making in education provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and will provide up to 90 places for boys who require additional support in relation to their Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This investment in new provision means that pupils who need high quality additional support will be able to access it in their local communities rather than potentially having to travel very long distances.

BST has a strong track record of success in SEMH school provision. In fact, the first school in the Trust was Eaton Hall Specialist Academy which has been repeatedly graded as Outstanding by Ofsted for both its SEMH school and residential provision. In addition to Eaton Hall, we also operate a further nine schools across Norwich and the east of the County which includes Primary and Secondary schools.

As part of the process of opening a new school, BST is required to conduct a consultation exercise (under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

This consultation gives an opportunity for all stakeholders to learn more about the school and to share their views. This includes parents/carers and pupils, local residents, staff and governors from local schools, Councillors and any other interested parties.

This is an important step in the school's journey towards opening in Autumn this year and we look forward to hearing your views.

The consultation period will run from 1/2/21 until 13/2/21 inclusive.

To take part, please follow this link <https://forms.gle/QCfDG7aNgNijeEmDA> to the consultation questionnaire on our website, or alternatively complete the questionnaire below and return it to:

Bure Park Section 10, Boudica Schools Trust, Sewell Park Academy, St Clements Hill, Norwich, NR3 4BX

Bure Park Section 10 Questionnaire

1. First can you please tell us about yourself? Please tick the description you feel best describes

you?

- ☐ School pupil or student
- ☐ Parent of a pupil or student with SEND
- ☐ Resident living in Great Yarmouth
- ☐ Resident living outside Great Yarmouth
- ☐ Teacher, support worker or headteacher working in a local school
- ☐ Community Leader (Councillor, MP or Voluntary Sector leader) ☐
- Local Authority officer
- ☐ Other please specify

2. Where do you live in relation to the school site at Beresford Road?

- ☐ Within 1 mile
- ☐ Within 3 miles
- ☐ Within 5 miles
- ☐ Greater than 5 miles

3. Do you agree that there is a need for a school that caters for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs in Great Yarmouth?

The key driver behind Norfolk County Council (NCC) commissioning Bure Park was the rising demand for specialist educational places for children and young people with special educational needs who live in the Great Yarmouth area.

The absence of any current provision in the area like Bure Park means that lots of children and young people from the local area are either waiting for a specialist school place or are having to be placed in more expensive private specialist provision, often a considerable distance from the child's home.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Any information you would like to add?

4. Do you feel our Statement of Provision will enable the right children to access the school?

The statement of provision can be viewed here www.bureparkacademy.co.uk

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Any information you would like to add

5. Do you think Boudica Schools Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to open and run Bure Park Specialist Academy?

A sample copy of a **Special School supplementary funding agreement** can be accessed via the following <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements>

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

6. Any further comments you'd like to make about our plans?

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Great Yarmouth Mercury article

<https://www.greatyarmouthmercury.co.uk/news/education/bure-park-specialist-academy-great-yarmouth-reaches-milestone-7081076>

Eastern Daily Press article

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/education/bure-park-specialist-academy-great-yarmouth-reaches-milestone-7081076>

Family Voice newsletter

<https://www.familyvoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Family-Voice-newsletter-February-2021email.pdf>

Appendix 3 - LinkedIn and Twitter Post



Boudica Schools Trust

156 followers

1mo

We are pleased to announce our new free school, Bure Park Specialist Academy in Great Yarmouth. The school is beginning to take shape and is due to open in Autumn 2021. The school will cater for boys who need additional support around their social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. Please visit our website at www.bureparkacademy.co.uk for more information. As part of the process of opening a new school, Boudica Schools Trust is required to conduct a consultation exercise (under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. To take part, please follow this link <https://lnkd.in/drtPDHH>. Alternatively, please email info@bschoolstrust.co.uk or call 01603937303 for a paper copy of the form.

