



# Public Consultation

## Discontinuation of Sixth Form Provision



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## Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Members of the Community

**The Trust Board of Holy Trinity School is consulting on plans to discontinue Sixth Form provision at the School. It is proposed that from the end of the academic year 2025/26, no further post-16 students would be admitted to the School. For clarity, this refers to both internal and external student applications. Students currently studying in the Sixth Form would continue and complete their studies at the School.**

For many years, the school has maintained a very small post-16 cohort, offering a limited number of A-level courses to a small group of students. Despite significant efforts to increase applications, the Sixth Form has, over many years, remained well below the thresholds regarded as educationally and financially viable. As such, the Sixth Form provision has required subsidy from the rest of the school and has limited the breadth of the curriculum we can provide.

The Trust Board is committed to ensuring that all pupils at Holy Trinity School receive the highest quality education. Maintaining the small Sixth Form provision disproportionately draws resources from other areas of the school, namely Reception to Year 11. After careful consideration, the Trust Board has concluded that the long-term sustainability of the school is best secured by focusing on these core phases.

The consultation document can be found on the [School's website](#), and sets out:

- The rationale for the proposed change, including the educational and financial factors considered by the Trust Board
- The consultation process, including the timescale, who we are consulting, and how you can respond
- Next steps following consultation, including how responses will be considered before any final decision is made

The consultation will run from **13 October to 12pm on 7 November 2025**. During this period, we invite responses from parents, students, staff, the local authority, local education providers, and the wider community.

We recognise that this proposal may be disappointing for some, and it marks the potential end of a long-standing feature of the school. However, our overriding responsibility is to ensure that the resources of the school are directed where they can deliver the greatest benefit for the largest number of pupils.

On behalf of the Trust Board, I thank you for engaging with this process and for the support that families, staff, and the community have shown to our Sixth Form over many years.

Yours faithfully

Mr I Williams

Headteacher - Holy Trinity School

## Background Information

### Statutory Responsibilities

Discontinuing post-16 provision is considered a “significant change” to the school’s age range. As an academy, Holy Trinity School is required to follow the statutory process for making significant changes to its provision; as such, the Department for Education (DfE) requires that a public consultation is undertaken before any such decision is enacted.

The consultation will invite views from a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, students, staff, the local authority, as well as neighbouring schools and colleges.

The purpose of this consultation is to ensure transparency, to provide stakeholders with a genuine opportunity to contribute their views, and to allow the Trust Board to consider those views fully before making any final decision.

### Current School Information

Holy Trinity School is a popular all-through school in Worcestershire, offering education from Reception through to Sixth Form. Demand for places in Reception and Year 7 is consistently strong, reflecting the confidence that families have in the quality of teaching, the school’s ethos, and the outcomes achieved by pupils.

However, recruitment into Year 12 has historically been small, with intake typically numbering in the mid-teens, despite significant investment in facilities, curriculum design, and marketing. This is in part due to the local context: students in Worcestershire and surrounding areas have access to a number of large, specialist sixth form colleges offering a very broad choice of courses and enrichment opportunities.

As a result, while families often choose Holy Trinity as a setting that combines high expectations with individual attention, many students opt to continue their post-16 education elsewhere. The school has sustained a Sixth Form for many years out of a desire to provide continuity and choice. However, this has required substantial subsidy from the wider school budget and has inevitably limited the range of subjects and opportunities we can offer to the very small number of post-16 students.

The Trust Board is therefore consulting on the proposal to discontinue Sixth Form provision, ensuring that the school can focus resources where they will have the greatest impact, namely the education of the pupils from Reception to Year 11, where demand and outcomes remain strong.

## Proposal

The Trust Board of Holy Trinity School is consulting on plans to discontinue Sixth Form provision at the school. It is proposed that from the end of the 2025/26 academic year, no further post-16 students would be admitted to the school. For clarity, this refers to both internal and external applications. Students currently studying in the Sixth Form will continue and complete their courses at Holy Trinity, with the final cohort finishing in summer 2027.

The reason for this proposal is that Sixth Form recruitment has remained consistently low, despite significant efforts to attract students. This has limited the breadth of curriculum that can be offered and required ongoing subsidy from the wider school budget.

If implemented, the proposal would enable the school to concentrate its resources on the phases where demand is strongest, ensuring that all pupils continue to benefit from high-quality teaching, strong pastoral support, and a broad and balanced curriculum.

Particular emphasis will be placed on supporting students in Year 11 as they consider their destinations. This will include:

- Enhanced careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG)
- Personalised support for applications to local sixth form and further education colleges
- Transition planning to ensure students move confidently into the next stage of education or training

Admissions to other year groups will remain unaffected, and the school will continue to be a popular choice for families across the local area.

## Evidence Relating to the Proposal

### Pupil Numbers

Historic data confirms that Sixth Form numbers at Holy Trinity have remained consistently small. Over the past decade, combined Year 12 and 13 cohorts have usually totalled between 30 and 50 students. Year 12 recruitment is commonly between 15 and 18, which is well below the levels generally regarded as sustainable for post-16 provision.

Sixth Form Cohort	
Academic Year	Number on Roll (Year 12 & 13)
2016/17	32
2017/18	32
2018/19	31
2021/22*	49
2022/23*	43
2023/24	35
2024/25	27

*\*Recruitment reached its highest point in 2021/22, during the COVID-19 period, when a larger proportion of students nationally chose to remain at their existing school. Since then, numbers have declined sharply, reflecting a return to established local patterns.*

### Informal Feedback

Informal feedback from students and families indicates that, while they value Holy Trinity through to Year 11, many pupils are attracted by the broader course choice available at larger sixth form colleges in the region. This reflects the competitive post-16 landscape locally, rather than concerns about the quality of provision at Holy Trinity.

### Summary

The evidence demonstrates a long-term trend of low recruitment into the Sixth Form, with only a temporary uplift during the COVID-19 period. Forecasts suggest that numbers will remain well below viability benchmarks, providing the rationale for consulting on the proposal to discontinue post-16 provision.

### How the decision will be made

At the conclusion of this consultation period, the Trust will consider any issues that have been raised before deciding whether to make a formal application to the Department for Education.

The Department for Education requires that the school consults the Local Authority on the proposal and submits its views as part of the process.

The Local Authority will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular the following factors:

- The response to the public consultation
- The quality of education provision at the school
- The ability of the school to manage the proposed change to support the continued improvements at the school
- Demand for sixth form places at the school and in the local area

## Who is being consulted

This document will be made available to:

- Parents and carers of pupils attending the school
- Parents in the area
- Secondary schools and sixth form and FE colleges in the area (as relevant), including those in neighbouring local authority areas where relevant
- Local District and County Councillors
- The Local Education Authority
- Immediate neighbours
- Local Member of Parliament
- Cabinet Member Responsible for Education
- Any other local stakeholder

## What happens next

### Consultation Phase

The consultation will run from **13 October** to **12pm on 7 November 2025**.

During the consultation phase anyone with an interest can express their views on the options expressed in this document.

### Submission of formal application to Department for Education

The Trust will take note of issues raised during the consultation. At the conclusion of the consultation period, a decision will be made whether to submit a formal application to close the sixth form provision to the Department for Education.

### Department for Education Regions Group Decision

Where the answers to the key questions in the formal application are positive, providing the department does not have any concerns, the application will move to internal decision making (formal agreement) by Regions Group and both the Trust and the Local Authority will be informed that the change has been approved.

It is very important that all those involved have a say. Please submit your comments by **12pm on 7 November 2025** by completing the online response form available on the school website:

<https://htsfreeschool.co.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-consultation>

If you are unable to access the online response form, you can obtain a paper copy from the school office.