

# Crusoe House School: Consultation on the future of the school

## **Consultation period**

1 November 2005 – 6 December 2005

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**the learning trust**  
the future for education in Hackney

# Consultation on the future of Crusoe House School

## What is this information about?

The Learning Trust wants to know your views on the proposal to close Crusoe House School and replace it with a Vocational College under Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) regulations.

This is your opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposal. This paper contains:

1. an explanation of the proposal
2. a response form for you to complete and return to us, letting us know your views
3. details of meetings for parents/carers and the wider community that will be arranged to help the consultation

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Samantha George  
The Learning Trust  
Hackney Technology and Learning Centre  
1, Reading Lane  
Hackney E8 1GQ

Or e-mail your comments or queries to:

[samantha.george@learningtrust.co.uk](mailto:samantha.george@learningtrust.co.uk)

If you have specific questions about the proposal please contact Val Wesolowicz on 020 8820 7323. Email: [val.wesolowicz@learningtrust.co.uk](mailto:val.wesolowicz@learningtrust.co.uk)

This document is also available online by visiting our website: [www.learningtrust.co.uk](http://www.learningtrust.co.uk)

This stage of the consultation will close on **6<sup>th</sup> December 2005**.

This document will be provided in other languages or in large print upon request. A form is included for anyone who would like the document translated into another language.

## Hackney and The Learning Trust

The Learning Trust provides education services on behalf of Hackney Council. One of the duties of the Learning Trust is to keep under review the demand for and quality of places in Hackney schools.

## Crusoe House School

- 1 Crusoe House School is a special secondary (11-16) school for boys with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD). The school offers 50 places for pupils with Statements of Special Educational Need who are unable to achieve to their full potential in mainstream schools. It is located in the south west of the borough close to the city. There are 33 pupils on roll in the following year groups.

School	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Crusoe House	0	3	5	16	9

*(September 2005)*

### Issues for consideration

- 2 Crusoe House is a school in significant difficulty. At the end of June 2005, the Chief Executive of The Learning Trust took action to temporarily shut the school in order to ensure the safety of pupils and staff.
3. A number of problems had become characteristic of the school:
  - There were increasing concerns about behaviour in and around the school and the ability of the school to protect staff and pupils.
  - Pupil attendance was very low. There was a reported attendance rate of 53.8% for the academic year 2004/05 with 26% unauthorised absence.
  - The school relied heavily on exclusion as a sanction for inappropriate behaviour. During 2004/05 there were 3 permanent exclusions and 98 incidents of fixed term exclusions resulting in 359 days lost to learning.
  - There was an increasing resistance from the school to admit new pupils and indeed from parents to accept places at Crusoe House. This made it necessary for the Learning Trust to seek places for Hackney boys with Behavioural Emotional and Social Difficulties outside of the borough.
- 4 On 26 August 2005, the secretary of State for Education and Skills agreed the Learning Trust's request to appoint an Interim Executive Board (IEB) to replace the governing body of Crusoe House School.
- 5 The IEB is legally the governing body of the school for the time it is in office. An IEB may recommend to a Local Authority that a school should be closed under the normal statutory procedures.

- 6 At their meeting on 15 September 2005, the Interim Executive Board recommended that:

*“In the light of the unacceptable standard of education currently being provided at Crusoe House and the school’s lack of capacity to improve sufficiently without radical change, steps should be taken to close the school in its existing form as soon as possible and to re-start it as a new entity”.*

- 7 On 20 October 2005, the Interim Executive Board recommended that:

*“the Learning Trust undertake public consultation on a proposal to close Crusoe House School with effect from 31 August 2006 and replace it with a new entity”*

At that meeting the Interim Executive Board also endorsed the Learning Trust’s strategy to replace the special school with a Vocational College in September 2006.

- 8 The Learning Trust now wish to consult on a proposal to close Crusoe House School and replace it with a Vocational College for Key Stage 4 pupils (years 10-11) based on the Pupil Referral Unit model.

### **Proposed arrangements for pupils at the school**

- 9 The Learning Trust wish to develop a new secondary behaviour service which will bring together support from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Social Services, Pupil Referral Units (PRU) and the education Behaviour Support Services. The new provision will be organised under PRU regulations with its own Headteacher and management committee. It will be informed by the practice at Daniel House which has proved successful in engaging pupils with challenging behaviour. Unlike Crusoe House School, the new provision will cater for both boys and girls.
- 10 The Learning Trust is proposing an interim phase of reorganisation in advance of redevelopment of the existing facilities on the current or other identified site through Building Schools for the Future.
- 11 Places would be available in the new Vocational College for all Key Stage 4 Hackney resident pupils currently on roll at the school. We would propose that any out of borough students currently on roll at Crusoe House also be offered places at the new provision. Pupils in Key Stage 3 (years 7-9) in September 2006 would transfer to Daniel House.

### **When would the proposals be implemented?**

- 12 The Learning Trust is proposing that Crusoe House School closes on 31 August 2006, and re-opens as a Vocational College under PRU regulations from 1 September 2006.

## Next steps and proposed timetable for the decision-making process

- 13 The Learning Trust welcomes views from all stakeholders on the proposal set out in this paper. All views expressed during this consultation will be reported to and considered by the Board of The Learning Trust. This is likely to be on 15 December 2005.

Date	Action				
Tuesday 1 November 2005 to Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2005	Consultation period including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulation of consultation paper to stakeholders</li> <li>• Meetings with key stakeholders</li> </ul>				
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2005	The Board of the Learning Trust considers the responses to the consultation.				
<i>If the Board agree to publish Statutory notices then</i>					
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	Publication of statutory notices				
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2006 to Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2006	Statutory six week period for comments and objections to the proposals				
March/April 2006 (date to be confirmed)	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>If there are no objections:</i></td> <td><i>If objections are received:</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Board of the Learning Trust meets to consider the proposal</td> <td>The School Organisation Committee meets to consider the proposal</td> </tr> </table>	<i>If there are no objections:</i>	<i>If objections are received:</i>	The Board of the Learning Trust meets to consider the proposal	The School Organisation Committee meets to consider the proposal
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The Board of the Learning Trust meets to consider the proposal	The School Organisation Committee meets to consider the proposal				

## Consultation Meetings

- 14 The consultation will run from 1 November 2005 to 6 December 2005 and will include meetings with key stakeholders. We will provide interpreters for additional languages at meetings on prior request.

Audience	Date	Venue	Time
Parents and pupils on roll at Crusoe House School	Thursday 17 November 2005	Crusoe House School Nile Street N1 7RD	5.30pm – 7.00pm
Meeting for the wider community	Monday 21 November 2005	The Learning Trust 1 Reading Lane E8 1GQ	5.30pm – 7.00pm

- 15 The meetings set out above will be arranged as a 'drop-in' where people can arrive at any time within the hours advertised and speak individually to Learning Trust staff. Separate meetings will be arranged for the Governing Body, staff at the school and unions. Individual meetings can be arranged at other times within the consultation period. If you require an appointment, please contact Samantha George on 0208 820 7004.

## **Who will be consulted?**

We aim to consult with as many people and interested groups as possible including:

- Students on roll at Crusoe House School
- Parents and carers of students on roll at Crusoe House School
- Staff at Crusoe House School
- Crusoe House School Interim Governing Body
- Headteacher and Management Committee of Daniel House
- Hackney Further Education providers
- Learning Skills Council London East
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Hackney Schools
- Other secondary and special schools within 3 miles of Crusoe House
- Work Based Learning Providers
- Trade Unions
- Hackney School Governors Association (HASGA)
- Neighbouring LEAs including Islington, Haringey, Waltham Forest, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Corporation of London, Brent, Barking & Dagenham, Camden
- Hackney Councillors
- Hackney Council including Social services LAC Education Team
- Hackney MPs
- City & Hackney Primary Care Trust
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
- Local community groups and business partners
- London Diocesan Board
- Diocese of Westminster
- Interlink network

# Consultation Response Form

## The future of Crusoe House School

Please return to **Samantha George** by **6 December 2005** at:

The Learning Trust, Hackney Technology and Learning Centre  
1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ  
Email: [samantha.george@learningtrust.co.uk](mailto:samantha.george@learningtrust.co.uk)

Name of person  
responding

*Interest in Crusoe House School (please tick boxes as appropriate)*

Student at the school

Member of staff at the school

Parent/ Carer of a child at the school

Other (please specify)

.....

**Please comment on the proposal:**

Proposal to close Crusoe House School and replace it with a Vocational College.

Agree

Disagree

**Please comment on the proposal outlined in the paper**

## Comments Continued

You may respond electronically, if you have access to the internet.  
Visit [www.learningtrust.co.uk](http://www.learningtrust.co.uk) and look under Publications/ Consultations.

**Thank you for completing this response form**

## The Learning Trust Monitoring Form

Monitoring equality information in our consultation process is important in our work to promote equality. The information you provide will help us to build on successful actions, identify the needs of those experiencing inequality and help us to decide where to target our resources.

**This information will not be used in a way which allows individuals to be identified.**

The categories we use are similar to those used in schools. We comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. We are aware of the sensitive nature of this information and assure you that it will not be used for any other purpose.

We would therefore ask you to help us by completing the attached monitoring form.

Main category	Extended category	Please tick ✓
White	White British	
	Any Other White background	
Mixed	White and Black Caribbean	
	White and Black African	
	White and Asian	
	Any Other Mixed Background	
Asian	Indian	
	Pakistani	
	Bangladeshi	
	Asian British	
	Any Other Asian Background	
Black	Caribbean	
	African	
	Black British	
	Any Other Black Background	
Chinese	Chinese	
Any other ethnic group	Kurdish	
	Vietnamese	
	Orthodox Jewish	
	Turkish/Turkish Cypriot	
	Greek/Greek Cypriot	
	Irish	
	Any Other Ethnic Group	
Religion		