

11th April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Consultation on proposed expansion of Packmoor Ormiston Academy

Over the past few months, a number of meetings have taken place with representatives of Stoke LA and Ormiston Academy Trust (OAT) regarding the feasibility of expanding Packmoor Ormiston Academy to include a Rising 2's cohort.

I am writing to you to seek your views on a proposed development of Packmoor Ormiston Academy by extending the age range of pupils from 3-11 years to 2-11 years.

Packmoor Ormiston Academy is a member of the OAT Trust. The trustees see the proposed expansion of the school as an opportunity to meet the increasing demand for places within the local area, whilst continuing to offer an excellent education to all pupils.

The proposed expansion would be fully funded by OAT Trust and is proposed to be completed in time for the 2025/26 academic year. Following the completion of these works, an additional 10-15 places would be created over the next 12 months to support a Rising 2's class/cohort. Stoke LA have already identified a shortage of places within our community and are in full support of the proposal.

This consultation is an opportunity to express your views and ask questions on the proposal to increase the school's pupil capacity; your contributions will help inform our decisions and will reflect within our subsequent application to the Department for Education.

We have had a good response to the Stakeholder questionnaire that was sent out. There will be several opportunities to share your views, you can contact us via email at packmoor@packmoor.co.uk or via written confirmation posted to Packmoor Ormiston Academy, Carr Street, Stoke on Trent, ST7 4SP. We will also be hosting a face-to-face drop in session during the next half-term where we can outline the proposal in more detail and answer any questions you may have. We will acknowledge all responses and reply to any queries.

This letter can be found on the school website, packmoorormistonacademy.co.uk

The consultation period starts on, 11th April 2025 and closes on 23rd May 2025.

The final decision as to whether the school expands will be made by the Regional Schools Commissioner on behalf of the Department for Education following the submission of a Significant Change Application by the Trust.

This consultation document has been sent electronically to all parents/carers, trustees, local governors, teachers and support staff who are part of the Packmoor Ormiston Academy community. Electronic copies will also be sent to headteachers of the neighbouring schools in the area.

Once the consultation process is complete and outcome dependent, we will then be in a position to share further information on timelines, as and when these are confirmed. Please note, as we are still in the beginning stages, these arrangements are subject to change but we will endeavour to keep you updated throughout.

We are committed to providing all our pupils with the very best opportunities, skills and experiences that they need in order to fulfil their potential. We believe that creating the best possible learning environment is essential in achieving this. Every decision we make as a school is with your child's and our communities' best interests at heart and that is why we are exploring these initial plans with you.

Thank you once again for your continued support and we look forward to hearing your views. Should you have any specific questions about the proposed creation of the Rising 2's provision, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Moore
Principal