



WGSB

Admissions consultation

Summary of Consultation on increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN), overall capacity, change to admission criteria at Year 7, and change to admission criteria for the sixth form (WGSB6).

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the consultation - it is very much appreciated.

51 people responded to the consultation via email.

50 attended the information evening held at WGSB on 7th November.

2 formal objections to the proposal to increase PAN in Year 7 from Co-Op Academies Trust.

The attached appendix provides the detail from the Student Voice exercise at WGSB

The questions raised online and at the meeting have been summarised below:

QUESTION THEMES

Theme
6th Form - Current Statistics
WGSB response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WGSB currently has 251 students within its sixth form (WGSB6). From a year group of 161 students, 40 left the school at the end of Year 11. We have a funding agreement for 287 students in the sixth form. WGSB is an entirely different school to WGSB6 so the differences are extensive. WGSB6 expects to impact little on the numbers of students at WGSB6. Entry requirements have changed from a minimum of 6 GCSEs at grade 6, to a minimum of 6 GCSEs at grade 9-5 (with specific requirements for certain subjects).
Specific questions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No. of students on roll in Y12 ? No. of Y11 students that left last academic year ? Where did they move to ? Current Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for entry to 6th form at WGSB ? What will WGSB offer that WGSB6 can't ? What do you think the impact on WGSB6 6th form numbers would be ? Will you reduce academic entry requirements ?

Theme
6th Form - Research
WGSB response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See appendix for student/parent/staff views – all of whom are key stakeholders in this decision-making process. Retention of students has always been a priority, with significant input from all subject areas and the WGSB6 team across Year 11. Co-education was one of several factors that has been cited as reasons to leave WGSB at the end of Year 11.



- For 'value-added' please refer to the WGSB website and social media feeds.

Specific questions

1. Have parents/ students been surveyed as to their thoughts on co-ed 6th form ?
2. Should retention of the current students be higher up the list than the addition of girls ?
Opportunity to rebrand current offering.
3. Have Y11 students who left been asked why they moved to alternative schools/colleges ?
4. During the exit interviews how many students cited lack of coeducation as a reason for leaving ?
5. What 'added value' can you offer young people to encourage them to choose/stay at WGSB ?
6. Were the teaching and support staff consulted on this ?
7. Will parent's views on the proposal have impact on the final decision ?
8. Has there been any research carried out to indicate that there is a lack of 6th form places and/or courses currently available to female students ?
9. What plans have been put in place to retain current Y11 students ?

Theme

If co-ed 6th form goes ahead

WGSB response

- The school has no plans to change its name.
- In some subjects class sizes would grow within tolerance, while if numbers increase to an extent where extra groups are needed, this might see class sizes reduce. We do not envisage this having a negative impact on staff workload.
- Men and women have to cooperate in their daily lives both at home and at work in the UK, therefore students who attend a co-educational school are introduced to the benefits of this type of environment before they enter the workforce. Attending a co-ed school instils the value of gender equality that has been built in the UK. It enables students of all genders to learn alongside and from each other. A co-ed school reflects the modern workplace, where teams are mixed gender and career opportunities are equal across genders.
- Having female students would provide many exciting opportunities for student leadership.
- Our WGSB6 pastoral team is experienced and mixed gender; a number of these have had pastoral experience in co-ed schools beyond WGSB. The school plans to continue to develop its mixed facilities and will continue with these plans regardless of any decision around WGSB6.
- We would be aware of any gender imbalance, but we note that it is not a particular issue for current students and has not had a detrimental impact on students at other sixth forms with a gender imbalance.
- We have extensive enrichment activities and would like to offer female sport at some point in the future if plans do progress.
- The School offers predominantly A Levels but also a variety of qualification types at KS5.
- Culturally, a co-ed environment fosters respect for peers of both sex and exposes students to different viewpoints. Students at co-ed schools have been found to demonstrate increased levels of comfort and confidence in social situations and find it easier to make friends of the opposite sex. Learning alongside both male and female peers introduces students to expressing their views in front of members of the opposite sex.

Specific questions

1. If proposal goes ahead would you change the name of the school ?
2. Will 6th form class sizes increase ?
3. Have you considered the potential for conflict/confidence based issues arising from a male/female imbalance ?



4. Would there be a Head Boy and Head Girl or Head Pupil ?
5. How are you going to market the 6th form to attract girls ?
6. What measures would be put in place to ensure the availability of facilities, safe spaces and adequate support for girls ?
7. How will this effect staff workload ?
8. Has the school got any plans for expansion or renovation ?
9. Would there be changes to the curriculum extra curricular activities ?
10. Will 6th form subjects still be A'levels and not other qualifications such as BTECs ?
11. What is the foreseen impact on student numbers by opening to girls ?
12. For girls to fully integrate into 6th form life, will they have the same opportunities to compete in a wide range of sports? Will the changing rooms be expanded to include separate female facilities?
13. Will you offer a broader curriculum ?
14. What will you offer pastorally in Y12/13 ?
15. How will this change the culture of the school ?
16. What is the benefit to girls if they join WGSB ?

Theme
6th Form Numbers / Funding
WGSB response
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Current numbers place some courses at risk due to low numbers. We are planning to increase student numbers to the funding agreement levels.
Specific questions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">Have you forecasted how many girls would need to be admitted to be able to offer a broader curriculum ?

Theme
Collaboration with WGSB 6th Form
WGSB response
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The current extent of collaboration is not large and does not allow for significant enrichment and any real broadening of the curriculum.We are continuing to assess how WGSB and WGSB could increase collaboration and the benefits that this could bring to both schools.We believe that collaboration between the 2 schools should be much more extensive than it currently is. Both schools have sixth forms that were graded as 'outstanding' by separate Ofsted inspections, yet it is our belief that a more united and communal provision would benefit not only the students of WGSB and WGSB, but would also create opportunities for all students within the area.In our view, the current arrangement does not explore the potential benefits that could be offered by the 2 schools working more closely together.
Specific questions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">If you are collaborating with next door already, why do you need to open up to Girls ?Why has there not been a consultation as to what a collaboration between WGSB & WGSB looks like ?When was the informal proposal to collaborate with WGSB made ?Would you consider a more collaborative relationship with WGSB ? If this was an option would you withdraw this consultation ?What does sufficient collaboration look like ?



Theme
6th Form Concerns
WGSB response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In an ideal world, the sixth form would have a 50/50 gender split, however, this is unlikely to be the case. This has not been seen to be a negative issue at other schools on the Wirral with a gender imbalance within their sixth form provision.
Comments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Imbalance of girls/boy ratios We wanted an all-boy education for our son.

Theme
Y7 – Change in PAN and Admissions Criteria
WGSB response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WGSB is oversubscribed at Year 7 and we currently attend up to 50 appeal hearings each summer. The school has capacity to expand, with all year groups from Y7-Y11 set up for 6 classes. Class sizes would increase, on average from 26 to 28 students. WGSB runs several trips ranging from whole year group visits to subject-specific and cross-curricular visits and tours at different price-points. This provides students with the chance to access a range of opportunities and in doing so ensures that it does not place undue financial pressure upon families. WGSB works very hard to maintain excellent standards of behaviour. This is a collective effort and by increasing the numbers by 15 across a year group would not alter the approach taken. WGSB's official PAN and number on role (1042) is currently lower than the net capacity range for the school (1112 – 1236), the projected increase in numbers reflects our capacity to educate students. There is a well-documented attainment gap between disadvantaged learners (DLs) and non-disadvantaged learners. The attainment gap between DLs and non-DLs is substantial: by the age of 5 it is already over 4 months; this grows over the course of primary school and stands at over 9 months by the age of 11. This is why lowering the pass mark is morally correct. The change to the admissions criteria is to increase social mobility and to drive social justice. 'The advancement of justice and the removal of injustice demand joint engagement with institutional choice.' - Professor Amartya Sen The current admission criteria retains up to 15 places for DLs, so by increasing the PAN by 15, this means that there is no decrease in the admission numbers for non-DLs.
Specific questions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why are you planning to increase Y7 Pupil numbers as well as Y12 ? Would class sizes change ? Would this effect availability of places on trips ? Will larger numbers within school have an effect on Behaviour ? What would you do to ease congestion around school – public areas/car parking etc. Would there be changes to the curriculum extra curricular activities ? How many boys would actually be admitted with PAN of 170, following the appeals process ? Is it fair that some boys are allowed in when they haven't reached the required standard and get a place with a lower score due to being looked after/pupil/service premium kids? Is a change to the admissions criteria purely for funding ? How does the new admissions criteria compare to the old criteria ? Will increase in admission numbers of disadvantaged learners mean a decrease in admission numbers for everyone else ?



APPENDIX 1

Student Voice Y7-13

Sample size: 671

Questions

Q1-3: Name / Year / KS

Q4. Here are some of the reasons underpinning the proposal to admit females into our sixth form. Please indicate which of these proposals you believe would be beneficial changes.

- Offering an additional co-educational (mixed) post-16 option to females living on the Wirral
- Allowing WGSB boys to experience a co-educational post-16 experience will help to prepare them for life beyond school
- Admitting females will improve the atmosphere and learning environment in A level lessons
- Admitting females will change the culture of our school in a positive way
- Other - see Q5

Q5. Reflecting on your response to **Q4** - if you would like to offer more detail to explain your response, or have any other ideas relevant to this question, please record them in the box that follows. If you have nothing to add, please put n/a.

Q6. Reflecting on your responses to **Q4** & **Q5**, please indicate your view on whether or not you support the proposal to allow females to apply to join our Sixth Form from September 2025.

- I support this proposal
- I do not support this proposal
- I have no particular view on this proposal

Q7. Please indicate your current intentions regarding your own post-16 education. If you are Y12 / Y13, please opt for n/a as your response to Q7 & Q8.

Is your current intention to join WGSB6 post-Y11?

- Yes
- No
- n/a

Q8. If no: what is your preferred post-16 destination and please provide a reason for considering this alternative



Q9. Forward Planning:

The following are some areas of WGSB6 that could be reviewed. Please indicate which suggestions you agree might need reviewing.

- Review the WGSB uniform code
- Review the fact WGSB6 students cannot leave site if they are free P5
- Review the subjects offered at A level
- Review wider curriculum offering at WGS6 - ie enrichment / personal development programme / sports / music etc
- Other - see Q10

Q10. Reflecting on your response to Q9, please offer some more detail on any suggestions you may have regarding a possible review of WGSB6; this may relate to the ideas above or be original ideas. If you have nothing to add, please put n/a.

Responses

Q2.

2. Your Key Stage (0 point)

[More Details](#)

● KS3	256
● KS4	239
● KS5	176

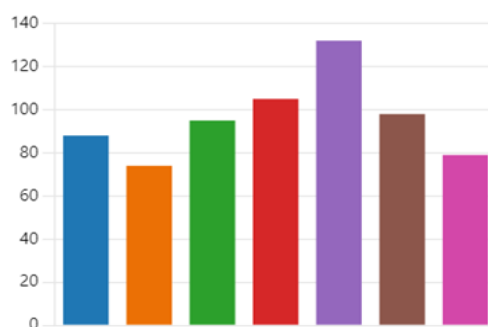


Q3.

3. Your year group (0 point)

[More Details](#)

● Y7	88
● Y8	74
● Y9	95
● Y10	105
● Y11	132
● Y12	98
● Y13	79





Q4.

4. Here are some of the reasons underpinning the proposal to admit females into our sixth form. Please indicate which of these proposals you believe would be beneficial changes.

[More Details](#)

- Offering an additional co-educational... 345
- Allowing WGSB boys to experie... 451
- Admitting females will improve ... 308
- Admitting females will change t... 349
- Other - see Q5 80



Q6.

6. Reflecting on your responses to Q4 & Q5, please indicate your view on whether or not you support the proposal to allow females to apply to join our Sixth Form from September 2025.

[More Details](#)

- I support this proposal 394
- I do not support this proposal 79
- I have no particular view on this ... 198



Q7. and Q8.

Is your current intention to join WGSB6 post-Y11?

Y10/11: (sample 239)	No: 26	Yes: 185	N/A: 26
Y11: (sample 132)	No: 17	Yes: 100	N/A: 15

If no: what is your preferred post-16 destination?

Y11 sample responses	
Apprenticeship related	5
BSFC	8
Other establishments	4