



## Section 10 Consultation Report

**Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary**  
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🌐 [www.mulberrywoodwharf.org](http://www.mulberrywoodwharf.org)

Part of the  
**Mulberry**  
Schools Trust  
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# Executive Summary

Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary is a brand new, fully inclusive primary school, serving families in the Isle of Dogs catchment area in Tower Hamlets. The planned opening date is September 2022 for the first 60 pupils in Reception, growing year-on-year to full capacity at 420. This report outlines the engagement with our stakeholders alongside the formal consultation under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. This consultation enabled, staff and governors from local schools, parents, councillors, community groups and any other interested parties to share their views.

The school is part of the Mulberry Schools Trust and in each of our schools we have a very clear statement of purpose – ‘outstanding achievement for all’. This vision is underpinned by the desire to provide more high-quality education for all children and young people – and a commitment to schools working together to secure an inclusive, ambitious, collegiate, and imaginative offer for parents and their children in East London.

The initial engagement with stakeholders opened in April 2021 when the Local Authority, Tower Hamlets Council and the Department for Education commissioned a competition for provider for a new primary school on the Isle of Dogs through the Free School Presumption route. The initial stakeholder research was conducted as part of the Mulberry Schools Trust’s application for Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary school which was awarded to us in November 2021. The formal statutory consultation ran for six weeks from the 24th of January 2022 to 7th March 2022. Suggestions and comments have been considered, responded to where appropriate and will be shared to ensure they are incorporated into planning proposals where it is relevant.

## About the Mulberry Schools Trust - the Proposer

The Mulberry Schools Trust is a flourishing multi-academy trust set up in 2017 in Tower Hamlets. Our vision is to provide an outstanding education so that our students leave us as highly qualified, confident and articulate young people. Our family of schools include Mulberry School for Girls, Mulberry UTC, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, Mulberry Stepney Green Maths, Computing and Science College and Mulberry Academy London Dock, which will open in September 2023.

By joining the Mulberry Schools Trust, Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary, will become part of our family of schools, with a commitment to working together to secure a great future for every child within our care.

The values of the Trust align directly with those of Tower Hamlets. We have stayed true to our ethos and principles since our founding moment. We base our policies on fairness, transparency and inclusion, whilst taking into consideration the ever-changing world our students are growing up in.

Our aim is to provide all our students with the best education regardless of their starting point. We provide a service to our families and we hold true to the fundamental principles of equal opportunity and inclusion for all.

Our vision for Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary is to create an outstanding, fully inclusive primary school that ensures the needs of all children are met and which makes a vibrant and meaningful contribution to residents in the surrounding area.

We believe in the importance of primary education in shaping a child’s adult life. We know that children’s futures are often formed by the age of 10 and we regard the place of nursery and primary education as an essential part of our family.

Our curriculum offer at Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary will ensure pupils learn about their local and national communities and international issues. We will encourage active participation through pupil-led activities, such as working with charities, fundraising and helping others. We will ensure students are fully aware of both their rights and responsibilities. We will use our curriculum as a vehicle for children to be educated about current world issues, such as the environment, poverty and human rights.

## Initial phase

The Mulberry Schools Trust was informed of it's successful bid to open Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School on 23rd November 2021. In deciding to submit a bid the trust undertook various stakeholder engagement activities.

Methods used to reach stakeholders in advance of the formal consultation have included:

- Extensive discussions with the local authority, including representatives of the Director of Children and Culture. At these meetings the council indicated their full support for a new school due to the need for additional school places as a result of a new housing development in the Isle of Dogs;
- Local consultation prior to the bid submission;
- Meetings of the Chief Executive Officer with local Headteachers;
- Meetings with local parents and student population
- Meetings with local businesses and employers
- Meetings with the developer – Canary Wharf Group whom the Mulberry Schools Trust has a pre-existing relationship with.

## Statutory consultation

The statutory Section 10 consultation commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and ran for six weeks until 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Information on the consultation process was provided to stakeholders took the following forms:

- A public consultation booklet - This was made available in an electronic format and a printed format along with the questionnaire was sent to a wide range of stakeholders including all Headteachers of schools in Tower Hamlets, local Community Centres and Business in the Isle of Dogs and parents of students who have applied to the school.
- A dedicated consultation page with links to the booklet and questionnaire on the Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School website. A pop up banner on the website alerted viewers to these pages.
- An advert for the consultation process was placed on the Tower Hamlets Council's local newspaper 'Our East End' alerting stakeholders to the website and public consultation event.
- The Mulberry Schools Twitter account alerted stakeholders to the consultation during the duration of the consultation period.
- Two public consultation events took place – a parent coffee morning at Mulberry School for Girls and a public consultation at Island House Community Centre in the Isle of Dogs within walking distance to Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School.
- We actively encouraged stakeholders to also email the trust directly with any questions.

## Stakeholders

A wide range of stakeholders were consulted including:

- Local parents and carers;
- Local residents;
- Headteachers of all primary and secondary schools in Tower Hamlets;
- Trustees, Governors and Staff at Mulberry Schools Trust
- Students at Mulberry Schools Trust
- Local Authority Officers from the Children and Culture directorate;
- Local authority ward councillors;

# Statutory consultation results and responses

## Website

From the period of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022, there were 721 views of the Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School website and 634 views on the Section 10 consultation web page.

## Public Consultation Meetings

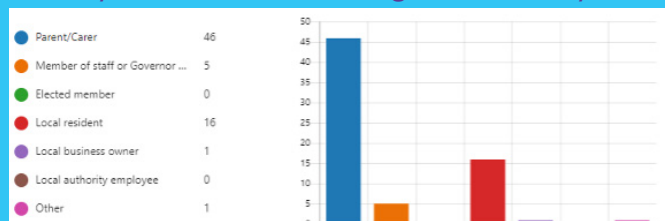
A total of 25 people attended both public consultation meetings who are parents, local residents and local councillors.

## Online questionnaire

69 consultation questionnaire responses were received online and from the public consultation meetings which were logged online.

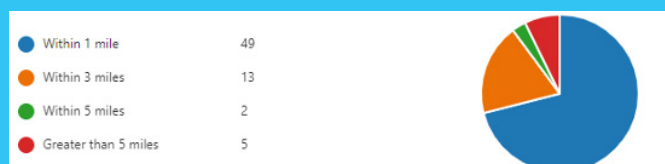
Please see below the responses to the seven questions proposed:

### 1) About you: Which of the following best describes you?



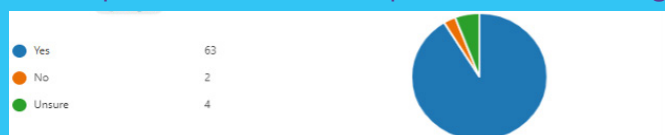
68% of the stakeholders who completed the questionnaire were parents followed by 7% who were members of staff or a governor in Tower Hamlets. 23% of the stakeholders were local residents, 1.5% were business owners and a further 1.5% identified themselves as other.

### 2) Where do you live, approximately, in relation to the proposed site?



71% of the stakeholders who engaged with the questionnaire live within 1 mile of Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School, followed by 18% who live within 3 miles of the school. 3% live within 5 miles and 8% live greater than 5 miles of the school address.

### 3) Do you agree that opening the proposed Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary will provide more choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places on the Isle of Dogs?



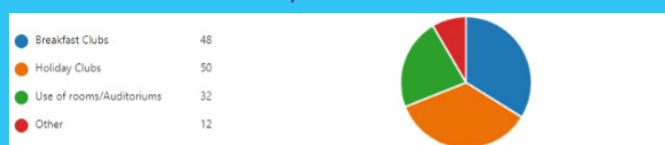
91% of the stakeholders agreed that opening Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary will provide more choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional places on the Isle of Dogs. 3% did not agree with this statement and 6% were unsure.

### 4) Do you agree that the vision and values of Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary meets the needs of the community?



68% of the stakeholders agreed that the vision and values of Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary school meets the needs of the community. 3% of the stakeholders that the vision and values did not meet the needs of the community and 29% were unsure.

### 5) We want to school to be an important part of the local community. Are there any services you would like the school to offer the local community?



As the school will play an important part of the local community, we asked stakeholders what services they would like the school to offer. 35% said that they would like the school to offer holiday clubs, 34% said that they would like to see a breakfast club and 23% said that they would like to use the room/auditoriums in the schools. 8% answered other.

### 6) Should Mulberry Schools Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open this school?



As part of the final choice question, we asked stakeholders whether the Mulberry Schools Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open the school. 92% felt that the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement and 8% answered no to this question. Out of the 8% who answered no to this question only one person commented that they would like the school to have a Christian/Catholic direction which is why the answered no to this question.



## 7) Please provide us with any feedback or comments.

There were 21 responses to question 7 and they were as follows:

- 1) Great to see Mulberry on the Island!
- 2) Mulberry is a renowned name in education and great to see that they are expanding to primary education.
- 3) Please provide after school care for children whose parents work 9-5 full time jobs, also please include a Nursery for pre-schoolers
- 4) I am so excited for this school to open.
- 5) After researching and reading the school description, I believe that the Mulberry Wood Wharf School will be the ideal primary school in Canary Wharf providing children's with outstanding teachers and facilities.
- 6) We have schools with places not filled.
- 7) The school needs to ensure that EVERY pupil attends on foot and is not transported by car. As such the catchment area should only support active travel to school.
- 8) The school needs to be of outstanding quality by ofsted standards
- 9) Ensure that you build a good reputation abs ranking of the school from the start - IOD is famous for young parents leaving for elsewhere due to lack of good schools - this needs to be reversed.
- 10) More consultations if possible at the community centre
- 11) There is a lack of photos and description of the school facility. Opening tour will help parents to see the school and hear the teachers to explain the ethos and plans. No info on the head or key teachers either.
- 12) It would be helpful if the school appointed staff from the local community and not just those who are already working with the trust.
- 13) It should have a Christian and Catholic direction
- 14) School to be open to applicants within Tower Hamlets, not just Isle of Dogs.
- 15) I am a member of staff in one of the Trust schools and it is brilliant to see a Mulberry primary provision. This will also help with staff recruitment if staff are able to send their children to a school in a Trust.
- 16) If any new school opens will be an opportunity for parents and children, they will have more choices of school. also it will be closer to the Isle of Dogs residents.
- 17) Please ensure quality of education and grade standard to be top notch (as people pay top notch money to move to Canary Wharf / Wood Wharf)
- 18) Good to see a new school to meet local demand.
- 19) It is important this school offers places to Wood Wharf residents first as a priority before taking children around the area. It should cater to both girls and boys

and be the best school in the area given its location in Canary Wharf. It should attract the best teachers etc accordingly.

20) I live on the estate of where the school is. The fact that the school will open fully over a few years means my son misses out on attending the school. By the time the school opens up for his year he will have finished primary school which is such a shame as we are doing a 1 hour 2 bus journey for school when it would have been great to do a 1 minute walk instead. I do also worry about the impact it will have to the residents who live very close to the site. Parking traffic etc especially as it is such a built up area

21) I have volunteered for the past four years at Arnhem Wharf Primary as a reading support volunteer. I read for one or two afternoons a week, 20 minutes per child, with a range of children selected by the Head of KS1 at the school. They weren't necessarily those who found it most difficult to read. Some were children who were thought not to be achieving their potential. But I did receive some basic training in phonics. In my lessons, I helped children create stories around subjects that interested them - from ghost trains, to baby penguins, to You Tube influencers and pop heroes. It's amazing how inspired the children can become when they feel in control of words and story. I love Arnhem Wharf still, but it is a little far for me to reach easily now I'm in my 70s. A bout of illnesses including Covid, plus a change of head made last Xmas the right time for me to leave. But I enjoyed the work so much and would love to continue it in a new environment with a new group of children that are nearer to hand.. A brand new school seems like a wonderful opportunity. I was a TV producer and journalist before I retired so words and stories are my thing. I have CRB clearance, dated last September. PS: I've answered yes to the funding question only because I had to give an answer, The truth is I don't have an opinion. Both independent and grant aided schools do a great job.

# Conclusion and next steps

There has been extensive ongoing consultation with a wide range of stakeholders since the earliest stages of development of the proposal for this school. Feedback has been overwhelmingly supportive and positive.

We are confident Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School will provide much needed places for parents/ carers in the community and this is fully supported by Tower Hamlets Council. The Mulberry Schools Trust will now begin the process of agreeing a Funding Agreement for Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School with the Secretary of State for Education.

We were very pleased to receive feedback regarding the services that we can offer our community, and will definitely factor in the demand for breakfast clubs, after school classes and holiday schemes into our curriculum and extra curricula planning.

We would like to thank all stakeholders who have taken time to read and hear about our exciting plans and provide feedback. We will, of course, continue to work with stakeholders through the building phases of the new school.



**Mulberry**  
Schools Trust

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**Mulberry**  
School for Girls



**Mulberry UTC**  
Where learning works



**Mulberry**  
Academy Shoreditch

**Mulberry**  
Stepney Green Maths,  
Computing and Science College

**Mulberry**  
Wood Wharf Primary

**Mulberry**  
Academy London Dock

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