



KING EDWARD VI GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HOLISTIC, ACADEMIC, EDUCATION

Notice of Consultation: 1st September 2022 - 3rd October 2022

Consultation:

King Edward VI Grammar Hospital Walk Footpath Safeguarding Proposals.

King Edward VI Grammar operates on a split site with a public footpath dividing the two parts of the site - the main site and Foundation House [the old Louth Cottage Hospital]. See map with footpath noted in red.

In order to safeguard our students and to prevent access into the school site, and as an alternative to seeking the closure and extinguishment or diversion of the Hospital Walk footpath, King Edward's is proposing to apply for planning permission to erect fencing and gates at both ends of the Hospital Walk footpath to restrict access to the general public onto the school site from 08:30 to 16:30 Monday to Friday during term time only.

Description:

All school's have a legal duty of care to safeguard children in their care. This duty includes protecting pupils or staff from -

- (i) violence or the threat of violence,
- (ii) harassment
- (iii) alarm or distress arising from unlawful activity, or
- (iv) any other risk to their health or safety arising from such activity

This legal duty of care is inspected by OFSTED they require all schools to demonstrate how they are fulfilling these legal safeguarding obligations and protecting the children in their care: failure to safeguard children could lead to a best to a Requires Improvement judgement or at worst the school being placed into Special Measures.

The school has taken various measures over the past ten years to reduce these risks by erecting signage and fencing, putting up gates, adding electronic access control by key card for these gates, installing CCTV and adding in additional staffing duties and patrols at peak times.

Despite these measures there have been increasing incursions onto the school site, acts of intimidation and harassment of our pupils by groups of youths. These acts of intimidation and harassment have included links to the potential supply and sale of drugs and culminated in w/c 16th May 2021 with the assault of one of our pupils who was hit in the head with a nunchuck [a weapon that consists of two sticks joined by a short length of cord, chain]. This incident was reported to the Police who attended the site to investigate.

The school is proposing to:

1. Ensure the safeguarding of the children and staff on our site by gating the Hospital Walk footpath restricting access during the school day from 08:30 to 16:30 from Monday to Friday during term time only.
2. Reach local agreement on these arrangements to avoid further incursions and incidents on the school site and end the risk of our children being acted, harassed, or intimidated.
3. Maintain access to the Hospital Walk footpath at all other times.

Headmaster James Lascelles

King Edward VI Education Trust, Edward Street, Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 9LL Chair of Trustees: Mr Sean Chesman

Tel: (01507) 600456 Fax: (01507) 600316 Heads PA: lisa.underdown@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk www.keviet.org

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Benefits

By proposing local agreement on restrictions to the Hospital Walk Footpath the school is hoping to:

- 1) Protect our students and staff from the threat of harassment and intimidation and enable the school to operate freely across and up the footpath during the school day.
- 2) Reach a pragmatic local agreement that will maintain the footpath for the future use and enjoyment of the general public outside of the restricted school hours.
- 3) Avoid the, controversial, longer and more protracted permanent closure and extinguishment of the footpath under Section 118B, 1b of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 or alternatively application for a Public Spaces Protection Order both provide for the stopping up of:

‘certain highways which crosses land occupied for the purposes of a school, for the purposes of crime presentation and for the purpose of protecting the pupils or staff from -

- (i) violence or the threat of violence,
- (ii) harassment,
- (iii) alarm or distress arising from unlawful activity, or
- (iv) any other risk to their health or safety arising from such activity ‘

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/schedule/6>

Consultation Arrangements

1. Interested parties should send comments either in writing to:

Nick Robertson
Deputy Head Logistics and Operations
King Edward VI Grammar
Edward Street
Louth LN11 9LL

or via email to:

consultations@kevigslincs.sch.uk

2. Full plans and proposals can be viewed on the Consultations page of the school’s website www.kevigslincs.org/consultations
3. Interested Parties may attend the public consultation meeting on Wednesday 14th September to discuss the school’s plans - further details at www.kevigslincs.org/consultations

With kindest regards

James Lascelles
Headmaster

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