

**QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE TRUSTEES
RAWDON FRIENDS SCHOOL TRUST (RFST)
DRAFT ONLY**

A short version of the Proposal, still under discussion, to review the objects of the trust.

1 HISTORICAL PREAMBLE mostly omitted

Rawdon Friends (Quaker) School closed in 1921. There were remaining investments.

The Charity Commission 7.1.1988 established a charity with the following objectives:

“...the Governors shall apply the income of the Charity in promoting the education of children of members of the Society of Friends who are attending a secondary school officially connected with the London Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends and who reside or have a parent residing within the area of the Yorkshire General Meeting of the Society of Friends.”

In 1997 the Educational Grants Committee merged six trusts (the General Meeting School Fund, the General meeting Educational Fund, The Thomas Richardson Fund, The Rawdon Trust, The Rawdon Old Scholars Association Trust and the Rawdon Rents) into the Rawdon Friends School Trust. In 2018 the endowment was over £334,000.

2 HOW THE TRUST HAS BEEN APPLIED SINCE 1998

The Trust’s annual income has been equally distributed to pay a part of the fees of all the eligible pupils at the eligible schools. Only three schools are now eligible: Ackworth School, Pontefract; Bootham School, York; The Mount School, York.

The total number of eligible pupils has been between 3 – 8 per annum.

3 THOSE NOT BENEFITING

70+ teenagers per year regularly attending Yorkshire Friends Holiday School activities.

4 RELEVANT CHANGES AMONG QUAKERS & IN SOCIETY

A Very few children are now eligible for grants under the 1988 scheme.

It is unrealistic to anticipate that this number will or could ever increase because:

B Year on year a decreasing number of children of Quaker families attend Quaker Schools. For some this is a question of cost. For others it is because they find fee paying schools incompatible with the Quaker testimony to equality.

C The majority of Quaker children (those mentioned in 3 above) now continue to further education or training after leaving school. All of these have fees to pay for post-secondary education and/or training.

5 PROPOSAL UNDER DISCUSSION

Quakers in Yorkshire trustees therefore feel that they should revise the objectives of the fund to enable them to make a useful contribution to the education of Quaker children/teenagers today and in the future.

We are proposing a way to use the scheme to benefit all the Quaker children residing in the area covered by Quakers in Yorkshire at the point when they leave secondary education:

- We propose to retain the basic principle of eligibility i.e. “the education of children of members of the Society of Friends who... reside or have a parent residing within the area of the Yorkshire General Meeting of the Society of Friends.”
- The annual application of all the investment income would continue to be split equally between eligible young people
- Young people would be eligible for a single grant in the summer when they leave secondary education. This grant to be used towards educational or training expenses.

[further detail omitted]

The overall effect of this new scheme would be to spread the benefit of the RFST across all families within QIY.