

Name of meeting: Cabinet  
 Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**Title of report: Report on the outcomes of the statutory consultation about revised proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and the outcomes of the non statutory consultation in relation to the plans for the implementation for Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First School**

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes
Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan?</a>	Yes June 2011
Is it eligible for call in by <a href="#">Scrutiny?</a>	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Alison O'Sullivan 06/12/11
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	David Smith 06/12/11
Is it signed off by the Acting Assistant Director - Legal & Governance?	Vanessa Redfern 06/12/11
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Cllr Cath Harris and Cllr Peter O'Neill – Children's Services

Electoral [wards](#) affected: Birstall and Birkenshaw

Ward councillors consulted: Birstall and Birkenshaw

Public or private: Public

### 1. Purpose of report

The report sets out the outcomes from the statutory 6 week consultation about a proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and the outcomes of the non statutory consultation in relation to the plans for the implementation for Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First School for Members' consideration.

## **2. Background**

### **2.1 The re-organisation of the 3-tier system in Birkenshaw, Cleckheaton and Gomersal – The Whitcliffe Mount pyramid.**

As part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Primary Capital Programme (PCP) Kirklees Council proposed to change from a 3 to 2 tier system of education in the Birkenshaw, Cleckheaton and Gomersal areas (known as the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid) of north Kirklees. For schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid the LA carried out a series of consultations before publishing a series of statutory proposals that were decided between December 2009 and March 2010.

### **2.2 Approved proposals to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School linked to the establishment of the co-educational E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough**

Reference Cabinet Report 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 - *The linked statutory proposals to Establish a new school at Howden Clough and Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School*

As part of what was consulted and decided upon in relation to the LA's BSF programme, Birkenshaw Middle School was subject to linked statutory proposals to;

- A competition to establish a new 11-16 secondary school for 1350 pupils at Howden Clough from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013
- Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 (this was a year later than the other 3 Middle school closures because of the phasing of the capital works required to establish the new Academy)

The proposals were linked because the displaced pupils that would have been on roll at the time of closure were to be transferred to the new school. Kirklees Council Cabinet approved the proposals on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### **2.3 Post BSF – Modification and confirmation of the re-organisation of the 3-tier system in Cleckheaton and Gomersal.**

*Reference Cabinet Report 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 – Review of the implementation of the statutory proposals for Cleckheaton and Gomersal*

2.3.1 On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 Cabinet received a report which:-

- advised Members on the cancellation of the capital funding available for the BSF programme and updated them on primary capital funding available and the implications for the implementation of the statutory decisions made by Cabinet for changes to schools in the Cleckheaton and Gomersal area.
- advised that members proceed with the implementation of the approved proposals to change schools in the Cleckheaton and Gomersal areas of Kirklees in order to re-organise from a 3-tier to a 2-tier system of provision.

2.3.2 On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 Cabinet Members

- Confirmed that the reasons for the re-organisation of the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools from a 3 to a 2 tier system of education still apply.
- Confirmed that the agreed proposals to re-organise from 3-tier to 2-tier, should be implemented following the agreed timetable
- Requested officers to initiate with the highest priority all necessary procedures to implement the re-organisation, including processes to support HR, finance,

admissions and the planning, design and subsequent capital works to buildings to make provision for pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

## **2.4 Post BSF – Revocation of proposals to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School linked to the establishment of the co-educational E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough**

*Reference Cabinet Report 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011- Request to initiate the statutory process to revoke the approved linked proposals to establish the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough and discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School*

2.4.1 On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 cabinet received a report which:-

- advised Members that circumstances had so altered since the original proposals were approved that made it inappropriate and impossible to implement the linked proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School establish the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough.
- advised that the LA needs to be relieved of the statutory duty to implement the linked proposals and asked Members to approve that the statutory process to revoke the approved proposals be initiated with the publication in September 2011 of proposals to be relieved of the duty to implement under Schedule 2 to EIA 2006 (duty to implement proposals).

2.4.2 On 13<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet Members

- approved that officers initiate the statutory revocation process by publishing proposals to revoke the linked decisions, under Schedule 2 to EIA 2006, at the beginning of the Autumn Term 2011

## **2.5 Revised proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 and the review of the implementation for the re-organisation of the 3-tier system in the Birkenshaw and East Bierley areas.**

*Reference Cabinet Report 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 - revised proposals to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and the pattern of primary provision for Birkenshaw and East Bierley.*

2.5.1 On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 cabinet received a report which advised members that:-  
**Birkenshaw Middle School**

- In order to continue with the re-organisation from a 3-tier to a 2-tier system of provision across the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid, and, subject to the revocation of the existing statutory proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School, it would be necessary to bring forward for statutory decision-making a revised proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School.
- The reasons for the discontinuation of Birkenshaw Middle School as set out in the cabinet report of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 still apply, and, that the proposed implementation date for the discontinuation of Birkenshaw Middle School should remain as was originally decided ie 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 in order to remain compatible with the implementation of the statutory proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School to support their transformation to all through primary schools.
- The requirement to revoke the existing proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School brings uncertainty for families of pupils, school staff and governors. To alleviate concerns for parents, school staff and governors, and, to expedite processes in order to bring certainty as soon as is possible, the requisite 6-week statutory consultation for the revised proposal for the discontinuation of Birkenshaw Middle

School could run in parallel with the 6-week representation period for the revocation notices. Therefore, it was proposed that the statutory process for the revised proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School should commence with a 6-week period of statutory consultation as soon as possible on or after Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

2.5.2 On 13<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet members approved that:-

#### **Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Revised proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School should be brought forward for statutory process.
- Officers carry out statutory consultation in September and October 2011 about revised proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School on 31 August 2013 and bring back the outcomes of that consultation for consideration by Kirklees Council Cabinet later in the autumn term
- The requisite 6 week statutory consultation for a revised proposal for the discontinuation of Birkenshaw Middle School should run in parallel with the 6 week representation period for the revocation notices.

2.5.3 On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011, in the same cabinet report, members were advised that:-

#### **Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC)First School**

- As was required for schools in Cleckheaton and Gomersal following the cancellation of the BSF and PCP capital funding programmes it has been necessary to review the implementation of proposals for primary provision in Birkenshaw. The review had been carried out in light of the fundamental change which is the current availability of capital resources to enable members to review and consider fully the best investment of the limited capital now available to implement the changes to support the 3 to 2 tier system.
- the review had focussed on the best investment and use of the physical resources available in the area in order to maximise the educational benefit of the re-organised provision and to put in place smooth and effective transition arrangements that minimise any potential disruption to the education of the pupils involved.
- The need for pupils places in the Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School PAA indicates that on average just over 55 pupils in each primary school age group live in the Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School PAA and the majority of these attend Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School or East Bierley CE(VC) First School.
- On average, there are 53 children per age group that are below statutory school age currently resident in the PAA. There is no indication that this pattern is increasing or decreasing. Therefore the projected demand for places from pupils living in the Birkenshaw PAA is likely to be approximately 50 pupils per year which can be accommodated in a 2-class entry school with a PAN of 60
- The need for pupils places in the East Bierley CE(VC) First School PAA indicates that on average, there are 16 children per age group of statutory school age currently resident in the PAA and all of these 16 on average attend East Bierley CE(VC) First School or Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School
- On average there are just under 16 pupils per age group in the under school age children living in the PAA and so the projected demand for places from pupils living in the East Bierley PAA is likely to be approximately 16 pupils per year which can be accommodated in a school with a PAN of 20.

2.5.4 In the cabinet report on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011, members were advised of revised implementation arrangements for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School:-

### **Original proposals**

Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School is located on a relatively spacious site. There are external play spaces and the school consists of 3 structures; two main buildings each containing 5 class bases and a modular building containing nursery provision.

The agreed proposal is to enlarge the school and accommodate two additional primary school age groups, Y5 and Y6, with two classes of 30 pupils in each year group. Officers from Kirklees Council had commenced preliminary discussions with the governing body of the school regarding the possible design of permanent changes to the building.

The preferred refurbishment as part of the Primary Capital Programme consolidated the school into a single building by an extensive extension of one of the school's existing buildings to provide the required classrooms, the nursery provision, hall and dining space and kitchen facilities of sufficient size to cater for a 2 Form Entry all through primary school. Indicative costs for the delivery of a single building solution for the school range from a minimum cost of £4.56m to a maximum cost of £7.12m (see Appendix A).

### **Options considered**

As part of the review of the implementation of the proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery school other options have been considered that would provide enough space to accommodate the additional Y5 and Y6 pupils;

- It would be possible to provide 4 additional permanent build classrooms to the existing building mix without addressing hall and dining or kitchen facilities and retaining the Nursery within its modular accommodation. This would require the use of temporary modular buildings to support the retention of Y5 and Y6 in 2012 and 2013 whilst permanent buildings are constructed.
- A further possibility would be to provide 4 additional classrooms using modular accommodation on site without addressing hall and dining or kitchen facilities and retaining the Nursery within its modular accommodation.
- An alternative possibility would be, as is reflected elsewhere in the pyramid re-organisation, to make use of the site and buildings currently occupied by Birkenshaw Middle School by investing the limited capital available into the refurbishment of the building and relocate Birkenshaw CE(VC) First and Nursery School. It was acknowledged that there is a DfE-approved business case for the establishment of a new Free School in the Birkenshaw area, with the preferred site from those being considered by the Free School proposers being the Birkenshaw Middle School site. In considering available sites for primary school provision in Birkenshaw, it has been noted that there is availability of sufficient places at other secondary schools, predominantly Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College, to accommodate all current and anticipated demand from the Birkenshaw area. In this context, the Birkenshaw Middle School site was regarded as an available option for primary school provision.

### **Alternative approach to implement the prescribed alterations to Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Consideration of the capital available as well as the location, suitability and sustainability of the buildings available, as well as the impact of transition arrangements and long term educational benefit suggest that the better value for money solution would be to re-locate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to the Birkenshaw Middle School site and buildings for the following reasons;
  - Investment and adaptation to the building to provide 420 place 5-11 primary school with a nursery in a single building as well as the required hall and dining space and kitchen facilities could be delivered for capital investment ranging from a minimum cost of £2.87m to a maximum cost of £4.94m (see Appendix A).
  - The site is larger than that of the current Birkenshaw CE(C)First and Nursery school site
- The relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to the Birkenshaw Middle School site would not require any statutory process as the distance between the sites is less than 2 miles. Although no statutory process would be required it was recommended that it would be appropriate to undertake non-statutory consultation with a range of stakeholders including families of pupils, school staff, governors, the Diocese of Wakefield and members of the community.

2.5.5 On 13<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet members approved that:-

- Non-statutory consultation about the relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to the site and buildings currently occupied by Birkenshaw Middle School, to provide an all through primary school with nursery provision should take place at the same time as the statutory consultation to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School, with families of pupils, schools staff, governors, the Diocese of Wakefield, members of the community and other interested parties and that the outcomes of that consultation be reported to Kirklees Council Cabinet later in the autumn term.

2.5.6 In the cabinet report on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011, members were advised of revised implementation arrangements for East Bierley CE(VC) First School:-

### **Original proposals**

East Bierley CE (VC) First School is a part Victorian building, located on a very restricted site in the village of East Bierley, and is surrounded by common land and adjacent to the Village Green.

The agreed proposal is to enlarge the school and accommodate two additional primary school age groups, Y5 and Y6, with one class of 30 pupils in each year group. There were no fully developed plans for the physical expansion of the building but options that were being explored included complicated modifications to the existing building, which would have required a full school 'decant' whilst work was ongoing. Another option would have been to provide a completely new school building on a suitable site located within the village.

Indicative costs for the delivery for these options were in excess of £3 million for adaptations to the existing building and in excess of £5 million for a brand new school building.

As part of the review of the implementation of the proposals for East Bierley CE(VC) First and Nursery school other options had been considered that would provide enough space to accommodate the additional Y5 and Y6 pupils;

### **Options considered**

- It would be possible to relocate East Bierley CE(VC) First School to a different site outside the village. However, consultation responses received as part of the non-statutory consultation that was carried out in 2009 sought views from the community about proposals to move the school to an alternative site such as the site of Birkenshaw Middle school overwhelmingly supported the view that the school played an important part in village life and should be retained in the village.
- A further possibility would be to implement the proposals by using the existing physical capacity of the East Bierley CE(VC) First School building to provide all through primary provision but with a reduced Admission number of 20 instead of 30 places per yeargroup. The East Bierley CE(VC) First School building could accommodate 140 pupils aged 5-11 in 5 mixed age classes.

### **Alternative approach to implement the prescribed alterations to East Bierley CE(VC) First School**

- Consideration of the capital available as well as the location, suitability and sustainability of the buildings available, as well as the impact of transition arrangements and long term educational benefit and impact on the village suggest that the better value for money solution would be to retain the school in its existing buildings on its existing site for the following reasons;
  - East Bierley CE(VC) First School could become an all through primary school if the size of each year group were to be reduced to 20 pupils per year. An all through primary school to serve year groups YR-Y6 would require space for 140 pupils.
  - An additional modular classroom space would be required on a temporary basis to manage an initial increase in numbers when Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are retained. All existing pupils would be retained at the school until the appropriate age of transfer but a reduced intake of 20 pupils into Reception would over time lead to an all-through primary school with up to 140 pupils in 7 age groups grouped in 5 mixed age classes fully accommodated within the existing building and could be delivered with minimal capital cost.
  - To respond to the local community's desire to retain a primary school in East Bierley Village.
- Although no statutory proposal to reduce the PAN would be required it was recommended that it would be appropriate to undertake non-statutory consultation with a range of stakeholders including families of pupils, school staff, governors, the Diocese of Wakefield and members of the community.

2.5.7 On 13<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet members approved that:-

- Non-statutory consultation about the proposal to retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building and reduce the school's published admission number (PAN) to 20 pupils into the Reception class from 2013 so that eventually as the smaller year groups progress through the school it becomes a 140 place, 5-11, all through primary school. should take place at the same time as the statutory consultation to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School, with families of pupils, schools staff, governors, the Diocese of Wakefield, members of the community and other interested parties and that the outcomes of that consultation be reported to Kirklees Council Cabinet later in the autumn term.

### **3. Consultation strategy and methodology**

#### **Statutory Consultation Birkenshaw Middle School Non-statutory consultation Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School Non-statutory consultation East Bierley CE(VC) First School**

- 3.1.** A 6 week<sup>1</sup> (term time) statutory consultation about revised proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School, and, a 6 week (term time) non statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School took place between 3rd October and 18th November 2011 to seek the views of parents/carers, school staff, professionals, governors, pupils, the local community and other stakeholders about the proposals.
- 3.2.** Consultation documents were written and produced with reference to the detail contained in the cabinet report from 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- 3.3.** Consultation documents were made widely available. Documents were sent to the families of pupils affected by the proposals. Documents were also sent to school staff and via royal mail to school governors. Copies of the consultation document were also sent to elected members, trade union representatives, faith groups, neighbouring Local Authorities, early years providers and other key stakeholders. The consultation document was also made available on the Council's website, at each of the events and by request. A complete list of distribution is attached at Appendix B.
- 3.4.** The consultation material consisted of the document 'Statutory consultation about the proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and Non statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School' a copy of which can be found at Appendix C. Additionally, illustrations of indicative site layouts and floor plans to show how the minimum and maximum options for developing a 2 class entry primary school at both the Station Lane site and the Bradford Road site could look were made available on the Kirklees Website and at consultation drop-in sessions.
- 3.5.** The consultation document outlined the proposals, a proposed timeline for developments and charts showing the effect of the changes on pupils currently in each of the three schools. The document had a comprehensive response sheet. The response sheet had four sections;
- Section 1 asked about the type of stakeholder responding
  - Section 2 asked whether people supported or opposed the proposals relating to Birkenshaw Middle School and the reasons for those views as well as asking about views about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils.
  - Section 3 asked whether people supported or opposed the proposals relating to Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and the reasons for those views as well as asking about views about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils.
  - Section 4 asked whether people supported or opposed the proposals relating to East Bierley CE(VC) First School and the reasons for those views as well as asking about views about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils.

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<sup>1</sup> The consultation period included 1 week which was half term and therefore lasted for 7 weeks in total.

- 3.6.** Response sheets could be completed in writing or electronically on the Council website. In addition, individuals were encouraged to feedback views either via email or letter. A 'Freepost' address was available for returning paper forms and/or letters to maximise the opportunities for receiving feedback to the proposals
- 3.7.** During the consultation period the LA became aware of a very small number of respondents who experienced some technical difficulties when using the online response sheet. Due to the unforeseen problems with the online form, the council allowed an additional week (up until Friday, 25 November) to accept responses by email. This was communicated by issuing a letter via the four affected schools to parents of pupils and by posting an update on the website.
- 3.8.** The Council held four consultation 'drop-in sessions' for parents/carers and members of the community to enable individuals to speak with officers about the proposals in more detail (and in particular about the potential implications for them as individuals and their families).
- 3.9.** Total of 96 people attended the public consultation 'drop-in' sessions.

<b>Table 1 – Consultation 'drop-in' sessions</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	East Bierley CE(VC) First School	3.25pm to 6.25pm
17 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	Birkenshaw Middle School	3.30pm to 6.30pm
18 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College	3.30pm to 6.30pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2011	Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School	3.30pm to 6.30pm

- 3.10.** The purpose of the meetings was for officers to support and advise and offer clarification to groups and individuals about matters relating to the proposals in order that they may form a considered view to enable them to respond on the matters on which they were being consulted by either completing the relevant feedback forms or responding via another medium such as emails, letters etc. This was intended to guarantee that people's views would be faithfully represented for inclusion in the outcome report.
- 3.11.** Bespoke meetings for staff and governors at Birkenshaw Middle School, Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School, East Bierley CE(VC) First School and Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College were held at each school during the consultation period. The notes of these meetings are detailed in Appendix D.
- 3.12.** During the consultation period, members of Kirklees Council cabinet visited Birkenshaw Middle School, Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First school sites to walk round the school buildings and external areas so as to gain first-hand knowledge and understanding of the different school sites, their suitability and current use.

#### **4. Response to Consultation**

- 4.1.** Attached at Appendix D is a comprehensive report which details the responses received to the consultation in full.
- 4.2.** During the consultation period there were approximately 3300 documents distributed either via royal mail, the schools or at consultation events.

4.3. The Council received 304 responses in relation to this consultation.

<b>Type of response:</b>	<b>No. Received</b>
E-mail	14
Letter	22
Petition	1
On-line response	46
Response Sheet	221
	304

4.4. Throughout the consultation period opinions were recorded via a dedicated e-mail address (school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk), by a freepost address and via telephone (01484 225014).

4.5. The types of stakeholders responding to the consultation are detailed in table 3 below

<b>Type of respondent:</b>	<b>No. Received *</b>	<b>% of total received</b>
Parent/carer	168	51%
Member of staff	43	13%
Governor	24	7%
Pupil	10	3%
Local Resident	68	20%
Other (Community)	19	6%

\*Some responses were received from individuals that categorised themselves as being multiple stakeholders

## **5. Key Messages received from the consultation**

The feedback received in response to the consultation is detailed in full and attached at Appendix D.

- The responses and feedback received during the consultation from written responses have been summarised in the sections below to enable an analysis of the key points raised.

### **5.1 Feedback received about the revised proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School**

#### **Birkenshaw Middle School stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 28 responses**

#### **12 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- There was support for the closure of the Middle School as parents acknowledged that to leave a Middle School open would not be compatible with a two tier system.
- There was support for moving to the two tier system to support raising educational standards.
- Support for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School was linked to the condition that the site be used to provide a secondary school.
- Concern was expressed about the potential size of Whitcliffe Mount and the impact this could have on pastoral care. There was further concern about the travel impact of pupils from the area travelling to Whitcliffe Mount.
- Some concern was expressed at the proposed transitional arrangements and the potential impact on pupils remaining at Birkenshaw Middle School should most pupils in the older year groups choose to transfer to Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College in 2012

#### **14 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Some parents who opposed the closure of the Middle School expressed the view that the school should be transformed into a high school as it was a good school with strong community links where local children could walk to.
- Concern was expressed by one parent at the potential size of Whitcliffe Mount should there be no secondary provision in Birkenshaw.

#### **1 responded 'don't know' to the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- A parent of a pupil in Y5 expressed concern about the potential disruption to the education of Y5 pupils with the proposed arrangements for transition and that the school would be unable to retain teaching staff in its final year.

#### **1 response did not support or oppose the proposal**

- The respondent supported the establishment of a high school using the Birkenshaw Middle School site

**Governors = 3 Individual responses/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

#### **1 individual governor response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle school**

- The view was expressed that the change from 3 to 2 tier should not have proceeded when BSF funding was stopped but stated that Birkenshaw Middle School cannot

continue as a "lone" middle school. The governor expressed concern at the travel implications for pupils attending Whitcliffe Mount from the area and the potential size of the school

## **2 individual governor responses disagree with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- The view was expressed that Whitcliffe Mount would be too large without secondary provision located in Birkenshaw and that the proposed transition arrangements would be disruptive.

## **Collective Governing Body response**

- The view was expressed that the change from 3 to 2 tier should not have proceeded when BSF funding was stopped but stated that Birkenshaw Middle School cannot continue as a "lone" middle school.
- The governing body stated that Whitcliffe Mount was a good school but expressed some concern about the potential size of Whitcliffe Mount.
- The governing body expressed support for any parents who may wish to take the opportunity to transfer to Whitcliffe Mount in 2012
- The governing body expressed concern at transport arrangements for pupils travelling to Whitcliffe Mount.
- The governing body stated that it would be vital that the school receives support from the LA to ensure these pupils continue to enjoy the breadth of curriculum currently being offered.
- The governing body stated that Birkenshaw Middle School pupils' education and well being will remain the highest priority.

## **Consultation Meeting**

### **Staff = 5 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

#### **1 individual staff response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- The two tier system was supported but the staff members expressed concern about the proposed transitional arrangements in terms of delivering the curriculum for pupils

#### **4 individual staff responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Concern was expressed about the impact on individuals jobs
- Concern was expressed about the transitional arrangements and the potential for instability for pupils.
- Concern was expressed that Whitcliffe Mount would become too large and this could impact on pupil safety if there was no secondary provision in Birkenshaw.

### **Staff consultation meeting**

At the consultation meeting staff expressed views and sought clarification about the impact of the proposals in terms of protecting the curriculum for pupils and the availability of jobs as displaced staff.

### **Pupils = 2 responses**

#### **1 response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- "I now go to Birkenshaw middle it's a good school and would like to stay here as a high school.[the proposals are] taking far too long I don't want to go to Whitcliffe Mount."

#### **1 response disagrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- “It's a good school - I want an academy. I think Whitcliffe Mount will be overcrowded”

## **Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School stakeholders**

### **Parents/carers = 47 responses**

#### **21 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Support was expressed for the proposals so as to support a change to a two tier system of education thereby raising educational standards and removing a transition point
- Support was expressed for the closure of the Middle School to enable the site to be used for a secondary school
- Some concern was expressed at the proposed transitional arrangements and the potential impact of the current Y5 pupils being a year group left at the school should all the pupils in the older year groups choose to transfer to Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College

#### **15 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Parents supported the change of Birkenshaw Middle school to change and become a secondary school or that the site be used to establish a secondary school
- Some parents expressed the view that because plans for secondary provision were unclear beyond September 2013 Birkenshaw Middle School should remain open until such a time as there was more certainty
- One parent expressed the view that Whitcliffe Mount was too far away and that they were concerned about the physical capacity of the school in being able to accommodate pupils from across the area.

#### **10 responded ‘don’t know’ about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Parents cited that they were concerned about the disruption and uncertainty for pupils

#### **1 response did not support or oppose the proposal**

### **Governors = 1 Individual response/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

#### **1 individual governor response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but made no comments**

#### **Collective Governing Body response**

The specific issue about the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School was not raised in the collective response received from the governing body.

#### **Governing Body consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School was not discussed at the governing body consultation meeting.

### **Staff = 6 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

#### **3 individual staff responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- The view was expressed that the closure would support a move to a 2 tier system meaning less transition points.
- There was concern expressed about the potential size of Whitcliffe Mount and the travel implications for pupils in the area.

**2 individual staff responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but no comments were made**

**1 individual staff response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School and no comments were made.**

### **Collective staff response**

The specific issue about the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School was not raised in the collective response received from the staff.

### **Staff consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School was not discussed at the staff consultation meeting.

### **Pupils = 3 responses**

**2 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- To support the change to a primary school (2 tier system)

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but made no comments**

### **East Bierley CE(VC) First School stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 41 responses**

**20 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- There was support for moving to a 2 tier system for education reasons to support higher attainment and minimise transition points
- Concern was expressed about the level of education that would be delivered at Birkenshaw Middle School throughout the transition period through to 2013, particularly for Y5 pupils should the majority of parents opt to send their children to Whitcliffe Mount in 2012.
- Some respondents stated that they only supported Birkenshaw Middle School's closure if this meant that a secondary school could be established using the Middle School site.

**16 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Parents who opposed the closure supported the middle school becoming a secondary school so that pupils in the area could walk to school safely
- Concern was expressed that Whitcliffe Mount would be too large if there was no secondary provision in Birkenshaw
- Concern was expressed that the proposals meant that pupil's education was being disrupted and a cause for their anxiety.

**4 responses stated 'don't know' and made no comments made about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

**1 response did not support or oppose the proposal**

- The respondent expressed the view that the site should be used as a high school and that personal experience showed that children excel more in smaller schools.

**Governors = 4 Individual response/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

### **1 individual governor response agrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- The view was expressed that the school should be handed over to BBG Academy Trust to create a new secondary school

### **2 individual governor responses disagree with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- The view was expressed that the school is a good school with links to the community and that there is no logical reason for the closure.

### **1 individual governor responded 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle school**

- There was agreement for a move to a 2 tier system, but the view was expressed for there to be a secondary school on the Birkenshaw site.

### **Collective Governing Body response**

The specific issue about the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School was not raised in the collective response received from the governing body.

### **Governing Body consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School was not discussed at the governing body consultation meeting

### **Staff = 12 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

#### **3 individual staff responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- There was support for the closure of the school to support a change to a 2 tier system.
- There was some concern about the transitional arrangements and the potential impact on Y5 pupils

#### **2 individual staff responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- The respondent supported the 3 tier system and believed this to be working. Concern was expressed for the pupils at the Middle School during the transition from an educational and funding perspective.

#### **7 individual staff responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but did not make any comments**

### **Collective staff response**

There was no collective response to the consultation from East Bierley CE(VC) First School staff

### **Staff consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School was not discussed at the staff consultation meeting

### **Pupils = 3 responses**

#### **1 response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- "I want BBG High School on that site"

#### **2 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- "Because it's a good school and I want to go to it."

### **Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College stakeholders**

#### **Parents/carers = 5 responses**

### **3 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Parents expressed the view that there would be greater parental choice for pupils
- One parent expressed the view that the proposal would support community cohesion

### **1 response disagrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- One parent expressed a preference to retain a three tier system of education feeling that 11-16 schools become too large.

### **1 response received responded 'don't know' to the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

### **Governors = 6 Individual response/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

#### **6 individual governor responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Governors expressed the view that the proposals would support an improvement in educational standards for pupils in a two tier system and provide more choice for parents.
- Governors supported the proposal that Whitcliffe Mount should be the nominated school to receive displaced pupils following Birkenshaw Middle School's closure.

#### **Collective Governing Body response**

- The revised arrangements for Birkenshaw Middle School are welcomed by the Governing Body of Whitcliffe Mount. Children from Birkenshaw have been attending WMS for 100 years and the Governors believe there is a natural affinity between the community at Birkenshaw and Whitcliffe Mount. The number of children of secondary age within the existing WM pyramid is now below 1500. WM school buildings can accommodate 1500 pupils.

#### **Governor consultation meeting**

- Governors were supportive of being the receiving school for pupils displaced by the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School.
- Governors were keen that any Birkenshaw Middle School pupils who would wish to transfer to the school in Sept 2012 were able to do so.
- Governors were keen to ensure that parents had been communicated with about their options.

### **Staff = 15 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

#### **15 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Staff expressed the view that the closure of the school was necessary as part of the changes to a 2 tier system to support an improvement in educational standards for pupils and was compatible with the changes across the pyramid.
- Staff supported the transitional arrangements for Birkenshaw Middle School pupils having the opportunity to access 'good' secondary provision.
- The view was expressed that the establishment of a school in Birkenshaw would not make financial or educational sense and would be divisive for the communities currently served by the school.
- Staff stated that it was vital that the LA kept parents fully informed about transitional arrangements.

#### **Collective staff response**

There was no collective response to the consultation from Whitcliffe Mount – BEC staff.

### **Staff consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School was not discussed at the staff consultation meeting

### **Pupils**

No pupil responses were received about proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School

### **Other school stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 11 responses (4 from Gomersal Primary School, 1 from BD19 and 6 that did not state which school they were linked with)**

#### **4 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Parents expressed the view that the school should close to allow a secondary school to be established in Birkenshaw

#### **5 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- One parent expressed a preference to retain a three tier system of education
- Parents supported the school changing to become a secondary school

#### **2 responded ‘don’t know’ about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

### **Governors = 4**

**4 individual governor response sheets were received; all 4 responses agreed with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but made no comments**

### **Staff**

No individual staff responses were received from any other schools.

### **Pupils**

No pupil responses were received from any other schools.

## **Local resident responses in relation to the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

### **Birkenshaw = 34 responses**

#### **20 responses agree with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- There was support for the closure of the school to enable the change to a 2 tier system of education, although some respondents expressed the view that this was conditional on the site allowing a secondary school to be established in the area.

#### **11 responses disagree with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Those opposing the closure stated that Birkenshaw Middle school should become a secondary school as it is a good school and is in the best interests of local children.

#### **3 responses stated ‘don’t know’ about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- The view was expressed that there should be a secondary school on the Birkenshaw Middle School site so pupils could remain in the local area

### **East Bierley = 21 responses**

### **1 response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- The view was expressed in support of a move to a 2 tier system of education.

### **15 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Those opposing the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School expressed support for a secondary school to be established on the site.
- Concerns were expressed that Whitcliffe Mount would be too large and that there would be an impersonal environment and that educational standards would suffer as a result.
- Concerns were expressed that the transitional arrangements would be disruptive to the pupils at the school in its final year.

### **5 responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School.**

- Support was expressed for a move to a 2 tier system of education
- One respondent did not support additional pupils travelling to Whitcliffe Mount.

### **Batley = 1 response**

**1 response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School and made no comments.**

### **BD19 residents = 2 responses**

#### **1 response agrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- To bring the area into line with the other Middle School closures

#### **1 response disagrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- Concern was expressed by the respondent that Whitcliffe Mount would become too large without secondary provision being available locally.

### **Cleckheaton = 1 response**

**1 response disagrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School and made no comments**

### **Tong = 1 response**

**1 response agrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School and made no comments**

### **Other Stakeholders**

#### **9 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle school**

- **Birkenshaw and Birstall Ward Councillors** were supportive of the closure stating 'We support the council's plan to close this school in July 2013 and believe the council should work in partnership with the BBG Academy Trust to establish secondary education provision in Birkenshaw, Gomersal, East Bierley and Birstall. We believe that the council should give an immediate commitment to the BBG Academy Trust to sign over the site to them so they can enter a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to establish an academy at Birkenshaw Middle School from September 2013. We also believe that the council should work in partnership with the BBG Academy Trust and Birkenshaw Middle School governors to ensure a smooth educational transition from the middle school to the high school for pupils.'

- **Chair of the BBG Academy Trust** stated 'REVISED PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE BIRKENSHAW MIDDLE SCHOOL (BMS) FROM AUGUST 2013  
As Chair of the BBG Academy Trust (BBGAT) I am responding to the Council's consultation on the above proposal, and the connected proposal to transfer Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School (BFS) to the vacated BMS site from September 2013. The BBGAT is pleased to confirm its support for the cessation of BMS as a Middle School in summer 2013.'
- **Cleckheaton Ward Councillors** were supportive of the proposal stating that 'Whitcliffe Mount has for 100 years served children from the Birkenshaw area. There is therefore a long and unbroken history of links between the school and Birkenshaw.'  
Commenting on the transitional arrangements they state 'Many Cleckheaton residents have friends and family in Birkenshaw and have told us that they welcome the opportunity for the children from Birkenshaw to join their children at WM. It is good to see that Birkenshaw parents will have the choice for their children to join WM at the same time as all the other children in the closing Middle Schools. If they join a year later it may well be harder for them to assimilate as all the other children would have already created their friendship patterns.'
- **4 Grandparents** supported the closure. One view was expressed that the closure needed to happen to move to a 2 tier system like the rest of the pyramid whilst another commented that they would like the school to become a secondary school.
- **2 stakeholders from Tong High School** supported the proposal but made no comment

#### **5 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

- **5 grandparents** expressed a preference for a secondary school to be established in Birkenshaw

#### **1 response from a Grandparent stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School and made no comment**

#### **5.2 Birkenshaw Middle School application for Academy Status**

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 Birkenshaw Middle School Governing Body advised the LA that at a meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 they had passed a unanimous resolution to move forward with an application for Academy Status in conjunction with BBG Academy Trust. The Secretary of State granted and Academy order on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011, which enables the conversion of the school to Academy status subject to the signing of a funding agreement. The decision by the Governing Body to move forward with Academy conversion includes an intention to change the age range of the school so as to become a secondary school for pupils aged 11 – 16 years.

### **5.3 Feedback received about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to the site and buildings currently occupied by Birkenshaw Middle School**

#### **Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 52 responses**

**No responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

**52 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Concerns were expressed about the safety of the Birkenshaw Middle School site because of:
  - Site security and access
  - its location on a main road
  - the school being a 2 storey building
  - it being deemed 'unfit' for future use as a primary school by the LA in 2009
- Views opposed the relocation of the school because of the loss of the external environment including the woodland and pond that was well established at the existing site
- Concerns were expressed about the numbers and locations of toilet facilities at the Middle School site
- Some respondents expressed the view that additional capacity could be established on the existing site for modest capital costs and that a relocation would be a waste of money
- Some respondents expressed the view that a relocation would be disruptive for pupils at the school
- Views were expressed in support of retaining the existing school site and keeping the 2 separate buildings. There was support for the 2 smaller environments that having two buildings and a separate nursery unit allowed
- Parents, pupils and staff are happy on the existing site and were appreciative of the environment and its location.
- Views were expressed that the school should not be relocated as the Birkenshaw Middle School site should be used for a secondary school.

**Governors = 3 individual governor responses/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

**3 individual governor response disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Governors expressed the view that it was unnecessary to house the school in a single building and that the existing buildings could be easily adapted for far less capital investment to provide the additional infrastructure
- Governors stated that far more could be achieved by spending potential capital allocations on the existing buildings
- Governors expressed the view that the middle school site was not as safe an environment for primary age pupils both in terms of access on to the site, its location on a main road and because the building was a 2 storey building

- Governors stated that facilities including dining spaces and toilet facilities were more than adequate in the existing school building.

### **Collective Governing Body response**

- The governing body stated that they are totally against proposals to move the school from its current site, to that of the current Birkenshaw Middle School (BMS). We have thoroughly read the consultation documents as well as the proposed plans for both school sites and would like you to consider our comments as part of your consultation.
- Governors stated the following reasons as to why the decision to move the school site was not supported:-
  1. Practicality of school site
  2. Excellent Facilities on current site
  3. Benefits of two buildings on current site
  4. Kirklees 2009 Consultation Report from 2009 stating that the BMS site was not fit for purpose and would have to be demolished and re built if the primary school was housed there.
  5. Toilet Facilities
  6. Use of Middle School site for Primary Schools
  7. Survey Reports

### **Staff = 11 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

#### **No individual staff responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

#### **11 individual staff responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Staff expressed the view that the school is on a well established site with excellent external environment that was fully embedded in the curriculum delivered to the pupils
- Staff expressed concern about the safety and suitability of the Middle school buildings and site
- Staff expressed their pride of the time, energy and investment that had been put into the school over the years.
- Staff expressed concerns about the capital costs of relocating and stated that a more cost effective solution could be found on the existing site and retaining the existing buildings
- Staff expressed concern about the future of 'Alex's Memorial Garden', a quiet contemplation area dedicated to a former pupil who sadly died of a heart condition whilst in Reception class 10 years ago.
- Staff expressed their concern about the location of the Middle school site and the impact on travel and transport.

#### **Collective staff response - Signed by 37 members of staff**

- Staff stated that there are many things which make the school special and unique and these should be considered as part of the consultation.
  1. A very special feature of our school is having 3 buildings. The children and parents look forward to "moving up to the big school" as a "rite of passage".
  2. Our site has 3 entrances; none of these are on major roads.

3. Alex's Garden - we have special reflective area in school in honour of the memory of a child who died when he was in Reception.
4. We have a stunning outdoor environment which is well established
5. As a school we use the grounds for many different activities throughout the year.
6. Children have a diverse range of outdoor opportunities at playtimes
7. As part of our curriculum children are taught to respect, love and nurture our environment as we are trying to develop a generation of environmentally conscious citizens. This is reflected in our achievements of the Eco Schools Green Flag Award, Kirklees Arthur Halliwell (Memorial) Sustainable School Award 2011, Fair Trade School Status and Food For Life Partnership Bronze Award.
8. Many of our Learning Challenges (topics) use the substantial historical archive which we have in school, to bring the children's learning to life.
9. We are an Open Futures School. Open Futures has been tailored specifically to our environment which has really impressed members of the Open Futures Trust who have been into school.
10. The geographical location of our school means that we are at the heart of Birkenshaw village giving us strong community links.
11. We have strong links with East Bierley First School.
12. We were graded Outstanding for care, guidance and support in our last OFSTED inspection and feel that this would be very hard to sustain if we moved to the new site.

### **Staff consultation meeting**

- Staff asked many questions and sought clarification about the proposals and the implications of the school relocating. Staff were keen to feedback the features of the existing site and why they supported staying there.
- Staff expressed concerns about traffic and travel and the location of the middle school site from a safety point of view.
- Staff explained how the external environment of the school was embedded in the curriculum and gave examples like teddy bear hunts and pond dipping as being valuable learning experiences to the children.

### **Pupils = 5 individual responses/School Council response**

#### **School Council response**

As a school council we visited Birkenshaw Middle School to see for ourselves what the building and facilities were like. We have listed a few points below that we would like you to consider when making the decision whether to move us from our current site.

- \* There are a great many steps in the building which were dangerous and very big for the little legs of our younger friends.
- \* There were many very dark, long corridors which may be very daunting to our younger school and all the doors looked the same which would cause confusion.
- \* All the Smartboards were set very high on the walls, we took a picture of one our members trying to reach it and it was not possible. We use our inter-active boards a great deal.
- \* The chairs were all too large for us and even with small chairs, the tables were very high in some of the classrooms.
- \* The rows of hooks for our coats were set very high and the cloakrooms were not always close to the classrooms.
- \* The windows were also very high so it would be difficult for us to see out. Some of the window frames were very dirty and rotting.
- \* The pond area is smaller than the one we currently have here.
- \* The changing rooms were scruffy and would not be needed by us.
- \* In some classrooms there was machinery that did not look safe for us, our teachers said

some of them were de-humidifiers which suggested the rooms might be damp or the windows didn't open.

\* All the sinks and toilets were too high for us.

\* The playground was not big enough for small people and bigger people to play in safely together. We would want to have our own playgrounds for year groups as the games the bigger children play might be harmful to little people - not to mention any bad language the older children might use.

\* The car park was not big enough for us to park due to the staff cars so what would it be like for our parents to drop us off safely.

\* Mrs W could not drive into the gateway until someone else had come out - there is not enough room for our parents to be able to bring us into school safely. Some of us are far too young to be dropped off at the gateway and there are too many cars flying past the gateway for it to be safe anyway.

\* We thought that some children might get lost around the school as they had to go to the toilet., our classrooms all have their own toilets so we do not have to leave the classroom unaccompanied.

\* The whole building felt very big to us and like a maze. The corridors were very long, poky and too small for classes to pass each other safely - don't forget some of us are very little!

\* The classrooms did not have a carpet area for us to sit and chat, we like to discuss what we are doing and have circles times.

\* The hall was very big and the stage was very high - we thought it would be easy for our little ones to fall off.

\* The climbing frames were much too high for us and the boys showing us around said even they don't use it very often because it is too high.

\* There wasn't a very good feel to the building, it felt cold and not very welcoming, more like a hospital than a happy place to be in and work in.

\* The school had paint missing off lots of walls. It looked like everywhere would need decorating. Our school is already nicely decorated.

\* We all have a door to use to go outside from our classroom. This is really safe for us as we can line up and go home straight from our classroom. The middle school only has four doors to take us out. This is not very safe for us and someone could get lost.

\* The year 8 boys who showed us around the middle school explained that year 5 and 6 stayed mainly in their classroom and didn't go upstairs very often because it was not as safe for them as the year 7 and 8 pupils. How can this then be safe for us - Nursery to Year 6? We will have to go upstairs and move around each week for ICT and Library. We even have to go up some stairs to the hall.

Please consider what we have said, we may be small but we have thoughts and opinions about where we would like to learn. We know it will cost lost of money to make Birkenshaw Middle School into a warm, inviting, friendly learning centre so please think about spending that money on our building where we are safe, happy and enjoying our school days.

We thank you for reading our thoughts.

## **No responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

## **5 pupil responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- 'My reasons we shouldn't move are:

- \* because we have a lovely school

- \* because we love our pond and wild life

- \* we have old trees

- \* we have a safe playground

- \* the steps at the middle school are too big for the small children
- \* we love our classrooms they are big and have comfy carpets to sit on at carpet time
- \* we love our equipment
- \* all of our classrooms have their own door so our parents can drop us off and collect us from school
- \* we come to our school safely if we move we will have to cross a busy main road and walk along another busy road
- \* we have new things in our school
- \* we have loads of clubs because we have 2 big halls
- \* we have won loads of trophies and awards for our school and outside space and eco work
- \* our outdoor space is very important to our school and we are proud of it'
- 'I don't think children from nursery to 11 should be crossing and walking along a major rd like Bradford rd'.
- 'Not safe for children from nursery to age 11 walking backward and forward to school on Bradford Rd.'
- 'I am a year 4 pupil in the First school and I don't want the school to move. We are all happy where we are. Having builders at our school building year 5 and 6 classrooms won't bother me because we want to stay here and if year 5 and 6 classrooms were being built it would be interesting to watch.'

### **Birkenshaw Middle School stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 35 responses**

#### **1 response agrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The view was expressed that the relocation was of financial benefit in developing the first school as a primary school.

#### **32 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Parents expressed the view that a relocation to the Middle School site was not necessary and that the school should stay on its current site. Positive comments were made about the external learning environment and green environment at the current First School site and it was felt that these could not be easily replicated.
- Some respondents said the middle school site would be too big
- Views were expressed that the location of the site was away from the heart of the village and access to the site was limited.
- Views were expressed that stated that the relocation would have a negative effect on traffic, travel and parking and that the safety of pupils would be compromised.
- Concern was expressed at the capital cost of relocating to the middle school site.
- Views were expressed that supported the use of the Middle School site for a secondary school.

#### **1 responded 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

#### **1 response sheet did not state a view about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School.**

**Governors = 3 Individual responses/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

**No individual governor response agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

**3 individual governor responses disagree with the proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Governors expressed concern about the disruption for pupils having to leave the school site that they enjoy.
- Governors expressed the view that money spent on the middle school building would be a waste.
- One respondent felt that even with investment the building would not have as good facilities in terms of access and parking, toilet facilities and external entrances to the school.

**Collective Governing Body response**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) was not raised in the collective Governing Body response to the consultation

**Governor consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) was not discussed at the governor consultation meeting.

**Staff = 5 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

**No individual staff response agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

**4 individual staff responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The view was expressed that the relocation was moving the school away from the village and that the move was not supported by the community or the school itself.
- The view was expressed that the middle school site should be used for a secondary school to serve the area.

**1 response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

**Staff consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) was not discussed at the staff consultation meeting.

**Pupils = 2 responses**

**No responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

**2 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- 'Its too big and should be a high school.'
- 'Birkenshaw First School don't want to move'

## **East Bierley CE(VC) First School stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 38 responses**

**2 responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

**34 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Concerns were expressed by those opposing the proposals
- Parents stated that there was enough space on the existing site to develop the school as a primary school
- Parents expressed the view that additional classrooms could be added to the existing school buildings at a lower cost than relocating to the middle school site.
- Views were expressed that the school was in the middle of its catchment area and was better located than the Middle school.
- Parents stated that they did not wish to move to another site as the current site was well established
- Parents responded saying that they did not support the use of the middle school site as they preferred this to be used to establish a secondary school
- Parents felt that there would be less disruption to pupils if the school remained on its current site

**2 responses stated 'don't know' and made no comments about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

**Governors = 5 Individual response/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

**No individual governor response agrees with the proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

**5 individual governor responses disagree with the proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Governors stated that the school's current site is well established, central to the whole of the village & has enough land to accommodate any expansions necessary to facilitate Primary needs. The current Governors & SMT have spent a lot of time & money on developing the current site, including things that are not transferable to a new site

### **Collective Governing Body response**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School was not raised in the collective Governing Body response to the consultation

### **Governor consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School was not discussed at the governor consultation meeting

**Staff = 12 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

**No individual staff responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

## **12 individual staff response disagrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The view was expressed that the current site was suitable and able to expand to accommodate the additional pupils.
- Views were expressed that it would be more cost effective to develop the existing school site
- There was support for the middle school site being left vacant so that it could be developed as a secondary school.

### **Staff consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School was not discussed at the staff consultation meeting

### **Pupils = 3 responses**

#### **No responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

#### **3 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- 'I want BBG High School on that site for my younger sister.'
- 'My friends do not want to move.'

### **Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College stakeholders**

#### **Parents/carers = 5 responses**

#### **4 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The parents wanted Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery school to remain on its own site so that Birkenshaw middle could be retained.

#### **1 response received responded 'don't know' to the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

### **Governors = 4 Individual response/collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

#### **3 individual governor responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Governors stated that the move would represent best value for money investment
- 1 Governor expressed the view that the Middle School site would provide better facilities for the primary school.

#### **1 individual governor response disagrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The governor stated that there should be the option of a non-denominational primary school in the area.

### **Collective Governing Body response**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School was not raised in the collective response received from the governing body.

### **Governor consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School was not discussed at the governor consultation meeting

### **Staff = 14 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

#### **12 responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Views were expressed that it would be more cost effective to develop the middle school site as a primary school and to utilise council owned redundant buildings, particularly where the function remains the same.
- There was support expressed for being able to utilise the middle school building as it was a larger site and could offer more facilities for pupils
- There was some concern expressed about disruption for pupils if the school was to be relocated

#### **1 response disagrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The view was expressed that the current school site was in the centre of the village and was more accessible.

#### **1 response received responded 'don't know' to the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

### **Collective staff response**

There was no collective response to the consultation from Whitcliffe Mount – BEC staff.

### **Staff consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School was not discussed at the staff consultation meeting

### **Pupils**

No pupil responses were received about proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School

### **Other school stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 10 responses (4 from Gomersal Primary School and 6 that did not state which school they were linked with)**

#### **No responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

#### **10 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Parents stated that the existing school site is safer and that it was better suited to being a primary school
- Parents stated that the relocation would be a waste of money

### **Governors = 4 responses**

### **3 individual governor responses agreed with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- A view was expressed that the proposed relocation meant the best use of available assets and resources.

### **1 individual governor response disagrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The view was expressed that the Middle School site should be used for a secondary school instead.

### **Staff**

No individual staff responses were received from any other schools.

### **Pupils**

No pupil responses were received from any other schools.

### **Local resident responses in relation to the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

#### **Birkenshaw = 38 responses**

#### **2 responses agree with the proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The view was expressed that the relocation was the most effective use of money.
- The parking situation at the existing school site could be improved.

#### **34 responses disagree with the proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- Views were expressed that the existing site was superior to the middle school site and that the middle school site would have traffic and safety implications
- Views were expressed that the middle school building had been deemed unfit for use as a primary school.
- Views were expressed that the relocation would be a waste of money.
- There was support for the school staying on its current site as it was in a good location in the heart of the village.
- Those opposing the closure stated that Birkenshaw Middle school should become a secondary school as it is a good school and is in the best interests of local children.

#### **2 responses requested the LA to consider alternative proposals**

- The view was expressed that after seeking views of parents that there was demand for a non-denominational primary school in the local area. The respondent proposed a 2 class entry primary school stay on the Birkenshaw CE(C) site and a 1 class entry non-denominational school be developed on the Birkenshaw Middle School site. The respondent stated that this would 'increase choice, competition and would make more long term economical and social sense than 2 primary schools at the extreme edge of Kirklees and that most children would then have no more than 1 mile to walk to school.'

#### **East Bierley = 21 responses**

**19 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The view was expressed that it would be "better, cheaper, easier" to invest capital and stay on the present site and adjoin to the main building. This would cause less disruption for pupils.
- It was stated that the middle school site should be left for the siting of the BBG High School
- The school is in the heart of the community easily accessible to all pupils. If moved most children from the top of Birkenshaw would have to drive in a car.

**2 responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

**Batley = 1 response**

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

**BD19 residents = 3 responses**

**1 response agrees with the proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- The respondent stated that the primary school would be better on the middle school site, due to the middle school site originally built to accommodate more pupils and the scope for expansion in the future.

**2 responses disagree with the proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- It was stated that the move was pointless and was not supported by the school or the local community.

**Cleckheaton = 1 response**

**1 response disagrees with the proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

**Tong = 1 response**

**1 response agrees with the proposals to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

**Local Residents that did not declare their area = 2**

**2 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School but made no comments**

## Other Stakeholders

### **3 responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- **Cleckheaton Ward Councillors** supported the proposals stating 'All the other sites of the closing Middle schools are being used for the new primaries. This is to be welcomed as all the middle school sites have plenty of outdoor space for play, formal sports, and environmental projects.'
- **2 stakeholders from Tong High School** supported the proposal but made no comment

### **9 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

- **Chair of the BBG Academy Trust** stated that 'the BBGAT is pleased to confirm its support for the cessation of BMS as a Middle School in summer 2013, but objects most strongly to the proposal to transfer BFS to the BMS site. As you know, and as is acknowledged in your consultative document, the Business Case for the BBGAT-sponsored High School to open in September 2013 was approved by the Secretary of State in November of last year, and our preferred site is the BMS one. It is at the heart of the community we will serve, and the premises provide excellent value for money as a base for expanding capacity to meet our community need for a 750 pupil High School. The transfer of BFS to the BMS site would force us to develop our High School on an alternative site, at much greater cost.'
- **Wakefield Diocesan Board Of Education Response** to the Kirklees Local Authority Non Statutory Consultation about the implementation of proposals For Birkenshaw CE(C) First And Nursery School & East Bierley CE (VC) First School  
The Directors of the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education met on 13 October 2011. After consideration of Kirklees LA proposals as set out in the document for the non statutory consultation affecting the above named schools, and a subsequent visit by members of the Board of Education to the schools, the following decisions have been recorded:  
a) Birkenshaw CE(VC) First and Nursery  
The Board supports the Governing Body's commitment to retaining the school community on its current site.  
In 2009/2010 the Board of Education registered its support for the LA proposal to change both Birkenshaw CE(VC) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First School into an all through Primary Schools for pupils aged 5 - 11 years.  
The Board of Education expressed its frustration, together with the LA, governors, families and local community, when the Primary Capital Programme was cancelled with the inevitable consequence that the planned refurbishment of the schools would not proceed.  
The LA's current proposal to move the school community to the Birkenshaw Middle School site raises many issues for the Board of Education in particular:
  - \* securing the safeguarding of all pupils across an open and expansive site
  - \* managing pupil safety at the school's entrance
  - \* eliminating the risk of potential conflict between pedestrians and traffic on the access road at the beginning and end of the school day
  - \* the Middle School buildings retain the majority - if not all - the features of the original Secondary Modern High School. Having visited the school members of the Board believe that the planned level of refurbishment would not alter the internal environment to create an authentic Primary School

\* the external environment of the current First School site clearly enhances the delivery of the curriculum and is fully reflective of the Christian ethos at the heart of the school's life. The Board believes that to deny this formative experience for a significant number of children and their families is not the best way to support the development of a young life. The members of the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education kept their discussion focussed on the issues of the two schools as they exist at the present time.

It was felt that, despite the possibility of further developments in the north of Kirklees, the members of the Board would not let this distract them from responding specifically to the consultation document.

- **Birkenshaw Ward Councillors** disagree with the proposals to relocate the school and state 'We oppose the council's plans to move the school to the site of Birkenshaw Middle School and support the proposals by the school governors to expand the physical capacity of the school on its present site by developing alongside present buildings and maintaining a multi-building school on site. Having seen the governors indicative proposals for both these schools we support the view that both schools could be enhanced to take the extra pupils needed for the age change at well below the lowest capital figure officers have produced just for Birkenshaw First School.'
- **7 Grandparents** supported the school staying on the existing site stating that that would be the best and cheapest option. There was support for using the middle school site to establish a secondary school for the area.

**1 response from a Grandparent stated 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

#### **5.4 Feedback received about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

##### **East Bierley CE(VC) First School stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 66 responses**

##### **8 responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- There was support for reducing the PAN if that meant the school could become a primary school
- The view was expressed that mixed system works well in Leeds so long as the teachers have the resources to teach all abilities.
- There was support for reducing the size of the school taking into account the size of the building and the size of the playground
- There was support for retaining the school in the village

##### **58 responses disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Concern was expressed that reducing the size of the school would make it difficult for siblings to access a place at the school.
- Concern was expressed about the impact of mixed age teaching on educational standards
- There was support for additional accommodation being provided for the school to keep the PAN at 30 places per year
- There was concern that those pupils who had historically been able to access places at the school from out of area locations eg Toftshaw and Drub would no longer be able to.
- There was concern that the proposals would mean the school would become the equivalent of a Private School for East Bierley.
- Concern was expressed that reducing the size of the school would make it unviable and result in the school having to close
- There was concern that there would be a less diverse intake if the school's PAN was reduced as only children living in the catchment area would be able to secure a place
- There was concern that the reduced school size would impact adversely on the pre-school and the local community as a whole

**Governors = 4 Individual response/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

**No individual governor response agree with the proposals to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**4 individual governor responses disagree with the proposals to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Concern was expressed that the school reducing in size would mean mixed aged teaching and that parents would select Birkenshaw CE(C) instead and that the school population would restrict diversity.
- One governor was concerned that it would destroy the school and make it elitist.

### **Collective Governing Body response**

- Governors did not support the proposal to reduce the school's PAN from 30 to 20
- Governors stated that they had consulted parents and the community on both options holding a public meeting attended by 60 people and by sending information to parents.
- Governors expressed concerns about the implications on social cohesion and long term school achievement
- The governors stated that they were challenging the proposal to affect the school's PAN and had explored other options to expand the capacity of the school  
OPTION A - erect two Modular Classrooms alongside the gable end wall of the school hall.  
OPTION B - use external teaching space  
OPTION C - reconfigure the present Hall and erect a modular two story construction with a slightly lower height Hall on the ground floor and 2 Classrooms on the first floor within the existing Hall footprint.  
OPTION D - demolish the Hall erect a new permanent light frame structure on the same footprint to provide a hall with two classrooms and toilet & cloakroom facilities on the second floor.
- Governors recognised that there would need to be temporary accommodation in place to house the additional pupils from September 2012.

### **Governor consultation meeting**

The governors discussed alternative proposals with officers for retaining the school with a PAN of 30. The governors expressed their concerns about the impact of the proposals in relation to the social cohesion of the school. Around half of the children that come to the school are from the village and the rest come from Leeds and Bradford. This brings in children from other cultures and diverse background. If the PAN was reduced to 20 then this would make the village children feel very insular and limit opportunities to meet people from different communities until they went to high school. Governors expressed concerns about plans to make accommodation for pupils that were to be retained from September 2012. Governors also expressed their concern about the impact on the school staff if the PAN was to be reduced.

### **Staff = 12 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

**No individual staff responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**12 individual staff responses disagree with the proposals to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Staff stated that they did not want the school to have mixed age classes.
- Staff expressed the view that they wanted to continue with the social cohesion.
- Staff expressed concerns that there would need to be a reduction of staffing if the school PAN was reduced.
- Staff expressed concern that the school would become unviable and face closure in the future.

### **Staff consultation meeting**

- Staff asked many questions and sought clarification about the proposals and the implications of the school reducing in size.
- Staff were concerned about the future viability of the school and whether this could result in the school closing
- Staff asked about whether plans to build more houses in Bradford, just over the border, had been considered in the plans for reducing the school size

- Staff were concerned that the school would lose its diverse pupil intake if the PAN was to reduce.

### **Collective staff response**

There was no collective response to the consultation from East Bierley staff.

### **Pupils = 3 responses**

**No responses agree with the proposals to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**3 responses disagree with the proposals to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- 'It will be too small and the school will close.'
- 'I want to keep my school open for lots of years and so many more can enjoy my school.'

### **Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School stakeholders**

#### **Parents/carers = 39 responses**

**16 responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Those supporting the proposal stated that retaining a school in East Bierley was integral to the village
- Support was expressed for the proposal because it meant that there would be sufficient places for local children will still attend.

**11 responses disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Parents expressed concern that mixed aged teaching would not benefit children's education
- Concern was expressed that there may be a growing demand for places if Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School was to relocate
- The view was expressed that the school would always fill 30 places and so there would be limited places for those wishing to access places at the school.
- The view was expressed that rather than reduce the PAN the school should be relocated.

**12 responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- It is for East Bierley residents to decide. However if I was a resident my choice would be to agree, but I would need more information on how effective a seven year school span divided by five classes, would be.

**Governors = No individual governor responses/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

**No individual governor responses were received about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

#### **Collective Governing Body response**

The specific issue about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building was not raised in the collective Governing Body response to the consultation

### **Governing Body consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building was not discussed at the governing body consultation meeting

### **Staff = 4 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

**1 individual staff responses agrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building and made no comments**

**1 individual staff response disagrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

Staff expressed the view that the school is on a well established site with excellent external environment that was fully embedded in the curriculum delivered to the pupils

- Concern was expressed at the future viability of the school if the PAN was to reduce

**2 individual staff responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building and made no comments**

### **Collective staff response**

The specific issue about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building was not raised in the collective staff response to the consultation

### **Staff consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building was not discussed at the staff consultation meeting

### **Pupil responses = 1**

**1 pupil response disagrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building and made no comment**

### **Birkenshaw Middle School stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 32 responses**

**6 responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- The view was expressed that the East Bierley site is too small to take an extra 2 years full of 30 children.
- Respondents stressed the importance of retaining a village school.

**21 responses disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Concern was expressed at the future viability of the school if the PAN was to reduce.

- The view was expressed that East Bierley First School should remain at its current level of 30 children per year as it delivers an outstanding level of education to local children and should continue to do this.
- Concern was expressed that there may be a growing demand for places in the future.
- Support for retaining the school at its current size was expressed because to intake only 20 from the village would be very limiting and restrict social diversity.
- There was concern about the impact of mixed age teaching
- Concern was expressed about reduced numbers would not prepare pupils in the school when they go up to the secondary school where they will be faced with larger classes and year groups.

**5 responded 'don't know' about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- The view was expressed that the financial cost was too high for only maximum of 20 pupils per class.

**Governors = 3 Individual responses/1 collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

**No individual governor response agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**3 individual governor responses disagree with the proposals to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Governors expressed concern about the future viability of the school .

**Collective Governing Body response**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) was not raised in the collective Governing Body response to the consultation

**Governor consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) was not discussed at the governor consultation meeting.

**Staff = 5 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

**2 individual staff responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Those responding supported the school being retained in the village

**3 individual staff responses disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- The view was expressed that East Bierley First School delivers an outstanding education to its current intake of 30 pupils and should continue to offer this to as many local children as possible.

**Staff consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building was not discussed at the staff consultation meeting.

**Pupils = 1 response**

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- 'It's a brilliant school so we should give other children the opportunity to go there. Leave it as it is don't change it to 20 pupils.'

**Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College stakeholders**

**Parents/carers = 6 responses**

**3 responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- There was support for the school and for it to stay in its current location

**2 responses disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- The view was expressed that the school was keeping the village alive and did not support the reduction.

**1 response received responded 'don't know' to the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**Governors = 4 Individual response/collective Governing Body response and consultation meeting notes**

**2 individual governor responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Governors stated that the move would represent best value for money investment
- The view was expressed that the school could not be expanded sufficiently to offer 30 places per year

**1 individual governor response disagrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**1 individual governor responded 'don't know' to the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**Collective Governing Body response**

The specific issue about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building was not raised in the collective response received from the governing body.

**Governor consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building was not discussed at the governor consultation meeting

**Staff = 13 individual staff responses/consultation meeting notes**

**8 responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Views were expressed that it would be best value for money and the only realistic way to keep a school in the village.
- To keep the school with the village of E Bierley in line with community views

- Seems a reasonable suggestion given the desire of local residents
- So that there is a local community primary school in East Bierley Village.

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**4 responses received responded 'don't know' to the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building and made no comments**

### **Collective staff response**

There was no collective response to the consultation from Whitcliffe Mount – BEC staff.

### **Staff consultation meeting**

The specific issue about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building was not discussed at the staff consultation meeting

### **Pupils**

No pupil responses were received about proposals to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building

### **Other school stakeholders**

#### **Parents/carers**

No responses were received from any other schools

#### **Governors**

No individual governor responses were received from any other schools.

#### **Staff**

No individual staff responses were received from any other schools.

#### **Pupils**

No pupil responses were received from any other schools.

### **Local resident responses in relation to the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

#### **Birkenshaw = 29 responses**

**6 responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Residents were supportive of retaining the village school
- Residents expressed the view that the school is in a perfect location in the heart of the village and provides an ideal environment for children.

**20 responses disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- Views were expressed that the school may become unviable if the PAN was to reduce

- Views were expressed that it would be difficult to accommodate siblings if the PAN was to reduce.
- There was support for the school staying on its current site as it was in a good location in the heart of the village.
- Concern was expressed about the educational implications on pupils as a result of mixed age teaching

**3 responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- If it is the only option for East Bierley and if residents are ok with this it may be ok.

**2 responses requested the LA to consider alternative proposals**

- The view was expressed that after seeking views of parents that there was demand for a non-denominational primary school in the local area. The respondent proposed a 2 class entry primary school stay on the Birkenshaw CE(C) site and a 1 class entry non-denominational school be developed on the Birkenshaw Middle School site. The respondent stated that this would 'increase choice, competition and would make more long term economical and social sense than 2 primary schools at the extreme edge of Kirklees and that most children would then have no more than 1 mile to walk to school.'

**East Bierley = 23 responses**

**8 responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- It may be necessary to make sure children from East Bierley have priority over children outside the village.
- There was support for retaining the school in the village at its current size
- Views were expressed from residents who lived near to the school and did not support the school being expanded
- Concern was expressed about East Bierley's ability to cope with any increase in traffic to the village.
- The view was expressed that East Bierley School should not need to cater for pupils outside the village.

**15 responses disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- There was concern that reducing the school size would mean that the school would become unviable and close which would take the heart out of the village.
- This would be better staying at 30 pupils then there will be no mixed teaching classes, which can only be detrimental to the less advanced kids. Kids could get left behind during lessons.
- The view was expressed that if children could be accommodated temporarily during the 'bulge' while the last 30 intake works through then it can be done on a more permanent basis.

**Batley = 1 response**

**1 response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**BD19 residents = 2 responses**

**1 response agrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

**Cleckheaton = 1 response**

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building and made no comments**

**Tong = 1 response**

**1 response agrees with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building and made no comments**

**Local Residents that did not declare their area = 2**

**2 responses disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building but made no comments**

### **Other Stakeholders**

**6 responses agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- **2 stakeholders from Tong High School** supported the proposal but made no comment
- **4 grandparents** supported the proposal.

**6 responses disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

- **Wakefield Diocesan Board Of Education Response** to the Kirklees Local Authority Non Statutory Consultation about the implementation of proposals For Birkenshaw CE(C) First And Nursery School & East Bierley CE (VC) First School. 'The Directors of the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education met on 13 October 2011. After consideration of Kirklees LA proposals as set out in the document for the non statutory consultation affecting the above named schools, and a subsequent visit by members of the Board of Education to the schools, the following decisions have been recorded:  
B) East Bierley CE(VC) First School  
The Board supports the Governing Body's commitment to retaining a PAN of 30. The Board also supports the Governing Body's proposal to demolish the hall, erect a new permanent light frame structure on the same footprint to provide a hall with two classrooms and toilet and cloakroom facilities on the second floor. The Board further supports the Governing Body's option of securing temporary short term accommodation whilst construction is completed. In 2009/2010 the Board of Education registered its support for the LA proposal to change both Birkenshaw CE(VC) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First School into an all through Primary Schools for pupils aged 5 - 11 years.

The Board of Education expressed its frustration, together with the LA, governors, families and local community, when the Primary Capital Programme was cancelled with the inevitable consequence that the planned refurbishment of the schools would not proceed.

The LA's current proposal to reduce the PAN from 30 to 20 per year group raises many issues for the Board of Education in particular members believe that:

- \* the richness of the diversity of the current school community would be diluted
- \* the weight of the parent voice expressed during the consultation cannot be ignored
- \* the Governing Body has provided an alternative feasible plan for internal alterations which would accommodate the new Primary School. Members would hope that this plan is considered along with the options proposed
- \* the Governors have appropriately highlighted the need to provide for 150 pupils to ensure continuity of staffing levels and support staff.

- **Birkenshaw Ward Councillors** disagree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building and stated. 'To summarise our views: East Bierley First School  
We oppose the council's proposals to reduce the intake from 30 pupils per year to 20 per year and believe that the council should work with the governors to deliver the governors plans to expand the physical capacity of the school. Failure to adopt the governors plans we believe would have a serious detrimental impact on the social cohesion of both the school and longer term the village of East Bierley - a view we know is shared by the local church and the governors.'
- **4 Grandparents** supported the school staying with a PAN of 30 as if reduced to 20 mixed teaching will not be good for all the children, those less able could be left behind and not do as well.

**1 response from a Grandparent stated 'don't know' about the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School from 30 to 20 and retain the school in its current building**

## **6. Implications for the Council**

### **6.1 Human Resources implications**

- The staff at Birkenshaw Middle School were fully involved in the HR programme associated with the reorganisation of the 3-tier school system, following the agreed HR framework. The school has since applied for Academy status and this would mean a changed position. Should the school convert to become an Academy, all staff employed at Birkenshaw Middle School on the day of conversion would transfer to the Academy under TUPE regulations.
- If approved, the revised non-statutory proposal for the implementation of the approved proposals for East Bierley CE(VC) First school, would have implications for the staffing of the school. The number of staff required would increase as years 5 and 6 pupils are retained (as part of the approved proposal) but then decrease over time as the smaller year cohorts progressed through the school.

### **6.2 Financial Implications**

- The review of the implementation of the approved proposals for the re-organisation of the two first schools into all-through primary schools is driven by the significant change in the availability of capital funding. Since the cancellation of the Primary Capital Programme there is significantly less capital available to invest in the necessary changes to the school buildings to enable the expansion of places at the schools.
- Detailed capital schemes for schools in Birkenshaw and East Bierley have yet to be included in the capital plan. In the event of member approval to proceed with any capital investment this would be subject to inclusion in the capital plan.
- The revised implementation plan for East Bierley CE(VC) First School provides sufficient school places to meet the projected need of families in the village and continues to use the existing building in the village, but requires no significant major investment in permanent buildings compared to the estimate of at least £5m to build a new school. Temporary modular accommodation would be required to house the initial increase in pupil numbers as classes of 30 year 5 and year 6 pupils were retained until smaller year cohorts of 20 pupils worked through the school. This could require up to £330k of capital expenditure.
- Revenue costs for additional accommodation would be met from the Dedicated School Grant through the local funding formula.

## **7. Consultees and their opinions**

The statutory and non statutory consultations have engaged with a wide range of interested parties including; families of pupils, school staff, governors, pupils, members of the community, local residents and elected members. The full range of stakeholders that were provided with consultation materials is detailed at Appendix D.

## **8. Next steps**

The proposed next steps are outlined in the officer recommendations

## **9. Officer recommendations and reasons**

Members are recommended to note:

- The responses to the statutory consultation on revised proposals for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School including feedback received about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils, and that the Council has until November 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 to consider whether to publish a statutory notice for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School.
- That the Governing Body of Birkenshaw Middle School has begun the process to convert the school to Academy status in partnership with the BBG Academy Trust from April 2012 (the final outcome of this process is not expected to be confirmed until February or March 2012) and that, should Birkenshaw Middle School become an Academy, the Council will no longer be able to publish a statutory notice for its closure.
- The responses to the non-statutory consultation on the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C)First and Nursery School from its current site to the current site of Birkenshaw Middle School, including feedback received about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils and that a decision to move the school would be a non-statutory decision and can be made at any time whilst the school remains a Voluntary Controlled school.
- That to support the retention of Y5 pupils for September 2012 modular accommodation will need to be put in place to provide space for up to 60 additional pupils on the Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School site.
- The responses to the non-statutory consultation on the proposal to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at East Bierley CE(VC) First School, including feedback received about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils. A decision to reduce the PAN at the school would need to be part of the consultation on admission arrangements that takes place between 1 November and 1 March with arrangements being determined by 15 April in the year before the one to which the arrangements are to apply. This can be done in any year (with implementation at the next relevant admission point) whilst the school remains a Voluntary Controlled School.
- That to support the retention of Y5 pupils for September 2012 options for modular accommodation are being explored in order to put in place enough capacity space for up to 30 additional pupils on or adjacent to the East Bierley CE(VC) site.
- That officers intend to bring forward a further report, recommending decisions in respect of Birkenshaw Middle School closure, the relocation of Birkenshaw First and Nursery School and the reduction in PAN at East Bierley CE(VC) First School, once further information regarding academy conversion and capital funding is available (expected in December (annual funding from DfE), late December (regarding the Priority Schools Building Programme) and in February (from the Council's capital plan))

## **10. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

We, the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People, support the recommendations set out by officers in the previous section of this report that explains why there is a need to await further information about academy conversion and capital funding. We therefore recommend that officers bring us a report with the required information, when available, to allow further decisions to be taken. We would like to express our thanks to those who have taken the time to feedback their views in response to the statutory and non-statutory consultations. A great number of the responses are very detailed and this level of engagement from parents, school staff, governors, pupils and other key stakeholders is welcomed.

## **11. Contact officers**

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## **12. Assistant Director responsible**

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## **13. Relevant papers**

- Cabinet Reports 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 - The linked statutory proposals to expand the physical capacity and change the upper age limit of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School
- Cabinet Report 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 - The linked statutory proposals to Establish a new school at Howden Clough and Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School
- Cabinet Report 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 – Review of the implementation of the statutory proposals for Cleckheaton and Gomersal
- Cabinet Report 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011- Request to initiate the statutory process to revoke the approved linked proposals to establish the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough and discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School
- Cabinet Report 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 - Revised proposals to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and the pattern of primary provision for Birkenshaw and East Bierley.

## Indicative costs for the delivery of a single building solution

During the summer of 2011, work has taken place to further develop and evaluate options for the potential re-development of the existing Birkenshaw First and Nursery and Birkenshaw Middle School sites. This has included the refinement of accommodation schedules and the commissioning of new Condition Surveys to assess the buildings' physical condition and determine priorities for repair and/or replacement of roofs, windows, boilers etc. This has enabled a robust refinement of the assumptions and data underpinning the cost estimates for each option.

Each option has been based on the following core deliverables defined by the Council:

- A 2-class entry 420 place primary school for pupils aged 5-11 with a 26 FTE (full time equivalent) place nursery;
- All accommodation would be housed in a single building;
- All accommodation would be permanent;

For each site two options have been developed – a MINIMUM option and a MAXIMUM option.

The **MINIMUM** variant makes provision for the requisite number of classrooms and toilets to turn the facility into a primary school. It also includes other must-do issues such as the replacement of any temporary accommodation as well as addressing basic need items such as highways, parking, hard play and access issues (it is to be noted that no off site Highways works are foreseen for either school site at this stage and that all costs are consequently associated with works on site). *THE MINIMUM COSTING ALSO INCLUDES AN ALLOCATION FOR THE PROVISION OF EXTERNAL LEARNING SPACES AND THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT THAT WOULD BE ON A PAR WITH THE EXISTING PROVISION AT THE BIRKENSHAW FIRST AND NURSERY SCHOOL SITE.*

However, existing shortfalls in teaching and non teaching accommodation would not necessarily be brought up to the recommendations set out in Building Bulletin 99 (eg where the current accommodation lacks the required number of small group rooms) or where existing suitability issues in the current accommodation are thought to occur (eg where the layout of the Assembly Hall may be causing organisational issues).

It is important to note that many of the Kirklees schools do not meet Building Bulletin 99 recommendations, but these are the quality standards that the Council applies when investing in school buildings to ensure the future suitability of provision.

Some major building condition issues would be addressed. Priority 1 condition issues would be addressed (where Priority 1 is defined as being necessary in the next 12 months, Priority 2 in the next 12 to 24 months and Priority 3 as works that would need to be addressed in the next 2 or more years).

The **MAXIMUM** variant goes beyond the provision of additional classroom space set out in the minimum option by also addressing any essential and feasible accommodation shortfalls in the existing facility in line with the recommendations set out in Building Bulletin 99 and also providing improved external facilities. In addition, all Priority 1, 2 and 3 Condition issues would be addressed.

The approach to the core deliverables and the MINIMUM and MAXIMUM options is consistent with all work previously undertaken as part of the Council's Primary Capital Programme. Based on the core deliverables and options outlined in this appendix, the revised cost estimates for each site are outlined in the table below:

Birkenshaw CE (VC) F & N site	MINIMUM	£4.56m
	MAXIMUM	£7.12m
Birkenshaw Middle site	MINIMUM	£2.87m
	MAXIMUM	£4.94m

From an external site perspective the recommendations set put in BB99 suggest that a 2-class entry primary school with a 26fte place nursery requires a minimum recommended site area of approximately 17,600m<sup>2</sup>. The existing Birkenshaw F&N site has an area of approximately 24,500m<sup>2</sup> whilst Birkenshaw Middle has an approximate area of 57,500m<sup>2</sup>. The site at Birkenshaw Middle provides greater flexibility for future expansion should it be required and, with the extensive sports pitches for example, is capable of providing a larger space for community use.

It should be noted that detailed capital schemes for schools in Birkenshaw and East Bierley have yet to be included in the capital plan. In the event of member approval to proceed with any of the minimum or maximum cost options, this would be subject to inclusion in the capital plan.

## Consultation document distribution list

List of Consultees		
<b>Kirklees Council Officers</b>	Chief Executive Director for Place Director for Resources Director for Children and Young People Director for Wellbeing and Communities Director for Public Health DChYPS Assistant Director for Learning DChYPS Assistant Director for Commissioning DChYPS Assistant Director for Family Support and Child Protection	
<b>Kirklees Learning Service</b>	Transformation & Quality Improvement Officers	
<b>All Kirklees Councillors</b>	Almondbury Ashbrow Batley East Batley West Birstall and Birkenshaw Cleckheaton Colne Valley Crosland Moor and Netherton Dalton Denby Dale Dewsbury East Dewsbury South	Dewsbury West Golcar Greenhead Heckmondwike Holme Valley North Holme Valley South Kirkburton Lindley Liversedge and Gomersal Mirfield Newsome
	Ward Members	
<b>Dioceses</b>	Diocese of Leeds Diocese of Wakefield	
<b>Further Education Colleges</b>	Greenhead College Huddersfield New College Kirklees College	
<b>University</b>	Huddersfield University	
<b>YPLA</b>	Young People's Learning Agency	
<b>MP's</b>		Mike Wood MP Jason McCartney MP Simon Reevell MP Barry Sheerman MP
<b>Neighbouring LAs</b>	Barnsley Council	School Organisation
	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	School Organisation
	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	Director of Children's Services
	City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Director of Children's Services
	City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Principle Research & Policy Officer
	Leeds City Council	Director of Children's Services
	Leeds City Council	Education Leeds
	Oldham Council	Assistant Executive Director
	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	Director of Children's Services
	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	School Organisation

<b>The Children's Trust Board Members</b>	Kirklees High School Heads NHS Kirklees Kirklees Governor Association Voluntary Action Network Calderdale & Kirklees Careers Schools Forum and Primary Headteachers West Yorkshire Probation Trust Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust West Yorkshire Police West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Kirklees College Chair of Safeguarding Board Job Centre Plus	
<b>DFE</b>	School Organisation Unit	
<b>Unions</b>	UNISON GMB ATL ASCL NASUWT NAHT TGWU NUT	
<b>Parent/ Guardian of Pupils at</b>	Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist Business and Enterprise College, Birkenshaw Middle School Birkenshaw CE (C) F and N School East Bierley CE (VC) First School	
<b>Governors and Staff at</b>	Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist Business and Enterprise College, Birkenshaw Middle School Birkenshaw CE (C) F and N School East Bierley CE (VC) First School	Head + Governors + staff and display
<b>Schools Affected</b>	<b>Schools in the Whitcliffe mount pyramid</b> Gomersal CE (VC) Middle School Gomersal Primary School Gomersal St Mary's CE (VA) F and N School High Bank J I & N School Hightown School Heaton Avenue F and N School Whitechapel CE Primary Scholes Village Primary School West End Middle School Howard Park Community School Whitechapel Middle School  <b>All other Kirklees schools in 3 mile radius</b>	Head + Chair of Governors + staff and display
<b>Early Years</b>	Early Years Birkenshaw and Cleckheaton including private day nursery and child minders with in a 3 mile radius	
<b>Other interested parties</b>	BBG Academy Trust	

<b>Public Places and Community Settings</b>	Almondbury Library	Moorfield Primary Care Centre
	Batley Library	Princess Royal Health Centre
	Birkby and Fartown LIC	Ravensthorpe Health Centre
	Birstall LIC	Savile Town Clinic
	Chestnut Centre	Skelmanthorpe Health Centre
	Cleckheaton Library	Slaithwaite Health Centre
	Denby Dale Library	Honley Community Centre
	Dewsbury Library	Bradley Community Centre
	Golcar Library	Muslim Community Centre
	The Greenwood Centre	Fieldhead Community Centre Ltd
	Heckmondwike Library	Chickenley Community Centre
	Holmfirth Library	Thornhill Lees Community Centre
	Honley Library	Huddersfield Chinese Community Centre
	Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery	Lindley Methodist Community Centre
	Kirkburton Library	Howden Clough Community Centre
	Kirkheaton Library	Mirfield Community Centre
	Lepton Library	Ravensthorpe Community Centre Ltd
	Lindley LIC	Taleem Community Centre
	Marsden Library	The Trinity Centre
	Meltham LIC	Salfia Advice Centre
	Mirfield Library	Crosland Moor Community Association
	Rawthorpe/Dalton Library	Kirklees Community Learning Disability Team
	Shepley Library and Information Centre	Greenfields Family Centre
	Skelmanthorpe Library and Information Centre	Greenhead Resource Unit
	Slaithwaite Library	Pathways Day Services
	Thornhill Lees Library and Information Centre	Holmfirth Phoenix Youth & Community Centre
	Batley Health Centre	Savoy Youth & Community Centre
	Cleckheaton Health Centre	Café 100
	Dewsbury Health Centre	Birkenshaw Community Hall
	Fartown Health Centre	Scout Association
	Golcar Clinic	Kirklees Federation of Tenants & Residents Association
	Kirkburton Health Centre	Shaw Cross Club for Young People
	Marsden Health Centre	
Mill Hill Community Health Centre		



Statutory Consultation about the proposal to  
discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School  
and

**Non statutory consultation about the  
implementation of proposals for  
Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School  
and East Bierley CE(VC) First School**

Please respond by  
**Friday 18 November 2011**

# Introduction from Kirklees Council

The Council made a decision in March 2010 to close Birkenshaw Middle School and to establish a new Co-educational Academy at Howden Clough in September 2013 as part of the change from a three to a two tier system of education in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools.

Subsequent decisions nationally now mean that this decision would be very difficult to implement in its original form.

To fully implement the re-organisation of the 3-tier system in the Birkenshaw-Cleckheaton-Gomersal areas the council is holding a period of statutory consultation for the revised proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School.

The cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Primary Capital (PCP) funding Programmes means that the council has needed to review how the changes to first school buildings in Birkenshaw and East Bierley can be implemented so they can become all through primary schools.

A revised implementation plan for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School would be a relocation of the school from its current site at Station Lane to make use of the facilities and buildings at Birkenshaw Middle School to give the best primary school provision that is possible. There is a strong wish to retain a village school in East Bierley village. A revised implementation plan for East Bierley CE(VC) First School would be to reduce the number of pupils admitted into each year so that seven reduced-size year groups can be accommodated in the existing building without the need for major capital investment. This would provide sufficient school places to serve the village and keep the school in the village location.

Although there is no requirement to carry out a statutory consultation it is important that we also consult and understand the views of parents and other stakeholders about the revised implementation plans for the first schools in order that these can be taken into account.

There is a seven week period up to 18 November during which you can express your views in writing or in person at meetings about the statutory proposals for Birkenshaw Middle School and the revised proposals for enabling Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School to become all-through primary schools.

At the end of this time the proposals, and all your views on the consultation issues, will be considered by Kirklees Council's Cabinet.

There is a form at the back of this booklet that can be used to give your views as well as being able to respond online using the Kirklees Council website [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation).

There will be drop-in sessions where you can come along and speak to Officers of the Council about the proposals, discuss how they may affect your child and where you will be able to give your views in person. Dates and times of these meetings can be found on the back page of this booklet. **Your views must be received by Friday 18 November 2011.**

# Statutory consultation about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School on 31 August 2013

## Why is there a new proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School?

In January 2008 it was decided in principle to change to a two-tier system of Primary and Secondary schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid. We have already asked for your views about the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School. The plan to link this with the start of the new E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough in Birstall was agreed by the council in 2010.

It is now not possible to go ahead with creating a new Co-educational Academy at Howden Clough and alternative arrangements need to be made for secondary school places for children from Birkenshaw Middle School. This also means that we have to make new proposals for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School and ask you again for your views as part of a statutory consultation.

## What is the new proposal for Birkenshaw Middle School?

Kirklees Council proposes to close Birkenshaw Middle School on 31st August 2013.

## What has changed in the new proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School?

The proposals for the closure and the arrangements for all the children and young people involved have been changed as little as possible.

There is no change to the proposals that:

- the school would close in August 2013
- there would be no Year 5 at Birkenshaw Middle School in September 2012 as these pupils would remain at their First Schools until they move to secondary school at the end of Year 6.

The main change that is being proposed by Kirklees Council is that:

- The proposed arrangements being presented for consultation name Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist Business and Enterprise College as the receiving school for pupils "displaced" by the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School. Pupils currently in Years 5, 6 and 7 - would transfer to Years 7, 8 and 9 at Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist Business & Enterprise College in September 2013 when the school closes.

- A place would be guaranteed for every pupil at Whitcliffe Mount.

The proposed changes do not affect the rights of parents and carers to express a preference for other secondary schools, including any new schools that are established in the local area from September 2013.

There is currently a proposal being developed by the BBG Academy Trust to establish a Free School in the area. As this proposal progresses, this may become a further option for parents to express an interest in their child attending. We will ensure that you are kept informed as this Free School develops.

## How would the role of Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist Business & Enterprise College change?

The change means that Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist Business and Enterprise College would continue to be the Kirklees secondary school serving all the parts of the Birkenshaw, Cleckheaton and Gomersal area. The school is changing from a 13-16 into an 11-16 school as part of the reorganisation from a three to a two tier system in the area. As a result places would be available for 11-16 year old pupils living in the admission area for the school.

## Can Birkenshaw Middle School pupils transfer to Whitcliffe Mount in September 2012?

Some parents of pupils currently in Years 6 and 7 at Birkenshaw Middle School have asked whether it would be possible for their child to transfer to secondary school in September 2012 at the same time as all the other pupils of the same age in the other three closing middle schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools. This would mean that most of the pupils in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools would be able to progress together.

Kirklees Local Authority (LA) has written to parents at Birkenshaw Middle School to explain the options available for their children. The LA would put in place the necessary accommodation and work with the school to ensure that there would be sufficient places available at Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist Business and Enterprise College to guarantee a place for every pupil from all four middle schools who wished to transfer in September 2012.

Equally, parents and carers of pupils currently in Years 6 and 7 who want their children to stay at Birkenshaw Middle School until it is proposed to close in 2013 would be able to do so.

This would mean that Birkenshaw Middle School would have a full group of Year 6 pupils for the school year 2012-13 and possibly a reduced number of Year 7 and 8 pupils dependent upon how many children transfer to Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist Business and Enterprise College in September 2012.

**Support through changes**

We are preparing detailed plans in consultation with parents and carers to plot the path for pupils, as well as with staff so that we can all effectively cope with any proposed changes. Maintaining stability and creating an improvement in the current standards of our children’s education will remain the backbone of everything we do.

The proposed arrangements for pupils at Birkenshaw Middle School in 2012-13 would ensure that the full curriculum would be protected through additional staffing and pupil welfare and support arrangements would be continued in full.

The following pages show how the changes may affect your child. The proposed transition pathways do not affect the rights of parents and carers to apply for a place at other schools.

**Proposed timeline for the changes to Birkenshaw Middle School and agreed changes to the First Schools in the Birkenshaw area**

Date	Proposed changes to Birkenshaw Middle School and the First Schools in the Birkenshaw area
Sep 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 retained at First Schools as originally planned</li> <li>• Year 6 remains at Birkenshaw Middle School as originally planned</li> <li>• Year 7 remain at Birkenshaw Middle School as originally planned OR can choose to transfer to Whitcliffe Mount*</li> <li>• Year 8 remain at Birkenshaw Middle School as originally planned OR can choose to transfer to Whitcliffe Mount*</li> <li>• Year 9 transfer to Whitcliffe Mount* as usual</li> </ul>
Sep 2012 – Aug 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full cohort of Year 6 pupils on Birkenshaw Middle School site</li> <li>• Possibly reduced cohort of Year 7 pupils on Birkenshaw Middle School site</li> <li>• Possibly reduced cohort of Year 8 pupils on Birkenshaw Middle School site</li> <li>• Protected curriculum and pupil welfare and support arrangements</li> </ul>
Aug 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birkenshaw Middle School to close (as originally planned)</li> </ul>
Sep 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First schools are all through primary schools</li> <li>• Year 6, 7 and 8 pupils transfer to Year 7, 8 and 9 at Whitcliffe Mount*</li> </ul>
Sep 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two-tier system fully in place with transfer from primary to secondary school at age 11</li> </ul>

\*The proposed transition pathways do not affect the rights of parents and carers to express a preference for other secondary schools, including any new schools that are established in the local area from September 2013.

## How would the proposed changes affect my child currently attending Birkenshaw Middle School?

- Pupils in current Year 8 would not be affected by the proposals. They would follow the existing pattern and progress through the Middle School and then transfer to Whitcliffe Mount – Specialist Business & Enterprise College\* at the start of Year 9 in 2012.

- Pupils in current Year 7 would stay at Birkenshaw Middle School until September 2013 and then transfer to Year 9 at Whitcliffe Mount SBEC\*. They could choose to transfer to Year 8 in September 2012, as “displaced pupils”, to a reserved place at Whitcliffe Mount SBEC\* at the same time as all the other pupils of the same age in the other three closing middle schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools.

Parents may also wish to explore whether a place is available at another secondary school from September 2012.

- Pupils in current Year 6 would stay at Birkenshaw Middle School until September 2013 and then transfer to Year 8 at Whitcliffe Mount SBEC\*. As “displaced pupils” they would have a reserved place at Whitcliffe Mount SBEC\*. They could choose to transfer to Year 7 in September 2012 to a reserved place at Whitcliffe Mount SBEC\* at the same time as all the other pupils of the same age in the other three closing middle schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools. Parents of Year 6 pupils may wish to express a preference for a Year 7 place in September 2012 at another secondary school other than Whitcliffe Mount SBEC. (Parents of Year 6 pupils in primary schools in Kirklees are making their applications for a Year 7 place at a secondary school for September 2012 before 31st October 2011).

- Pupils in current Year 5 would stay as Year 6 at Birkenshaw Middle School. They would then transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school\* in September 2013 as part of the normal secondary transfer process.

- Pupils in current Year 4 at Birkenshaw CE(VC)F&N and East Bierley CE(C)F Schools would stay at the first schools through to the end of Year 6 and then transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school\* in September 2014.

Pupils at Birkenshaw Middle School	School year beginning:							
	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Sep 2014	Sep 2015	Sep 2016	Sep 2017	Sep 2018

### Current Year 8 at Birkenshaw Middle School would

- Transfer to Year 9 at Whitcliffe Mount – SBEC\* in Sep 2012

B'shaw Middle	Whitcliffe Mount -SBEC			
	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16

### Current Year 7 at Birkenshaw Middle School would

- Transfer to Year 9 at Whitcliffe Mount – SBEC\* in Sep 2013 (OR transfer to Year 8 at Whitcliffe Mount – SBEC\* in Sep 2012).

B'shaw Middle	BMS or W Mount	Whitcliffe Mount -SBEC/ Other Sec School		
		Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15

### Current Year 6 at Birkenshaw Middle School would

- Transfer to Year 8 at Whitcliffe Mount – SBEC\* in Sep 2013 (OR transfer to Year 7 at Whitcliffe Mount – SBEC\* in Sep 2012).

B'shaw Middle	BMS or W Mount	Whitcliffe Mount -SBEC/ Other Sec School			
		Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15

### Current Year 5 at Birkenshaw Middle School would

- Stay in Year 6 at Birkenshaw Middle School
- Transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school\* in Sep 2013

Birkenshaw Middle		Secondary School				
Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16

### Current Year 4 and below at First Schools would

- Stay in first / primary school to end of Year 6
- Transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school\*

First/Primary School			Secondary School				
Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16

\*The proposed transition pathways do not affect the rights of parents and carers to express a preference for other secondary schools, including any new schools that are established in the local area from September 2013.

# Non-statutory consultation about the proposed relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School

## What are the agreed plans for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School?

Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School is located on Station Lane, Birkenshaw. There are external play spaces and the school consists of three structures; two main buildings each containing five class bases and a modular building containing nursery provision. The school currently has five year groups of up to 66 pupils aged 5-9, in classes of approximately 33, giving a total of up to 330 pupils.

In January 2010 proposals were approved to change Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School into an all-through primary school for pupils aged 5-11 years. The plan is to enlarge the school to hold two additional age groups (Year 5 and Year 6) to give seven year groups of up to 60 pupils - a total of 420 pupils (plus nursery aged children).

To enable Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to change into an all-through primary school, capital investment was to be carried out on the existing site and buildings on Station Lane as part of the government funded Primary Capital Programme.

The preferred refurbishment as part of the Primary Capital Programme consolidated the school into a single building by a major extension of one of the school's existing buildings. It would also provide the required classrooms, the nursery provision, dining space and kitchen facilities of sufficient size to cater for a two class entry all through primary school.

## Why are the agreed plans proposed to change?

The Government cancellation of the funding programme for primary schools means that it has been necessary to reconsider how best to invest in buildings to provide space for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School as it becomes an all-through primary school.

## How many pupil places are needed in the Birkenshaw area?

There are, on average, just over 55 children in each school year group who live in the priority admission area (PAA) for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School. Demographics indicate that projected pupil numbers

are likely to remain at this level and this means that a school with 60 pupil places in each year could easily meet the projected needs of families living in the catchment area.

## What new options have been considered for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to provide enough space?

1. Build four permanent classrooms next to the existing building mix without addressing hall, dining or kitchen facilities and retain the Nursery within its modular accommodation.
2. Place four modular classrooms on site without addressing hall, dining or kitchen facilities and retain the Nursery within its modular accommodation.
3. Use the Bradford Road site and buildings currently occupied by Birkenshaw Middle School (The buildings of the other three middle schools are also planned to be developed as primary schools).

Neither options 1 or 2 address the core specification defined by the Council where:

- All accommodation would be housed in a single building;
- All accommodation would be permanent.

## Which site for a primary school would give the best value? Station Lane or Bradford Road?

In order to compare the costs for providing a 2 class entry, 420 place primary school for pupils aged 5-11 with a 26 FTE (full time equivalent) place nursery on both the existing Station Lane site and the Bradford Road site two options have been developed – a MINIMUM option and a MAXIMUM option.

### Comparative capital costs for the minimum and maximum options for the Station Lane and Bradford Road sites

Birkenshaw CE(C) F&N site, Station Lane	Minimum option	£4.56m
	Maximum option	£7.12m
Birkenshaw Middle site, Bradford Road	Minimum option	£2.87m
	Maximum option	£4.94m

The **minimum** option provides the necessary classrooms and toilets to turn the facility into a primary school. It also includes other essential work such as the replacement of the temporary accommodation and addresses highways, parking, hard play and access issues. (It is to be noted that no off site Highways works are foreseen for either site at this stage and that all costs are consequently associated with works on site). The minimum costing also includes an allocation for the provision of external learning spaces and the external environment that would be equivalent to the existing provision at the Birkenshaw First and Nursery School Site.

However, the existing shortfalls in accommodation would not necessarily be brought up to the recommendations set out in the current school building standards (Building Bulletin 99) such as the provision of small group rooms or where the existing layout of the building may be causing organisational issues. (It is important to note that many schools nationally do not meet Building Bulletin 99 recommendations, but these are the quality standards that the Council applies when investing in school buildings to ensure the future suitability of provision). Only the most urgent major building condition issues would be addressed in the minimum option.

The **maximum** option goes beyond the provision of additional classroom space set out in the minimum option by also addressing any essential and feasible accommodation shortfalls in the existing facility in line with the recommendations set out in Building Bulletin 99 and also providing improved external facilities. In addition, the building condition issues required in the next few years would be addressed.

The approach to the core specification and the minimum and maximum options is consistent with all work previously undertaken as part of the Council's Primary Capital Programme.

There are illustrations of indicative site layouts and floor plans which show how these options could look and are available online at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation).

Copies will also be on display at each consultation drop-in session.

Consideration of the changed availability of capital, as well as the location and suitability of the buildings available and the educational benefit would suggest that the better value for money solution would be to move Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to the Bradford Road site and buildings currently occupied by Birkenshaw Middle School.

### **What is the revised proposal for implementing the changes to turn Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School into an all-through primary school?**

It is proposed that Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School is relocated from the current Station Lane site to the site and buildings currently occupied by Birkenshaw Middle School on Bradford Road. Capital investment in the Birkenshaw Middle School site and building would be required to provide a 2 class entry all through primary school with nursery provision. As part of the reorganisation in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools we have planned to use the other three middle school sites and buildings in a similar way to give the best primary school provision that is possible.

The relocation of the school could take place following the necessary adaptation and refurbishment to the site and buildings of Birkenshaw Middle School. Subject to the availability of capital funding, this work could be complete by September 2014.

### **How would the implementation and change be managed?**

The agreed plans for changing Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School into an all-through primary school for pupils aged 5-11 years with a nursery mean that:

- In September 2012 the current Year 4 pupils at the school will remain at the school as Year 5 pupils.
- In September 2013 the Year 5 pupils will remain at the school as Year 6 pupils. The school will then be an-all through primary school with approx 420 pupils aged 5-11 as well as a nursery
- In September 2014 the first group of Year 6 pupils will transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school taking into account parental preference using the same transfer process as all other Year 6 primary schools in Kirklees.

If the proposed change of site for the school is approved, this would take place following the necessary adaptation and refurbishment to the site and buildings of Birkenshaw Middle School. Subject to the availability of capital funding, this work could be complete by September 2014. Until that time, the additional pupils would be accommodated as follows:

- From September 2012 the additional classrooms required would be provided by modular buildings on the Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School site.

# How would the proposed changes affect my child currently attending Birkenshaw CE(C)First and Nursery School?

The table below shows the effects of a move from the Station Lane site to the Bradford Road site in September 2014\* (subject to appropriate investment in the former Birkenshaw Middle School site and buildings). (\*2014 would be the possible date for the move to the new site for the school.)

- Pupils in the current Year 4 at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N would stay at the first school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2014. They would not be affected by any move to the Bradford Road site.
- Pupils in the current Year 3 at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N would stay at the first school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2015. They would move to the Bradford Road site in September 2014\*.
- Pupils in the current Year 2 at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N would stay at the first school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2016. They would move to the Bradford Road site in September 2014\*.
- Pupils in the current Year 1 at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N would stay at the first school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2017. They would move to the Bradford Road site in September 2014\*.
- Pupils in the current Reception Class at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N would stay at the first school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2018. They would move to the Bradford Road site in September 2014\*.

Transition Plan Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N School	School year beginning:								
	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Sep 2014	Sep 2015	Sep 2016	Sep 2017	Sep 2018	Sep 2019
<b>Year 4 at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&amp;N School</b> • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2014	Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N →Primary School - Station Ln			Secondary school					
	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	
<b>Year 3 at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&amp;N School</b> • School moves to Bradford Rd site Sep 2014* • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2015	Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N →Primary School - Station Ln			B Pon B'fordRd	Secondary school				
	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16
<b>Year 2 at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&amp;N School</b> • School moves to Bradford Rd site Sep 2014* • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2016	Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N →Primary School - Station Lane			Birkenshaw CE(C) Primary on Bradford Rd site		Secondary school			
	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15
<b>Year 1 at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&amp;N School</b> • School moves to Bradford Rd site Sep 2014* • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2017	Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N →Primary School - Station Lane			Birkenshaw CE(C) Primary on Bradford Rd site			Secondary school		
	Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14
<b>Reception at Birkenshaw CE(C)F&amp;N School</b> • School moves to Bradford Rd site Sep 2014* • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2018	Birkenshaw CE(C)F&N →Primary School - Station Lane			Birkenshaw CE(C) Primary on Bradford Rd site				Secondary school	
	Reception age 5	Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13

\*September 2014 is the possible date for the move to the new site for the school, subject to the availability of capital. Appendices page 13 of 175.

# Non-statutory consultation about the proposed change to the published admission number to retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building

## What are the agreed plans for East Bierley CE(VC) First School?

East Bierley CE (VC) First School is a part Victorian building, located on a very restricted site in the village of East Bierley. It is surrounded by common land and adjacent to the Village Green. The school currently has five year groups of up to 30 pupils aged 5-9 giving a total of up to 150 pupils.

In January 2010 proposals were approved to change East Bierley CE(VC) First School into an all-through primary school for pupils aged 5-11 years, to enlarge the school to hold two additional age groups (Year 5 and Year 6) to give seven year groups of up to 30 pupils - a total of 210 pupils.

There were no detailed plans for the building. The options being explored ranged from modifications to the existing building to constructing a new school building on a suitable site located within the village. Indicative costs for these options ranged between £3 to £5 million.

## Why are the agreed plans proposed to change?

The Government cancellation of the funding programme for primary schools means that it has been necessary to reconsider how best to invest in buildings to provide space for East Bierley CE(VC) First School as it becomes an all-through primary school.

A new approach is needed to get the best educational benefits and value for money from the re-organised provision in East Bierley. The revised plans must also ensure a smooth and effective change without any disruption to the education of the pupils involved.

## How many pupil places are needed in the East Bierley area?

There are, on average, 16 children in each school age group living in the priority admission area (PAA) for East Bierley CE(VC) First School. This number is projected to remain steady and means that a school with 20 pupil places in each year could easily meet the projected needs of families living in the East Bierley area.

## What new options have been considered for East Bierley CE(VC) First School?

1) Move East Bierley CE(VC) First School to another site such as the site of Birkenshaw Middle School. In the 2009 consultation, community views overwhelmingly supported the view that the school played an important part in village life and should be retained in the village.

2) Other lower cost options involving the use of modular buildings and alternative sites in the village have been considered. There are however practical planning and feasibility issues, for example the possible use of the common land next to the school, that make these options difficult to implement.

3) East Bierley CE(VC) First School could become an all through primary school in the existing building if the size of each year group were to be reduced to 20 pupils per year. An all through primary school to serve seven year groups would require space for 140 pupils.

Consideration of the capital available, the location, suitability of the buildings available and the educational benefit would suggest that the better value for money option and one which is possible to implement, would be to retain the school in its existing buildings with a smaller intake of 20 pupils per year as described in option 3 above. This would meet the local community's wish to retain a primary school in East Bierley Village. Whilst other options will continue to be considered until a decision is made, the views of parents, governors and other interested people are being gathered through consultation to inform the decision-making process.

## What is the revised proposal for implementing the changes to turn East Bierley CE(VC) First School into an all-through primary school?

It is proposed to retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building and reduce the school's published admission number (PAN) to 20 pupils into the Reception class from September 2013 so that eventually the school would become a 140 place, 5-11, all through primary school.

## How would the change to East Bierley CE(VC) First School be implemented and managed?

All existing pupils would stay at the school until age 11 at the end of Year 6. A reduced intake of 20 pupils into the Reception class would over time lead to an all-through primary school with up to 140 pupils in seven age groups in five mixed age classes. Additional modular classroom space would be required on a temporary basis to provide enough room for the initial increase in numbers when Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are retained from 2012 and 2013 respectively. This would require up to £330k of capital expenditure. Eventually the 140 pupils would be fully accommodated within the existing building.

## How would the proposed changes affect my child currently attending East Bierley CE(VC)First School?

- Pupils in the current Year 4 at East Bierley CE(VC)First School would stay at the first/primary school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2014.
- Pupils in the current Year 3 at East Bierley CE(VC)First School would stay at the first/primary school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2015.
- Pupils in the current Year 2 at East Bierley CE(VC)First School would stay at the first/primary school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2016.
- Pupils in the current Year 1 at East Bierley CE(VC)First School would stay at the first/primary school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2017.
- Pupils in the current Reception at East Bierley CE(VC)First School would stay at the first/primary school through to the end of Year 6 and transfer to Year 7 in a secondary school in September 2018.

Transition Plan East Bierley CE(VC) First	School year beginning:									
	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Sep 2014	Sep 2015	Sep 2016	Sep 2017	Sep 2018	Sep 2019	
<b>Year 4 at East Bierley CE(VC) First School</b> • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2014	East Bierley CE(VC) First →Primary School			Secondary school						
	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16		
<b>Year 3 at East Bierley CE(VC) First School</b> • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2015	East Bierley CE(VC) First →Primary School				Secondary school					
	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	
<b>Year 2 at East Bierley CE(VC) First School</b> • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2016	East Bierley CE(VC) First →Primary School					Secondary school				
	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	
<b>Year 1 at East Bierley CE(VC) First School</b> • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2017	East Bierley CE(VC) First →Primary School						Secondary school			
	Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	
<b>Reception at East Bierley CE(VC) First School</b> • Remain to end of Year 6 then transfer to Year 7 in secondary school Sep 2018	East Bierley CE(VC) First →Primary School							Secondary school		
	Reception age 5	Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	

# The consultation process - Next steps

The consultation on the proposals described in this booklet is open between 3 October and 18 November 2011. You have until this date to express your views in writing, or in person at meetings. At the end of this time, the feedback received will be reported to, and considered by, Kirklees Council's Cabinet. The Cabinet will decide whether to move to the next stage which would mean:

- the publication of statutory notices for Birkenshaw Middle School where there will be a further opportunity to view the proposals and comment on them.
- decisions about the implementation proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School.

The table below shows what has happened so far and the next steps involved.

Activity	Date
Cabinet to consider a report about; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• revised proposals and to give permission to begin statutory process to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School</li> <li>• revised implementation proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School</li> </ul>	13 September 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• six week statutory consultation period for Birkenshaw Middle School; and</li> <li>• six week non statutory consultation period for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School</li> </ul>	3 October – 18 November 2011
Report to cabinet detailing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the outcomes of the statutory consultation for Birkenshaw Middle School including views expressed about pupil transitions and (subject to those outcomes) recommendation to move to next stage of the statutory process*</li> </ul> <b>NB This will be subject to cabinet approval of the revocation of the existing decided proposal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the outcomes of the non statutory consultation for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School including views expressed about pupil transitions and a decision following the consideration of those outcomes.</li> </ul>	December 2011
Publication of statutory proposal and notice (and six week representation period) for Birkenshaw Middle School*	December 2011
Report to cabinet for final decision about Birkenshaw Middle School*	February 2012
Implementation of proposals and proposed pupil transition arrangements for Birkenshaw Middle School*	(From September 2012) Closure of Birkenshaw Middle School on 31st August 2013

\*Subject to scheduling of cabinet meetings

**Your views are very important to us. Anyone can provide feedback on the proposals outlined in this booklet.**



# Response Sheet

## SECTION 1: About you

(The information you give will be used to analyse the responses)

- Parent/Carer  Pupil  Governor  Member of staff
- local resident  Other (professional, on behalf of an organisation etc):

please specify.....

Which school (if any) are you linked with?

.....

### Please write in your postcode:

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(We will not use this information to contact you)

## SECTION 2:

Having read the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School please indicate your views about the proposal by ticking one of the boxes below

a. Do you agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

- Agree       Disagree       Don't know

b. Why have you decided that is your view? Tell us about it along with anything else you want us to consider

.....  
.....

c. Are there any comments you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?

.....  
.....

## SECTION 3:

Having read the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School please indicate your views about the proposal by ticking one of the boxes below:

a. Do you agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School

- Agree       Disagree       Don't know

b. Why have you decided that is your view? Tell us about it along with anything else you want us to consider

.....  
.....

c. Are there any comments you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School?

.....  
.....



**SECTION 4:**

Having read the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places per year at East Bierley CE(VC) First School and retain the school in its current building please indicate your views about the proposal by ticking one of the boxes below:

a. Do you agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village?

Agree                       Disagree                       Don't know

b. Why have you decided that is your view? Tell us about it along with anything else you want us to consider

.....

.....

c. Are there any comments you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?

.....

.....

**Please use a separate sheet and attach to this form if you would like to make additional comments.**

**How would you describe your ethnic origin?** (Please tick ✓ one box only)

<p><b>White</b></p> <p>English/Welsh/Scottish/ Northern Irish/British <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Irish <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Gypsy or Irish Traveller <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Any other White background <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Please write in).....</p> <p><b>Mixed</b></p> <p>White and Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>White and Black African <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>White and Asian <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Any other Mixed background <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Please write in).....</p>	<p><b>Asian or Asian British</b></p> <p>Indian <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Chinese <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Any other Asian background <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Please write in).....</p> <p><b>Black or Black British</b></p> <p>Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>African <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Any other Black background <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Please write in).....</p>	<p><b>Other ethnic group</b></p> <p>Arab <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Please write in) .....</p>
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Please note we cannot respond individually to any comments but they are a valued part of the consultation.

**You can return your completed form:**

**By post:** to School Organisation and Planning Team, FREEPOST, Kirklees Council (you don't need a stamp)

**In person:** Hand in at one of the consultation drop in sessions

**On line:** you can complete this form online at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation)

OR email us your response [school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about the form, need help completing it, or would like further information



# Consultation is open between Monday 3 October and Friday 18 November 2011

The following consultation 'drop in' events are open to families of children and young people, members of the community and anyone who would like to discuss the proposals. You can talk about any of the proposals at each session, so please come along at a time and location most convenient to you.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
Tue 11 Oct	East Bierley CE(VC) First School, South View Road, East Bierley, BD4 6PH	3.25-6.25pm
Mon 17 Oct	Birkenshaw Middle School, Bradford Road, Gomersal, Cleckheaton BD19 4BE	3.30-6.30pm
Tue 18 Oct	Whitcliffe Mount – Specialist Business and Enterprise College, Turnsteads Avenue, Cleckheaton, BD19 3AQ	3.30-6.30pm
Wed 2 Nov	Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School, Station Lane, Birkenshaw, BD11 2JE	3.30-6.30pm

In addition to these events we will arrange other opportunities for consultation for children, young people, staff and governors.

This leaflet can be made available in other formats.  
Please contact 01484 225014 for more information.

## Don't forget to respond by Friday 18 November 2011

See page 13 for details

[www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation)

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<b>Response Type</b>	
Response Form	221
On-line form	46
Letter	22
E-mail	14
Petition	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>

**RESPONSE SHEETS****“Do you agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School”**

**127 Response sheets were received from parents/carers who answered this section**

**46 responses from Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School parents/carers**

**20 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Happy with two tier. Happier now Howden Clough is not an option. Still concerned at the scale of an expanded Whitcliffe.	N/A
Agree with conversion to 2 tier system - would like new school (secondary) on this site.	No comments.
I agree with the move to a 2 tier system on educational grounds and therefore agree this building is no longer required for use as a middle school and, in fact, it was never constructed for this purpose and was originally a high school.	The building was assessed in 2009 as unfit for use as a primary school.
Have no choice as a middle school is not part of a 2 tier system.	Yes, glad my child won't have to go through this as it will be a real mess with no thought to the child's actual education.
Safer upper school site	No comments
I agree that Birkenshaw 1st School should be a through school for yrs 1 - yrs 6.	It seems a little haphazard and not as much thought for the children has gone into it - more about the building.
As Kirklees moves away from a three tier education system to a two tier system, it makes sense to close the middle school to allow the building to be opened as the new free school.	I think there is a stalling tactic being used to slow the launch of the free school and remove the option of older middle school children being able to take advantage of the free school by Kirklees Council.
Because of the new two tier system, it makes sense	No comments

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
to have this site as a new high school for children in this area.	
Agree in terms of what trying to achieve in the long term - raising educational standards, and less disruption due to moving schools - one move instead of two (part way through key stages). However think it is a great shame that middle schools (three tier system) are being closed, as Birkenshaw Middle School is a fantastic, high achieving school, providing middle ground and a protective environment for excellent learning for 9 - 13 year olds very ready to move on from 1st school but not necessarily physically or emotionally ready for high school. Also providing a local school where children can walk to school, and giving community benefits.	Think the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School in August 2013 (one year later than Gomersal and Cleckheaton Middle Schools) is a bit disjointed. Birkenshaw Middle School pupils being set to start Whitcliffe Mount one year later than the other middle schools, may put them at a disadvantage to other pupils of the same age, in terms of settling in together at the new school (one year difference), and in learning (possible differences in curriculum covered and differences in teaching methods used). The opportunity for year 6 and 7 pupils to go to Whitcliffe Mount one year earlier (ref September 2012) puts the last year of Birkenshaw Middle School into array & potentially at a disadvantage, depending on the uptake to Whitcliffe Mount and student numbers left at Birkenshaw Middle School in it final year.
No comments	No comments
I believe the First School is a better site for a primary school. It is not on a major road.	No comments
The site is far safer than on Bradford Road plus it is a much nicer environment for the children.	No comments
No Comments	No comments
I guess a 2 tiered system is cheaper financial though no improvement to children	No comments
Should be used as a secondary school.	No comments
Would much prefer 2 tier system for consistency for children.	Fine at this current time, but not a long term solution.
I agree with arguments put forward by Birkenshaw 1st School.	I think they should stop wasting public money by continually changing the school structure!
It should be handed over to BBGAT to create a new secondary school.	Not needed if Council signs BMS site over the BBGAT.
It makes sense not to split key stage 2 across First & Middle school. Pupils will be at a disadvantage if they do not start high school in line with other local schools.	No

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Less transition for the children.	No comments

### 15 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
We will lose a local school.	No comment
With big schools come big problems, larger classes, bullying too many pupils to have personal relationships pupils become members and it takes away the ability to foster individual children's talents.	No comment
No comment	No comment
It should become a high school for the local community.	No comment
Change it to a secondary school	No comment
Happy with the two sites as they are now. Birkenshaw Middle is in a better position to expand as a high school. More cost effective to stay where you are, it is. It makes children very unsettled, on their own school now, because they could all be split apart friends/classmates. Overall for learning basis as well, very disruptive.	No comment
The 3 tier school system is out dated and 2 tier would be beneficial.	No comment
I disagree to close the school site totally and feel it could be better used to educate children currently there up to the age of sixteen.	I feel there are no clear arrangements in place for the children currently at the middle school at this time due to the Council's indecision.
I would have preferred it to remain as a middle school, but in the event that the decision has already been made to move to 2 tier, I believe this would make an excellent site for an upper school.	No comment
The middle school should be made into what it was built for - a high school.	No comment
Location, area, space, why move our kids when we can use this space!!	No comment
Disagree, as plans for 11+ provision are in disarray, with little or no choice and no definite options for post September 2013. Birkenshaw Middle School should remain open until these issues have been	Having Birkenshaw close after the other middle schools in the same pyramid is very unsettling and makes us as parents feel very isolated with limited choices.

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
sorted properly.	
Disagree, as plans for 11+ provision are in disarray, with little or no choice and no definite options for post September 2013. Birkenshaw Middle School should remain open until these issues have been sorted properly.	Having Birkenshaw close after the other middle schools in the same pyramid is very unsettling and makes us as parents feel very isolated with limited choices.
Good performing community school does not deserve to be closed.	No comment
Whitcliffe Mount is too far away from the area for children to travel to at the age of 11 onwards. Also I am concerned about the capacity of Whitcliffe Mount to cope with the influx of children - the consultation states a place is guaranteed but I do not believe that adequate capacity can be made on the site there. All this in mind the Council should now support the option of BBG High to provide this local capacity.	No comment

**10 responded 'don't know' to the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School  
2 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
I am in favour of a local free school on the site of the current middle school.	The age group concerned often find any change unsettling especially if moved from the local area they know, to an area they don't.
A lot of disruption at the moment to all present pupils and a lot of uncertainty.	Just wish a decision is made quickly.

**1 response did not state a view but made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
This question seems irrelevant as the school is planned to close, people have been asked their views but nothing seems to be taken on board.	No comment

**32 responses from Birkenshaw Middle School parents/carers**

## 11 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why is this your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Because we need a 2 tier system.	No comment
Under the re-organisation, I appreciate that the school will close as a middle school but disagree about the site being used as a primary school.	I think the Council are playing too many games with our children's education and as a parent caught up in the middle of it all am very disappointed.
We agree with 2-tier system.	We need a local high school.
I think we should have halted the move from 3 tier to 2 tier when BSF funding was withdrawn. However BMS cannot continue as a "lone" middle school. It is a very good school and I will be sad to see it close.	I am concerned about the size of Whitcliffe Mount and the detrimental impact this will have on pastoral care. Children from Birkenshaw and East Bierley already experience difficulties travelling from Cleckheaton and obviously there will be a significantly larger of number of children travelling to and from school. A school of 1700 does not meet the clear demand from parents for smaller secondary schools. It is also difficult for parents to make a truly informed decision about whether to transfer their child in 2012 or 2013 when there is still little information about the proposed Free School.
Middle schools have mixture of key stages 2 & 3 which is not in line with most of the country. It is better that all key stage two remain at primary schools at key stage 3 at high schools so that the teaching staff are in the correct roles according to qualifications.	I am extremely concerned about continuity and quality of teaching for my child currently in year 5. As the pupil numbers reduce next year (with no intake of year 5 children) and the school prepares to close, I can't see that any good teachers will be prepared to stay knowing they will be jobless in August 2013. This will severely disadvantage years 6, 7 & 8 in 2012/2013. Also the fact that Whitcliffe Mount will be open to pupils in years 7 & 8 it is going to be very difficult on those 'left behind'.
The area needs a new high school.	I support the BBG Academy is the best use of the now middle school site.
I agree with the closure of the middle school, but feel a high school in the community on this site would be beneficial.	No comment
I agree middle school to close but only to replace it with a high school.	I feel the children should be able to continue on to a local high school on the middle school site.
I agree to the change to a two tier teaching system.	As a parent of a pupil currently in yr 5 at Birkenshaw Middle School, I am very worried about the standard of education that she is going to receive. Information I have read on page 3 of this booklet leads me to believe that my worries are justified.
I believe a two tier teaching system is required.	As a parent of a pupil at Birkenshaw Middle

Why is this your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
	School, I am very worried about the standard of education that she will receive during the transition period. Information I have read in this booklet leads me to believe my concerns are justified.
Two tier system is better for children.	There has been, and still is, too much uncertainty for children and parents. I feel that our children have been used as political pawns and that Councillors have not had education at the forefront of the decisions made.

### 19 disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why is this your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
We should allow it to continue to become a local high school where our children can walk to school.	Stop the political posturing and do what the local community are demanding, give us a local high school.
They should expand as it will benefit the local area in the long run.	A good idea and also a steady transition for students who already know familiar faces.
Sustainable and outstanding performance school with excellent teachers, staff, pupils and community links is being closed for no logical or substantive reasons.	No comments
Good performing community school does not deserve to be closed.	No comments
Excellent school with outstanding performance & embedded roots in the community. We need a school to support the local community for Birkenshaw/Gomersal/East Bierley not Whitcliffe with 1800+ other children, poor infrastructure & unproven teachers hurriedly recruited.	Messy; doesn't make sense.
The BBG to secure this site to serve as a local high school in our area is our only hope ....	This re-organisation will, in no doubt in my mind, disrupt our children's education if this site is not secured to provide further high school stage schooling.
The site should be made available to BBGA to build a new Free High School to serve the local community.	No comments
Strongly. I feel Birkenshaw Middle should open as a high school.	No comments
The school is a fantastic school with outstanding results and staff.	I think this will seriously affect the current year 5 pupils who could potentially be left on their own come 2012 if the current year 6 pupils decide to leave.
I have always believed in the middle school system, however now that all middle schools are closing in	No comments

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
We should allow it to continue to become a local high school where our children can walk to school.	Stop the political posturing and do what the local community are demanding, give us a local high school.
the pyramid I believe 11-16 school provision should be provided on this site.	
Why change a fantastic school.	It is an appalling proposal.
This school provides excellent child support and education. It is an area close to home which allows the children to have safety and security when arriving and leaving school.	This would be very disruptive to my child's education who needs additional assistance with his presentation, quality and content of work. The school has been extremely proactive in identifying his needs in such a short space of time. Children need continuity and would be extremely disappointed if this caused disruption, which could result in being lost in the system.
Why close a good school that works for the area. Children can walk to school, gain confidence in a secure environment.	No comments
The school should become the equivalent of high school and stay in the two tier system.	Yes these children should be allowed to stay at Birkenshaw school until school leaving age.
Whitcliffe Mount School will become too large without provision for secondary education in Birkenshaw.	Safety of pupils at Whitcliffe Mount - large increase September 2012.

**1 responded 'don't know' to the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Yes as agree with 2 tier system, but wish there to be a secondary school on the Birkenshaw site.	I have a child in year 5 at Birkenshaw Middle. I am very concerned about how full the school will be next year. I think that if the school closes in 2013 then children should move on in 2013. Not be given the choice whether to move on in 2012 or 2013. My child could be left in year 6 next year and be possibly the only year left. With the best will in the world and I don't blame the school, teachers will leave, have left and there have been some awful supply teachers already over the last 2 years. (I had a child there who is now in year 7 at Heckmondwike Grammar). Either that or Birkenshaw should have been closed in 2012 alongside all the other schools in the pyramid. Why we were left

	out on a limb is beyond me. Not great for community cohesion on any front.
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**1 response did not state a view but made the following comments**

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
No comments	It should become a high school for the local community as there is inadequate provision at present.

**40 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School parents/carers**

**19 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
When I was a child we had just 2 schools to the age 18 and I'm 27 now it's about time.	No comment
Not sure if relevant as parents are not listened to!! Initial proposal for new high school on Birkenshaw Middle would be ideal for keeping 'a community alive'. Every obstacle has been put in the community's way.	Not all about money!!
Happy with change to 2 tier system on proviso Birkenshaw is allowed to have its independent high school.	It looks like the current year 5 are going to be overlooked as Whitcliffe is opening its doors to yr 6 and above leaving only one year at Birkenshaw. This cannot be good for those children.
I agree only if the site is then given to BBGH to let them build their school. If not prefer middle school system.	Looking like year 5 only year in school if Whitcliffe opens doors early - this would not be good for those children who have to stay with probably supply teachers.
I think it's a shame that such a good school should close but I feel that a 2 tier system is better for the children.	I think it should be the Council's aim to cause as little disruption to the pupils and teachers as possible. This should be the most important point the Council should consider when making their decision.
No comment	No comment
It makes sense to move to the 2 tier system but I understand the school has applied for academy status in collaboration with BBG which I support whole heartedly.	None at this time due to the recent developments.
No comment	No comment
Because having a two tier system will mean less disruption to my children's education.	Why is Birkenshaw closing 12 months after Gomersal & Cleckheaton. I feel my son will be disadvantaged because if he does end up going to Whitcliffe everyone else has had

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
	12 months to find their feet, make friends and settle in.
I think a two tier school system is a better choice for children as it will cause less disruption to their education.	No comment
I agree with the proposal to close BMS but strongly believe that the best use for the site in the future is that proposed by the BBG Academy Trust. Every child should have the right to an outstanding level of education in their local community.	The wishes of parents and the local community are of paramount importance in building successful schools and strengthening the ties between young children, their education and their sense of being a part of that community in which they live.
It is appropriate to have a 2 tier system, but we need a secondary school near to the location of East Bierley.	No comment
I believe a 2 tier system is better than a 3 tier.	No comment
I agree with a two tier system.	I am concerned about the level of education that will be delivered at Birkenshaw Middle School throughout the transition period.
To allow the site to become a high school.	Pupils will be staying to attend the high school won't they???
Never had middle school education myself.	No comment
Never had middle school.	No comment
No comment	No comment
I have chosen this because if my child has to go there it is too far to go.	No comment

### **16 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Local children need a local upper school.	No comment
Why move the Primary School to other site. Just seems unfair! Or putting them together with middle school will be over crowded.	No comment
We don't want our children to go to "super" high schools where they become a statistic. We have a school in Birkenshaw - let's use it!!!	No comment
No comment	No comment
No comment	No comment
The school should become the equivalent of high school and stay in the two tier system.	Yes these children should be allowed to stay at Birkenshaw school until school leaving age.
This school provides excellent child support and	This would be very disruptive to my child's

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
education. It is an area close to home which allows the children to have safety and security when arriving and leaving school.	education who needs additional assistance with his presentation, quality and content of work. The school has been extremely proactive in identifying his needs in such a short space of time. Children need continuity and would be extremely disappointed if this caused disruption, which could result in being lost in the system.
No comment	No comment
We should have a local high school.	Yes why are BMS kids staying there 1 year longer than the other middle school!
The only fair outcome is a local high school and you know it.	Only that all this bureaucracy does not affect their middle school experience.
No comment	No comment
Think of the children not yourselves.	No comment
I want this school to stay open because I think we need a local school, catering for less pupils (ie Whitcliffe 1800+ (too many here)) hence I feel the quality of teaching will not be nearly as good as it could be, plus the Ofsted results at Birkenshaw are outstanding.	I think this is upsetting and destabilising for the kids wanting to stay the extra year and obviously demoralising the teachers.
I want an academy in our community to follow the good work BMS has done. The community, children & parents deserve a school in Birkenshaw.	Forget it.
No comment	No comment
Why close a good school that works for the area. Children can walk to school, gain confidence in a secure environment.	No comment

**4 responses stated ‘don’t know’ and there were no comments made about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

**1 response did not state a view but made the following comments**

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
If it is already decided to close BMS, the site should be used as a high school. There should be local schools for local children. Personal experience shows children excel more in smaller schools.	No comment

**4 responses from Gomersal Primary School parents/carers**

**2 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
The site would be ideal for the high school.	No comment
The school is due to close in line with all the other middle schools under the re-organisation. I objected to this change then along with many others - to no avail!	No comment

## **2 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
I would like my daughter to go to a more local school, nearer to home.	No comment
There was nothing wrong with the old 3 tier system. The Council are spending money for the sake of it and can ill afford it. Don't mend what's not broken.	Provide the best education for them until their move to Whitcliffe Mount.

## **7 responses from Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College parents/carers**

### **4 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
The sooner the stupid middle school system is done away with the better.	No comment
Parental choice will be greater and children not left behind.	Clear and timely communications are needed. Whitcliffe needs support financial and resources to support the extra intake.
It would keep the communities united keeping things the same as they have been for many years.	No comment
The school is due to close in line with all the other middle schools under the re-organisation. I objected to this change then along with many others - to no avail!	No comment

### **2 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why is this your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
When I was at school it was a three tier system. I think it is better. Schools in two tier system are too	I am really annoyed at the decision of a two tier system as it is my son that has suffered

big and you are just a number.	again as they have now done away with the sixth form which my son would have gone to.
The school should become the equivalent of high school and stay in the two tier system	Yes these children should be allowed to stay at Birkenshaw school until school leaving age.

**1 response received responded 'don't know' to the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why is this your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
It doesn't affect my family.	No comment

**6 responses from parents/carers that did not state which school they were linked with**

**1 agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why is this your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
I think the school should be closed and rebuilt as a high school.	No comment

**3 disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why is this your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
The school is perfectly located where it is. It is safe and is in nice surroundings. It would be too much disruption for it to open elsewhere.	The proposed transition makes sense.
It should not matter what goes on in other areas or schools. BMS should become the new BBG high school simple as!	No, because if the school closes my child WILL NOT be going anywhere near Whitcliffe Mount and will probably be home schooled as there will be no local school!
Should be able to become a high school with BBG.	We said in the beginning we did not want a school with 1750 pupils at Whitcliffe.

**2 responded 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why is this your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Because we have no contact with this school.	No comment

No comment	No comment
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**16 Response sheets were received from governors who answered this section**

**1 response from a Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School governor**

1 response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but made no comments

**3 responses from Birkenshaw Middle School governors**

1 response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle school

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
I think we should have halted the move from 3 tier to 2 tier when BSF funding was withdrawn. However BMS cannot continue as a "lone" middle school. It is a very good school and I will be sad to see it close.	I am concerned about the size of Whitcliffe Mount and the detrimental impact this will have on pastoral care. Children from Birkenshaw and East Bierley already experience difficulties travelling from Cleckheaton and obviously there will be a significantly larger number of children travelling to and from school. A school of 1700 does not meet the clear demand from parents for smaller secondary schools. It is also difficult for parents to make a truly informed decision about whether to transfer their child in 2012 or 2013 when there is still little information about the proposed Free School.

**2 response sheets disagree with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Excellent school with outstanding performance & embedded roots in the community. We need a school to support the local community for Birkenshaw/Gomersal/East Bierley not Whitcliffe with 1800+ other children, poor infrastructure & unproven teachers hurriedly recruited.	Messy; doesn't make sense.
Whitcliffe Mount School will become too large without provision for secondary education in Birkenshaw.	Safety of pupils at Whitcliffe Mount - large increase September 2012.

**3 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School governors**

1 response agrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
It should be handed over to BBGAT to create a new secondary school	Not needed if Council signs BMS site over the BBGAT.

**1 disagrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Sustainable and outstanding performance school with excellent teachers, staff, pupils and community links is being closed for no logical or substantive reasons.	No comment

**1 responded 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle school**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Yes as agree with 2 tier system, but wish there to be a secondary school on the Birkenshaw site.	<p>I have a child in year 5 at Birkenshaw Middle. I am very concerned about how full the school will be next year.</p> <p>I think that if the school closes in 2013 then children should move on in 2013. Not be given the choice whether to move on in 2012 or 2013. My child could be left in year 6 next year and be possibly the only year left.</p> <p>With the best will in the world and I don't blame the school, teachers will leave, have left and there have been some awful supply teachers already over the last 2 years. (I had a child there who is now in year 7 at Heckmondwike Grammar).</p> <p>Either that or Birkenshaw should have been closed in 2012 alongside all the other schools in the pyramid. Why we were left out on a limb is beyond me. Not great for community cohesion on any front.</p>

**1 response from St. Peter's CE(A) J, I & N School governors**

**1 response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
I only agree if the site is made available to become a high school, which would enable parents to have a choice of secondary schools (like they have in other parts of Kirklees).	Flooding Whitcliffe with more students does not sound like a very sustainable plan, when the existing school is struggling for space, and there are no long term plans to improve the school.

**5 responses from Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College governors**

**5 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Necessary to improve standards of education locally.	Kirklees LA must take seriously its responsibility to provide the necessary accommodation, resources and staffing.
Parental choice will be greater and children not left behind.	Clear and timely communications are needed. Whitcliffe needs support financial and resources to support the extra intake.
Middle schools do not fit in easily with key stage 2 SAT tests.	No comment
The revised arrangements for Birkenshaw Middle School are welcomed by the Governing Body of Whitcliffe Mount. Children from Birkenshaw have been attending WMS for 100 years and the Governors so there is a natural affinity between the community at Birkenshaw and WMS. The number of children of secondary age within the existing WM pyramid is now below 1500. WM school buildings can accommodate 1500 pupils.	The Governing Body welcome the proposal that WM should be the nominated school for children who live in the Birkenshaw area. We also welcome the opportunity for parents in Y6 & 7 to choose for their children to move to WM along with their peers at the other closing Middle Schools.
Move to 2 tier system will facilitate improved educational outcomes for young people.	WMSBEC is prepared to accommodate displaced pupils from Birkenshaw Middle provided the LA provide sufficient resources to make the change happen.

**3 responses from governors from schools outside of North Kirklees**

3 response sheets were received; all 3 responses agreed with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but made no comments

**37 response sheets were received from school staff who answered this section**

**6 responses from Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School staff**

3 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
I think we should have halted the move from 3 tier to 2 tier when BSF funding was withdrawn. However BMS cannot continue as a "lone" middle school. It is a very good school and I will be sad to see it close.	I am concerned about the size of Whitcliffe Mount and the detrimental impact this will have on pastoral care. Children from Birkenshaw and East Bierley already experience difficulties travelling from Cleckheaton and obviously there will be a significantly larger number of children travelling to and from school. A school of 1700 does not meet the clear demand from parents for smaller secondary schools. It is also difficult for parents to make a truly informed decision about whether to transfer their child in 2012 or 2013 when there is still little information about the proposed Free School.
No comment	No comment
It provides a better system of continuity for the children attending just 2 schools rather than 3.	No comment

2 response sheets disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but no comments were made

1 response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but no comments were made.

**5 responses from Birkenshaw Middle School staff**

1 agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
I agree with a two tier system.	I am concerned about the level of education that will be delivered at Birkenshaw Middle School throughout the transition period.

#### 4 disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Both my children attended this school and have gone on to do very well in higher education and my job is here.	Are we to be left with any pupils!?
It seems the council keeps changing boundaries. Find it interesting that you say the education of children is a priority and staff when in actual fact it is very unstable for children with staff leaving.	Unsure this consultation is worth time and effort as Council appear to have made up minds and really needs of community and pupils are ignored.
Whitcliffe Mount School will become too large without provision for secondary education in Birkenshaw.	Safety of pupils at Whitcliffe Mount - large increase September 2012.
Whitcliffe Mount School will become too large without provision for secondary education in Birkenshaw.	Safety of pupils at Whitcliffe Mount -up to 600 increase.

#### 11 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School staff

##### 3 agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
3 tier system needs overhaul.	Yes, Y 6 pupils (12/13) must be a priority in a closing school.
I agree to the change to a two tier teaching system.	As a parent of a pupil currently in yr 5 at Birkenshaw Middle School, I am very worried about the standard of education that she is going to receive. Information I have read on page 3 of this booklet leads me to believe that my worries are justified.
I believe a two tier teaching system is required.	As a parent of a pupil at Birkenshaw Middle School, I am very worried about the standard of education that she will receive during the transition period. Information I have read in this booklet leads me to believe my concerns are justified.

##### 1 disagrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
I believe the system was working so didn't need changing.	I have grave concerns for the pupils staying from a quality of education perspective and funding perspective.

7 responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but did not make any comments.

**6 responses did not state a view and 1 made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
I think middle schools are a good idea but feel our pyramid now needs to be in line with other areas.	No

**15 responses from Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College staff**

**15 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Necessary to improve standards of education locally.	Kirklees LA must take seriously its responsibility to provide the necessary accommodation, resources and staffing.
Essential to move to 2 tier system across all of North Kirklees.	No comment
Whitcliffe Mount B & E College would continue to be the secondary school serving all parts of Birkenshaw.	Parents given the choice to send their children to an established "Good" school in the local area.
Makes sense to give students places at their local established 'Good' school that has a good proven track record.	Minimise the confusion and disruption to students. They need to be in a stable school that is already in place and local.
Children should transfer at 11 in line with the vast majority of Local Authorities.	No comment
Because I whole heartedly disagree with the idea of a free school. BBG must not go ahead. All it does is create a 2 tier system and limits children's social growth.	Why change what has been in place for years? Keep sending them to Whitcliffe. It's a fantastic site and more than capable of providing a brilliant education for every pupil.
The creation of a free school on the Birkenshaw site makes no financial sense when a good school exists in the community.	No comment
This is in line with original plans to reorganise all local middle schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid.	Birkenshaw continues to be a priority admissions area for Whitcliffe Mount. Whitcliffe Mount should continue to be the nominated school to receive Yr 7 & 8 from Birkenshaw. Whitcliffe Mount is making preparations to receive larger Y7 and Y8 groups, including Y7 & Y8 students displaced by the <b>closure</b> of Birkenshaw Middle school.
School premises ideal for primary. Students will transfer with the rest of their peers in the pyramid. Two tier benefits children's education. Better continuity brings pyramid in line with the rest of the county.	Students should transfer Sept 2012 in line with the rest of the pyramid.
Middle schools fail pupils, site would be better served as a primary.	No comment
Two tier system works better and brings it in line	No comment

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
with rest of area.	
So that all students in the Whitcliffe pyramid can transfer together.	I would like BMS students to transfer in September 2012.
A two tier system needs to be done	No comment
I believe as a 2 tier system works better for children.	As a staff, we'll be working hard to help pupils settle at WMS.
Better for the educational needs of all students in Kirklees (to ensure students are in line with the rest of the LA/national).	It is vital that parents and staff have clarity from the LA re: transition arrangements and that the LA provide appropriate financial support.

**8 response sheets were received from pupils who answered this section**

**3 responses from Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School pupils**

**2 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
I want the first school to be a primary school.	It is bad because you can't let your child walk to school by themselves.
Think the first is a nicer safer site for children.	

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but made no comments**

**3 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School pupils**

**1 response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
I want BBG High School on that site	They won't be moving

**2 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?

Because it's a good school and I want to go to it.	No comment
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**2 responses received from Birkenshaw Middle School pupils**

**1 response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
I now go to Birkenshaw Middle. It's a good school and would like to stay here as a high school.	Its taking far too long I don't want to go to Whitcliffe Mount

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
It's a good school - I want an academy.	I think Whitcliffe Mount will be overcrowded

**60 Response sheets were received from local residents who answered this section**

**34 responses from Birkenshaw residents**

**20 responses agree with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
The proposal fits in appropriately with the restructure to a two tier system.	Well thought through, an excellent option, to let children transfer to Whitcliffe at two possible times.
I only agree with the closure if the school is to be replaced with a high school. I totally disagree with this site becoming a primary school	It appears any child in year 5 or below will not actually have a secondary school option, unless a Birkenshaw high school is established!! It appears we will be fighting for places anywhere that will have us, breaking friends up etc - unless the Birkenshaw school goes ahead - thank goodness for the dedication of the BBG team fighting for education in our community - goodness knows where we would be now if it was up to Kirklees.
I agree with the move to a 2 tier system on educational grounds and therefore agree this building is no longer required for use as a middle school and, in fact, it was never constructed for this purpose and was originally a high school.	The building was assessed in 2009 as unfit for use as a primary school

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Have no choice as a middle school is not part of a 2 tier system.	Yes, glad my child won't have to go through this as it will be a real mess with no thought to the child's actual education.
Safer upper school site	No Comment
I agree completely with the change to two tier system and closure of Birkenshaw Middle is part of the change.	No Comment
Because of the new two tier system, it makes sense to have this site as a new high school for children in this area.	No Comment
I think we should have halted the move from 3 tier to 2 tier when BSF funding was withdrawn. However BMS cannot continue as a "lone" middle school. It is a very good school and I will be sad to see it close.	I am concerned about the size of Whitcliffe Mount and the detrimental impact this will have on pastoral care. Children from Birkenshaw and East Bierley already experience difficulties travelling from Cleckheaton and obviously there will be a significantly larger number of children travelling to and from school. A school of 1700 does not meet the clear demand from parents for smaller secondary schools. It is also difficult for parents to make a truly informed decision about whether to transfer their child in 2012 or 2013 when there is still little information about the proposed Free School
Because the Council have already decided to change from a three tier to two tier education system in the area	Yes. Middle schools require a minimum number of pupils to offer an effective curriculum taught by staff with sufficient subject knowledge and skills. To allow additional pupils to start at Whitcliffe in September 2012 would either reduce the effectiveness of the curriculum or cost the LEA a considerable sum in additional staffing costs, for those pupils remaining.
I guess a 2 tiered system is cheaper financial though no improvement to children	No Comment
No Comment	No Comment
It should be handed over to BBGAT to create a new secondary school	Not needed if Council signs BMS site over the BBGAT.
Middle schools do not fit in easily with key stage 2 SAT tests.	No Comment
The middle school system does not fit in easily to the Key stage 2/3. Key stage 2 is in the second year of middle school and the testing at key stage 3 is after leaving middle school in the spring term, and the head and teachers have no external evaluation of their outcomes of the children they have taught.	Agree that if parents and children wish, they should have the parental choice to go to Whitcliffe Mount with their cohort from other closing middle schools.
I agree with the proposal to close BMS but strongly believe that the best use for the site in the future is that proposed by the BBG Academy Trust. Every child should have the right to an outstanding level of education in their local community.	The wishes of parents and the local community are of paramount importance in building successful schools and strengthening the ties between young children, their education and their sense of

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
	being a part of that community in which they live.
3 tier system change - already decided - ages ago! Would like to see 800 place secondary school on site - as previously hoped for!	Whitcliffe Mount would be much too large with numbers proposed.
Children should have a 2 tier school system.	No comment

### 11 responses disagree with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
It is a very good school and should be made into a secondary school	No comments
It should not matter, what goes on in other areas or schools, BMS should become the new BBG high school simple as!	No, because if the school closes my child WILL NOT be going anywhere near Whitcliffe Mount and will probably be home schooled, as there will be no local school?
Good school serving community and performing well appears to be being ripped apart due to political games - interests of children not at the heart of these decisions.	No comments
No comments	No comments
The reason to close Birkenshaw Middle is to stop Birkenshaw having a Free School and do everything in their power to stop this. This as always being a political motive, we all know this.	No comments
No comments	No comments
The community wants an Academy/Free School, so give the community what it wants. We want a local school in our area.	No comments
The reason for wanting to close the school is purely political.	No comments
Why create a larger primary school also numbers of walking will be in car. Can roundabout at fire station cope! No! Needs traffic lights.	No comments
Good school, should not be closed.	No comments
No comments	No comments

### 3 responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School but made the following comments

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
I am in favour of a local free school on the site of the current middle school.	The age group concerned often find any change unsettling especially if moved from

	the local area they know, to an area they don't.
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**21 responses from East Bierley local residents**

**1 response agrees with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
I believe a two school system is best from an educational point of view.	They look sensible.

**15 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School, 3 responses made no comment, 12 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Birkenshaw Middle School is the ideal site for a free school	It would be better to attend a free school after East Bierley year 6
Need and deserves a school - sending all pupils to Whitcliffe does not make sense - let children from East Bierley, Birkenshaw/Gomersal go to local school in Birkenshaw. This would be less traffic on roads, greener/safer solution & fear that a lot of children will be lost in much bigger impersonal school environment at Whitcliffe Mount. Children receive excellent teaching at BMS and feel this will not be replicated in Whitcliffe. I support the Free School or Academy application.	Seems to be breaking up the school prematurely and not for the benefit of any children. Appears this will simply destabilise BMS in its last year.
Cannot understand it. Always been a good school. Needs some development but must be less costly than proposals made. Develop existing site, keep it open or make it an Academy & let it be.	No Comments
We need a local school (this should stay open) = will be too many at Whitcliffe (1800+) therefore the quality of teaching will suffer. Birkenshaw also has outstanding Ofsted results.	This will be very demoralising for teachers and kids working to stay the extra year.
At one point it was envisaged the children of BMS would be enabled to remain. All the changes in plans must be very disruptive and unsettling for the children concerned.	This will be very demoralising for teachers and kids working to stay the extra year.
The initial planning for the children to remain at BMS through a parent promoted school is not an alternative now. However, the LA seem to have little consideration about how unsettling all the moves will have upon children involved.	This will be very demoralising for teachers and kids working to stay the extra year.
This school has a good reputation and I feel the proposal will cause too much upheaval to existing satisfactory educational provision there.	There is an obvious upheaval for pupils and their families which can be avoided.
Birkenshaw Middle School site should be a free	No Comments

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
school.	
We need a local school which caters for less than Whitcliffe (1800+ too many). I think too many pupils will stretch the quality of teaching plus Birkenshaw Ofsted results are outstanding.	I think this will not be good for the kids wanting to stay the extra year - will be upsetting for them and de-moralising for the teachers.
To 'up root' pupils at certain stages could result in instability of their studies.	No Comments
There are too few schools for number of new houses.	Children should be educated in local schools - otherwise it leads to heavier traffic.
The school is in a place for Birkenshaw, East Bierley and other areas to reach easily. It is an excellent school. Doesn't need change.	Why make changes when all present arrangements are working perfectly.

**5 responses stated 'don't Know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School.**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Yes as agree with 2 tier system, but wish there to be a secondary school on the Birkenshaw site.	<p>I have a child in year 5 at Birkenshaw Middle. I am very concerned about how full the school will be next year.</p> <p>I think that if the school closes in 2013 then children should move on in 2013. Not be given the choice whether to move on in 2012 or 2013. My child could be left in year 6 next year and be possibly the only year left.</p> <p>With the best will in the world and I don't blame the school, teachers will leave, have left and there have been some awful supply teachers already over the last 2 years. (I had a child there who is now in year 7 at Heckmondwike Grammar).</p> <p>Either that or Birkenshaw should have been closed in 2012 alongside all the other schools in the pyramid. Why we were left out on a limb is beyond me. Not great for community cohesion on any front.</p>
I don't have children	No Comment
Keep it where it is as I don't want extra children at WMS	Increased traffic, safety issues, noise & pollution - no thanks

**1 response from a Batley resident**

1 response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School and made no comments.

**2 responses from BD19 residents**

1 response agrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
The school is due to close in line with all the other middle schools under the re-organisation. I objected to this change then along with many others - to no avail!	No Comment

1 response disagrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Whitcliffe Mount School will become too large without provision for secondary education in Birkenshaw.	Safety of pupils at Whitcliffe Mount - large increase September 2012.

**1 response from a Cleckheaton resident**

1 response disagrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School and made no comments

**1 response from a Tong resident**

1 response agrees with the proposals to close Birkenshaw Middle School and made no comments

**13 Response sheets were received from other interested parties who answered this section**

7 responses agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

Stakeholder	Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Headteacher - Tong High School	No comment	No comment
Company Secretary – Tong High	No comment	No comment

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
School Trust		
Grandparent	It needs to come in line with other schools in Kirklees (2 tier system)	No comment
Cleckheaton Ward Councillors	Whitcliffe Mount has for 100 years served children from the Birkenshaw area. There is therefore a long and unbroken history of links between the school and Birkenshaw.	Many Cleckheaton residents have friends and family in Birkenshaw and have told us that they welcome the opportunity for the children from Birkenshaw to join their children at WM. It is good to see that Birkenshaw parents will have the choice for their children to join WM at the same time as all the other children in the closing Middle Schools. If they join a year later it may well be harder for them to assimilate as all the other children would have already created their friendship patterns.
Grandparent Birkenshaw F & N School	Would like it to be a secondary school.	No comment
Grandparent - East Bierley	No comment	No comment

#### 5 responses disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Grandparent	We need a local school (this should stay open) will be too many at Whitcliffe (1800+) therefore the quality of teaching will suffer. Birkenshaw also has outstanding Ofsted results.	This will be very demoralising for teachers and kids working to stay the extra year.
Grandparent - BMS	At one point it was envisaged the children of BMS would be enabled to remain. All the changes in plans must be very disruptive and unsettling for the children concerned.	As above.
Grandparent - BMS	The initial planning for the children to remain at BMS through a parent promoted school is not an alternative now. However, the LA seem to have little consideration about how unsettling all the moves will have upon children involved.	As above.
Grandparent	We need a local school which caters for less than Whitcliffe (1800+ too many). I think too many pupils will stretch the quality of teaching plus Birkenshaw Ofsted results are outstanding.	I think this will not be good for the kids wanting to stay the extra year - will be upsetting for them and de-moralising for the teachers.

Grandparent - BMS & East Bierley	Good school should not be closed.	No Comment
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**1 response from a Grandparent stated 'don't know' about the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School and made no comment**

<b>Emails and letters addressing the proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 emails and letters comment on the proposal in whole or in part.</li> <li>• 8 emails / letters support the proposal</li> <li>• 2 emails / letters oppose the proposal</li> </ul>	
<b>Respondent</b>	<b>8 emails / letters support the proposal</b>
291 Parent/carer school in the BD19 area email	Disruption would have been minimised if all schools in North Kirklees had gone through the transition to two tier together.
164 Parent/carer Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School email	I agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School. The School should be closed as a middle school, as part of the move to a 2 tier system. A secondary school should replace it, on the same site. I have no comments to make regarding the transitional arrangements for BMS pupils currently on roll, as this does not affect my children.
288 Parent/Carer Birkenshaw Middle School email	<p>As a Parent of a year 5 student currently attending Birkenshaw Middle School and a daughter attending St Lukes Pre-school, I am obviously interested and concerned about future schooling in the area. I live in the East Bierley/Birkenshaw area.</p> <p>My initial belief is that as soon as the Government stopped the BSF funding then the Council should have decided to maintain the 3 tier system rather than try and reorganise on a shoestring. However, if the Council is set on moving to a 2 tier system then I also have a few comments to make.</p> <p>I have to say that even though it may be an advantage to my own children, I am totally opposed to the 'Free School' and 'Academy' initiatives. I believe this is divisive and that the poorer children will suffer disproportionately. It also makes planning school reorganisation for the Council extremely difficult as it appears to be a moving target. I have great sympathy for the Council at this time.</p> <p>What I think is important though, is that any building programmes that the Council need to move to 2 tier should be at the most economical for the Council and Ratepayers. If this disadvantages the 'Free School/Academies' then so be it. Specifically, assuming the Council has a free hand to move Birkenshaw First School to the land on Birkenshaw Middle School then it should do so, if it is financially beneficial to do it. My concern if you have to spend more on Birkenshaw First School to convert it to a full primary school on the current site, then you will have a lack of funding available for the conversion of East Bierley school to reorganise for years 5-6.</p>
154 Parent/Carer East Bierley CE(VC) First School email	I do agree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw to enable the Council to continue with a 2 Tier Education System - Primary and High School.

<p>167 Chair BBG Academy Trust email</p>	<p>REVISED PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE BIRKENSHAW MIDDLE SCHOOL (BMS) FROM AUGUST 2013 As Chair of the BBG Academy Trust (BBGAT) I am responding to the Council's consultation on the above proposal, and the connected proposal to transfer Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School (BFS) to the vacated BMS site from September 2013. The BBGAT is pleased to confirm its support for the cessation of BMS as a Middle School in summer 2013,</p>
<p>59 Governing Body Birkenshaw Middle School letter</p>	<p>We, the Governing Body of Birkenshaw Middle School would like to respond to the new proposal to close the school in 2013. We have previously expressed our disappointment at the decision to close this good school, and when BSF funding was withdrawn we felt that the move from a 3-tier school system to a 2-tier system should have been halted. However, we recognise that with the 3 other middle schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid a year closer to closure than ourselves we cannot remain as a "lone" middle school. Whitcliffe Mount is a good school with whom we have had a good relationship over many years as one of its feeder schools. However, we are worried about the increased size of the school as it changes its age range to accommodate years 7 - 11 and admits pupils from four closing middle schools rather than three. Its roll is estimated to rise to 1700, and we have been informed that the school only has a capacity for 1500 pupils. We are concerned that it will be difficult to maintain a high level of pastoral care as well as provide sufficient school transport, which is already a problem from Cleckheaton to Birkenshaw and East Bierley. The planned re-organisation under BSF clearly identified that there was a need for another school in the area by the proposed establishment of the EACT Academy. The number of pupils at Whitcliffe Mount will now far exceed the number proposed under BSF, and we are concerned that this does not meet the clear desire of parents for smaller secondary schools. We agree that this is a particularly difficult and worrying time for our parents. We also agree that some parents may wish to move their child to Whitcliffe Mount in 2012 when pupils from their cohort, from the other three closing middle schools join the school. We believe that it is right that parents should have that choice. Some of our parents may also be interested in their child attending the proposed Free School in the area, and until there is further information on this we feel that it is difficult for our parents to make a truly informed decision. There is potential that there will be a significantly lower numbers of pupils in Years 7 &amp; 8 in 2012/13 at Birkenshaw Middle School, whilst we still have all our Year 6 pupils. It is vital that our Governing Body receive support from the LA to ensure these pupils continue to enjoy the breadth of curriculum currently being offered. Our pupils' education and well being will remain our highest priority and we will make every effort to ensure that they do not suffer as a result of being caught in the middle of a school re-organisation.</p>

<p>277 Birkenshaw Ward Councillors</p>	<p>Statutory consultation about proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and non-statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First &amp; Nursery and East Bierley CE(VC) School</p> <p>We are writing to you in response to the above named consultation. We agree with the many comments that have been submitted by the governors of Birkenshaw First and East Bierley First schools regarding their schools and by the BBG Academy Trust regarding Birkenshaw Middle School.</p> <p>To summarise our views: Birkenshaw Middle School</p> <p>We support the council's plan to close this school in July 2013 and believe the council should work in partnership with the BBG Academy Trust to establish secondary education provision in Birkenshaw, Gomersal, East Bierley and Birstall. We believe that the council should give an immediate commitment to the BBG Academy Trust to sign over the site to them so they can enter a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to establish an academy at Birkenshaw Middle School from September 2013. We also believe that the council should work in partnership with the BBG Academy Trust and Birkenshaw Middle School governors to ensure a smooth educational transition from the middle school to the high school for pupils.</p>
<p>301 An individual response from a governor at Whitcliffe Mount - BEC letter</p>	<p>The following resolutions were approved unanimously by Whitcliffe Mount Specialist Business &amp; Enterprise College Governing Body on Thursday 15th September 2011:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Governing Body of Whitcliffe Mount -SBEC would support the ongoing inclusion of the Priority Admission Areas (PAAs) for Birkenshaw CE(VC) F &amp; N School and East Bierley CE(C) First School (which constitute the PAA for Birkenshaw Middle School) within the PAA for Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC. This has always been the traditional priority admission area for Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC and the majority of pupils attending Birkenshaw Middle School have transferred to Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC in the past.</li> <li>2. The Governing Body of Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC would welcome in principle a LA proposal that Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC should continue to be the nominated school to receive the Y7 and Y8 pupils that would be displaced by the proposed closure of Birkenshaw Middle School.</li> <li>3. The Governing Body supports the right for parents of children currently in Years 6 and 7 at Birkenshaw Middle School to have the choice for their children to move to Whitcliffe Mount SBEC in September 2012, at the same time as their peers in other middle schools. The educational and social arguments strongly support this proposal.</li> <li>4. The Governing Body believes it is essential that these proposals are implemented and supported in a timely manner. This would necessitate the Birkenshaw parents being made aware of transfer arrangements so that they can make an informed choice regarding admissions before the end of October 2011. The school will also need a specific and detailed re-organisation timeline to be in place before the end of December 2011.</li> <li>5. The Governing Body of Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC understands that the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school would need to be increased to 300 from 2013 onwards to accommodate all of the pupils living in the Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC PAA who would wish to attend Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC if historical patterns of admission are followed.</li> <li>6. The Governing Body of Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC is clear that support for any of the possible proposals outlined above are dependent on the provision of suitable and sufficient accommodation and resources at the school. Appropriate capital investment in temporary and permanent facilities would be an essential precondition for Whitcliffe Mount - SBEC to be able to meet any LA proposals as outlined in 1, 2 or 3 above and must be commensurate with maintaining high academic standards for all pupils. As a foundation member of the governing body of Whitcliffe Mount I fully support this resolution.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Respondent</b></p>	<p><b>2 emails / letters oppose the proposal</b></p>

<p>290 Parent/Carer Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School &amp; Birkenshaw Middle School School email</p>	<p>I am a parent of children both in the first school and the middle school. I have read the proposals and do not agree with the closure of the middle school. I didn't agree with it when it was first proposed. I feel the middle school helps the children in their transition to high school and offers excellent pastoral care in smaller numbers.</p>
<p>165 Governor East Bierley CE(VC) First School Staff East Bierley CE(VC) First School</p>	<p>I am a governor &amp; teaching member of staff @ East Bierley C of E First School. I disagree with the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle school – But suggest instead that the site be used for the proposed “Free” High School BBG – it was originally built as a High school! I also feel that it is quite ludicrous that the current Year 6 &amp; Year 7 at the middle school have been offered places @ Whitcliffe Mount from September 2012! This would leave just one year group – the current Year 5s in the building from then, until the re-organisation has run its course. The transition arrangements do not seem to have been thought out properly!</p>

**“Do you Agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School”**

**129 Response sheets were received from parents/carers who answered this section**

**52 responses from Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School parents/carers**

**52 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>I strongly disagree with Birkenshaw CE School moving to the Middle School site. I feel this site is unsafe for small children been over two floors. Also the parking for this school is extremely restricted and on to an extremely busy main road. I cannot see it been safe or practical for parents to drop off and pick up their children. I find the whole idea ridiculous. To uproot children from a school they know and love that is able to be adapted for the extra classrooms required would not be the best idea.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>1. Clear safety and access implications for young pupils.</p> <p>2. Council consultation of June 2009 clearly states that "the existing building are unfit for future use", therefore the costs provided are disingenuous</p>	<p>I believe the new proposal is politically motivated to create difficulty in the establishment of Birkenshaw Free School</p>
<p>After taking a close interest in this proposal I have no faith in it. Given that a report produce by the Council in 2009 states that the existing buildings at the middle school are assessed as being unfit for future use as a primary school. Also that costs have risen up to 226% in the 8 weeks since the proposal had to be brought before the council cabinet again due to failure in council officers following procedure. I find it very difficult to believe anything this council propose. Given that the first school sits at the heart of Birkenshaw and on well established grounds this school should remain where it is.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>We will loose the secure, safe site where the school is To relocate Birkenshaw First School would cause no end of problems. First there would be parking and drop off problems. There would be grounds security problems (lack of!) and there would be road safety problems for children walking too and from school. As it is the first school site is well established, safe, secure, easily accessible and is familiar to the</p>	<p>Have major safety concerns to relocate the roads are congested as it is</p>

<p>children. The middle school site is situated on a major road with only 2 access no security to the lower grounds and there is a stream running to the side of the football pitches. In the residential area surrounding the side entrance footpath traffic is already a problem and that is with some juniors walking to school alone. Most infants would need accompanying so therefore traffic would increase making it more dangerous. While there may be positives from this move I think the negatives will be greater.</p>	
<p>The middle school site is not geared to very young children - I have real concerns over the safety of children when moving to the new site. Also it is almost in Gomersal and not central to most parts of Birkenshaw.</p>	<p>No - want them to stay at existing large site with plenty of space to expand up to yr 6.</p>
<p>The middle school is unfit for use as a primary school and does not allow classroom entrances and separate toilets required by younger children nor does it provide a safe and secure perimeter. The current primary school site has had significant investment in buildings and grounds and is an idyllic and safe location including an established woodland area and pond. The additional classrooms required could be added without significant cost in comparison to the refurbishment of the middle school. Children feel safe in the current school layout being divided into buildings of KS1 and KS2 where they are amongst their peers. I feel passionately that the relocation of the school is entirely unnecessary, has been designed with political motives in mind, and does not consider the young people whose education should be at the heart of the school.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>Why change something that isn't broken! The school has a good overall report and cost effective alterations can be made at the existing site</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>The first school is adequate as it is, and the setting is safe for children.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>It would make more sense to extend the school on the current site.</p>	<p>I would like all pupils to stay until the end of year 6.</p>
<p>Current site already suited to this age and just needs extending. Middle school not suitable as per previous report of 2008.</p>	<p>The children have enough disruption to cope with without changing current location of the first school as well.</p>
<p>Locality, good site</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>I cannot see why this should happen - the current site is more than adequate to develop as a through primary - it is safe &amp; secure, it caters for young primary children</p>	<p>I think the idea is more 'political' than what is good for the children. The BMS site is not practical for a primary school, the parking facilities are poor and unsafe and small children could get lost.</p>
<p>2009 consultation documented that the middle school was unfit as future primary school and should be demolished. Existing primary school could serve perfect purpose with cheaper remodelling. Road safety on Bradford Road is a major issue. Primary school children need to be taken into school grounds and in sight of parents and teachers. The relocation</p>	<p>The first school works closely with the current middle school to ensure transition for the children is a positive experience. The Free School would allow for this same familiarisation period and help the children feel secure in the change at this extremely unsettling time.</p>

<p>of the existing Primary School to the Bradford Road site would result in very young children needing to find their own way from their parents to their classrooms each day and then from the teachers to their parents. The logistics and security risks involved are complicated and add to the risk of young children straying off or confusion and insecurity.</p> <p>The existing school grounds allow each classroom to offer cloakroom and toilet facilities which are not available in the middle school - a further problem the children and staff do not contend with currently - all adding to the security and well being of the children and allowing them to focus on learning.</p> <p>I don't think it is practical to have a primary school which has some of the main learning facilities on the 1st floor. Younger children would be at risk of accidents on stairways.</p> <p>The biggest concern remains road safety - and traffic congestion at drop off and pick up times, and this has to be a major concern for Kirklees Council too, who would experience much higher volumes of traffic at a very busy place, and busy time of day - not only causing trouble for parents and children, but to commuters as well.</p> <p>As a loyal Lib Dem supporter all my voting life, I have to say I am extremely disappointed in how this plan has been brought about, and have doubts the children have been considered at all during any of the sessions running up to the decision. I shall not vote Lib Dem in the next local election.</p>	
<p>Why change something that is working perfectly at the moment. This site is perfect for a Primary School, away from the main road, not as costly to adapt as a complete move would be.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>The present site at Station Lane is better suited to a primary school from a safety issue of traffic. There has been significant investment in the present grounds which could not be replicated at another site.</p>	<p>Not been informed of any which is appalling given that the school pyramid keeps changing.</p>
<p>Why move a perfectly good school from one site to another just for the sake of it? The Birkenshaw Middle School buildings have previously been assessed in the 2009 consultation document as "unfit for future use as a primary school, and should be demolished", whereas the existing buildings at Birkenshaw CE First and Nursery School could be remodelled and updated to provide a good quality primary school. The school does not necessarily need to be in one building, so could not extra classrooms be provided between the two existing buildings with their own separate external door, cloakrooms 7 toilets without the need to 'join up' the school buildings. This would ensure the children feel</p>	<p>Seems ok if this proposal in implemented. Need to ensure as little disruption as possible for children moving to the Bradford Road Site in September 2014, in terms of welfare and support for the children involved, in settling into a new school site/building, with unfamiliar classrooms, environments etc. A possible phased start date on entry for separate years may be beneficial.</p>

<p>safe within their own year groups and assist with safety of children when dropping off and picking them up directly from their own classrooms. If the school was relocated there are major concerns over road safety and traffic issues. It is not possible and totally inappropriate to drop off young children in a 'turn round and drop off area' at the entrance to the school site - they are too young to see themselves into school! Some of the pupils currently in Nursery are only 3 years old, and in Reception only 4 years old!! They need to be accompanied by parents/carers directly to the classroom door. The logistical nightmare of cars then trying to negotiate the 'turn round and drop off area' and then get back out onto the main road through the volume of traffic would be an impossibility, causing severe congestion on what is already a very busy road. The alternative to park amongst the Kingsley Drive area would again cause severe traffic congestion and problems for residents.</p>	
<p>In the previous primary consultation the middle school building was condemned as unsuitable for primary. Why has this changed? We have 2 sustainable buildings at the first school these should be used and money not wasted!</p>	<p>Keep the first school on its current site and avoid any need for transition and disruption.</p>
<p>Money should be spent on buildings not turning circles and access problems. The outdoor space we have cannot be created at the middle school site.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>Change to a primary school on its present site for the following reasons:  1. The present site is large enough.  2. Compared to Birkenshaw Middle school site:- There is less traffic congestion, better road safety, much better drop off and collection of children arrangements.  3. Cloakroom and toilet facilities are better suited to the needs of very young children.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>My child is settling in safely at Nursery and I feel safety issues for location would be a problem when or if the school is moved. As well as friends classmates/settling in.</p>	<p>I feel it would be to disruptive and unnecessary to move the site. Overall people are happy where we are now! Thank you. Transitional arrangements not needed if stays where it is.</p>
<p>I have 3 children who go to this school who are very happy here. They do not want to move to a school which was originally built as a high school. I also think that the middle school is not appropriate for children aged 3 and upwards... it needs complete modernisation which hasn't been done since before I went there which is 24 yrs ago... why do you want to move a school to site which isn't suitable for the age range... when there school is absolutely fantastic... it has lovely play areas... green areas and a fantastic community spirit... it is the middle of the village with easy accessible roads to get to where the middle school has no parking... Please please do not move the first school to this site... also if you remember from the last consultation you asked us last time if we</p>	<p>No Comments</p>

wanted the primary to be on this site and we said NO so why would we want them to move now!!!! Stop being awkward and just leave Birkenshaw school how it is!!!!!!	
I don't think children from Nursery up to age 11 should be crossing and walking along a major rd like Bradford Rd. Safety is a real concern!	I'm happy with the proposal.
Bradford Road is far too busy as is without the extra amount of cars dropping off young children.	I'm happy for this to go ahead.
This is unnecessary and a waste of time, money and upsetness that will cause children to be unsettled.	LEAVE THE SCHOOL ON ITS CURRENT SITE
This school is within walking distance and if moved would upset children AND parents.	Leave them to get on with being educated without wanting to disrupt them
The school has excellent on site facilities, is situated on quiet roads which is important when considering safety. The quoted figures for changing site to primary school facilities are grossly misquoted, the school governors have had an architect in to quote this and it is far lower than this document suggests.	The children in year 3 will be stuck in temporary accommodation then have to move school twice in two years - not very fair.
It is a total waste of money to try and make the middle school site fit for primary school children. Extending our ideal buildings on our already secure site is a much better option.	I want my child to stay at this school on the current site until the end of year 6.
<p>Poor site for school with access and roads. Poorly designed school for age of children. No improvement for children. Don't agree with financial comparison. Previously I have taken an interest in the changing schools system as a mother of 2 pre-schoolers however my eldest son started at the Birkenshaw First School's nursery this term and now I really start to see the merits of the school. The design of the school is excellent with three separate areas for the children different age ranges and in particular the individual entrances to each classroom, something I have not seen elsewhere but works so well. External playground space is well designed and effort has been made to make it interesting and fun to young minds. And it was also good to see their use of the grassland for PE exercises. All in it is an excellent school and the kids genuinely look happy.</p> <p>I understand that changes need to happen. Changing from the 3-tier to 2-tier system will undoubtedly have many issues. I myself was educated in the Shelley High 3-tier pyramid and I actually think it is a great system but I can appreciate that adapting to run 2 schools in probably a great financial saving and worth going down this path.</p> <p>However to move the site of the primary school from Station Lane appears to have no benefits. In fact I arranged to meet with the head teacher of the first school, Mrs Holt, to try to understand who would see the benefits. I am personal friends with some of the teachers there and they could see no positives. In fact I know [named teacher] has spent a lot of time and effort to get the eco-school status which is a great and positive credential which I am sure will be lost.</p>	No comments

As always things seem to come down to money, which is understandable in the current financial climate. But if the parents are against the change of school site and the teachers are against the changing site then is cost cutting enough, particularly when this may not even be a cost reduction. I now understand that the schools can only be compared on a 'like-for-like' basis and hence can only be considered with a full rebuild of the first school at great expense and hence the middle school site will always appear more appealing on this poor comparison. This does seem a ridiculous method not being able to consider the first school in its current arrangement.

I have many reasons to dislike the middle school site and you will probably have heard them numerous times from others already. Unfortunately many parents drive their children to and from school. The middle school site is on a busy and dangerous road with limited car access. The number of cars will only increase as younger children less frequently are walked; they need escorting to the classroom and cannot be dropped off by the road as an older child might and with the school size likely to increase to accommodate the change in need, I can only guess at the chaos this would cause during commuting time. Living off station lane I accept the traffic issues, as we have all adapted to them, and given half the children enter from the far side of the school do you think that Bradford road can really take potentially 300, 400 cars parking over 20 minutes twice daily? I have seen the plans for a drop off area but also understand there are no plans to widen the road access.

The middle school building was previously considered unfit for adaptation into a high school by the council when considering the site of a high school a few years back, hence my understanding that Howden Clough and Whitcliffe were considered rather than a Birkenshaw High school. How can the building be so easily be used now? If it couldn't be used for children of 10yrs+ how do you think 3yr olds will be able to use the school with its many steps? How will a 5yr old find their way to a classroom after drop off at an entrance alongside 400+ other pupils? On my previous visits to the middle school for information about these school changes over the years I have found it a cold and unwelcoming building ... and couldn't even park my car for these meetings!

If possible I would like more understanding against altering the first school to accommodate the extra 4 classes. The consultation document I received and my understanding from council meetings is that it comes down to money. Why only consider a 'like for like' single building rebuild when a simple extension to accommodate 4 classrooms would suffice? I am told by Mrs Holt that the extra children can easily be accommodated for dining and hall space without

<p>further changes. And as for the nursery, yes it is a temporary building but it is wonderful. And again I am informed that the building should be fine for some time to come. I also understand that the First School Governors have had architectural plans drawn up for sympathetic changes to expand the school and make general improvements including a permanent building for the nursery and covered walk ways weaving between the buildings; all at a much lower expected cost than your own modifications. Would the changes not be better guided by the staff using this school? Especially if costs incurred by the tax payer are lessened and yet the improvements more beneficial. In summary I would like to see Birkenshaw Primary school on the site of Station Lane. I think it has far more merits for the children, the parents and the general population of Birkenshaw. If the cost can be lessened by the school governors plans this is an additional benefit. I am strongly against moving this school to the Bradford Rd Middle School site.</p>	
<p>My middle grandchild currently attends Birkenshaw Nursery school and will soon be followed by his brother in a few years. I am regularly involved with picking up my grandson whilst his mother is at work. I understand that you are considering moving the site of the school to that of the middle school on Bradford Rd. Having spoken to my daughter-in-law about the plan I felt I needed my thoughts to be heard on the matter. Bradford Rd is a busy road with very poor access to the middle school. Given the age range of the children will be far younger I would expect the number of cars to increase and in ability to get the children to school safety or predictably will be difficult. Last year a pupil of the middle school was killed crossing the road, it is a dangerous and fast road. What are the benefits of the move? If the only changes needed for the first school is to accommodate four extra classroom can these not just be built on the current site? I see the banners outside the school and if the teachers and the parents and local residents do not want this change why not leave the school where it is. Surely this would be a better use of tax payers' money and also be at the wishes of the community.</p>	No comments
<p>One of the best primary schools so why close it!</p>	No comments
<p>The first school is an excellent learning establishment with a wonderful learning environment.</p>	No comments
<p>The current school and site is excellent, friendly and welcoming. Just right for infants, this is why we are choosing this school over Drighlington Primary which is all in one building and is awful. This school sits in lovely grounds into which a lot of effort has been put to create a wonderful environment for its young pupils to enjoy and learn from. There isn't a school like it in the immediate area, or surrounding villages.</p>	

<p>The school and nursery have a lovely friendly, warm, welcoming atmosphere from the office reception area to all areas. The pupils and staff all appear to be happy here. The school, nursery and grounds have such a good feeling about them which is why we have chosen to send our child to nursery there over our own village school which is Drighlington.</p> <p>Drighlington Primary is the result of the existing Infants school being extended to accommodate the Junior school which closed. Both schools, separately, were friendly and welcoming but the resulting Primary School is quite frankly awful. It is very grey and clinical inside and the atmosphere hardly welcoming, nothing on the walls, no welcoming posters, wall murals. This is why we have chosen Birkenshaw as it is just right for young children. If it were to be relocated and extended into one building ie where the middle school is, it would end up like Drighlington, and we would have to look at other schools again.</p> <p>The traffic issues at the school wouldn't be as bad as those by the middle school, which is quite awful as it is, especially for the Kingsley roads and Tetley Drive. I have relatives in that area.</p> <p>It would be such a loss to lose this little gem of a school with superb grounds to create a primary on the middle school site which is totally unsuitable for very young pupils.</p>	
<p>A fantastic site currently, great outdoor provisions and SAFE. Middle school site is on a busy main road is not appropriate for, particularly infants.</p>	<p>Unnecessary up rooting children that young is not a positive move.</p>
<p>It seems a shame for the children to move from a suitable school to an unsuitable one.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>No need to move school.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>There's no need to move the school from its current site as it has been shown it could easily be enlarged for 2 more year groups.</p>	<p>I feel there are no clear arrangements in place for the children currently at the first school due to the council's indecision.</p>
<p>The site of the middle school was built as a secondary school and is totally unsuitable for first and nursery ages. The current site is ideal in location and not on a busy main road; it is a very safe and considered environment for the children.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>I strongly disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw First School. I am highly concerned about safety at the proposed new site. The idea of a drop off area is completely unsuitable for young children and parents will not be able to accompany their children to the classroom. My son is 4. How can it be proposed to drop off a 4 year old near a main road and expect them to make their own way safely into school grounds? The traffic congestion will be immense, making the main road environment even more dangerous for children and intolerable for residents. In addition the number of pupil entrances at 4 means that it will be difficult to reunite parents and children at the end of the day. Currently each classroom at the present site has its own door so</p>	<p>No comments</p>

<p>parents know exactly where to meet their children. Furthermore each classroom has its own toilets so that young children can use facilities easily. I note that the proposed site has centralised toilets which would not suit young children.</p> <p>The middle school was originally built as a secondary school and therefore it never was planned to be a suitable site for a primary school. The difference in requirements for a secondary and primary school are huge. It is noted that the 2009 consultation document states that the Middle School buildings have been assessed as unfit for future use as a primary school and should be demolished, whilst the primary school's existing buildings could be remodelled and updated to provide a good quality primary school. I cannot see how these facts have changed.</p> <p>In short the children feel safe at the existing site and benefit greatly from the environment that has both nurtured and in turn been nurtured by the school over the years. I fear that the proposed move to the Middle School site will place a great compromise on children's safety and I could never condone that. I strongly believe that the primary school should remain where it is.</p>	
<p>Why fix something that isn't broken! Perfectly good school in good location.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>The current first school is on an established site in great surroundings. It is secure and has lots of space for parking when dropping young children off at school.</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>First and foremost we are concerned about road safety, the current site is not located close to Bradford Road, and has multi entry/egress points which greatly assist with reduction in congestion.</p> <p>Additionally, we are concerned about the disruption caused by moving our child into a new school site and the detrimental effect we consider this will have on his education.</p> <p>The current location allows increased opportunity for parents, carers and pupils to walk to school which is healthier and greener for the environment. The proposed middle school site is less accessible and involves distance walking along and across 2 significant major roads. This poses a greater and increased risk to safety of pupils.</p>	<p>We believe the council plans for the existing site do not compare favourably to the architect plans prepared by the Governors of the school.</p>
<p>The current site is ideal for children of this age and with a small amount of money could accommodate extra pupils.</p>	<p>The uncertainty is messing with people's lives. Both schools should have been updated and left as they were fine community schools.</p>
<p>Area, location, plenty of space to expand</p>	<p>No comments</p>
<p>A) The building is unfit for adaptation to a first &amp; nursery school.  B) The traffic is horrific. Even with an internal drop off, getting out onto the main road would be difficult.  C) The present school is quite adequate. Why spend the tax payer's money unnecessarily?</p>	<p>No comments</p>

<p>I don't imagine there is anything to be gained by telling you my views, as it is my experience that this Council never listens to reason, just goes through the motions of complying with legislation. Anyway:  The middle school building is not a primary &amp; nursery school building. It is on an extremely busy road. Children of nursery and first school age need to be taken to their classrooms. Even if car parking was available with the school premises, getting back out onto the main road would be a nightmare.  There is nothing wrong with the present first and nursery school site. Comment has been made about there being two buildings. So what? Parents think this is an advantage for the two age groups to be separated, and the kids are totally ok with it. Also all classrooms have their own access where kids can be dropped off and collected.  Parent volunteers have spent valuable time developing the natural woodland and pond area for external classes. This would be lost.  Why the hell in these times of austerity are you looking to spend our money when there is no need? Is it that you want the site for housing?</p>	
<p>I am a parent of children in Years 2 and 4 at Birkenshaw First School, and want the school to remain on its present site.</p> <p>The grounds of the First School have been developed during the 5 years my eldest son has been a pupil there. I and other parents have given time over the last four years to help clear an area of overgrown woodland to create an outdoor classroom, complete with pond. The outdoor classroom is often used in lessons to stimulate interest in the natural world and eco-responsibility. Both my sons were very excited to study 'mini beasts' there. The results of all the work done to the grounds cannot be picked up and relocated. A pond, mature trees and complex eco-system take years to develop.  The report states that the preferred option for the First School was to consolidate the school into one building. Personally, I always liked the fact that the school is in two buildings, and my sons agree. With an age range of 5 years, I felt that having a separate building and play area for the younger children must make life less intimidating for them. When two further years are added to the range this applies even more. Therefore I see no need to do more than extend the buildings already on the site.  I have seen plans prepared for the Board of Governors of the First School, showing a proposal for the extension of the school buildings which I thought perfectly suitable. I believe the cost of these works is comparable to the £2.87m quoted for the minimum works to the Middle School site. This would give a much more satisfactory result from my point of view.</p>	<p>No comments</p>

<p>I understand that the Middle School site as it stands is not suitable, or even safe, for children as young as four. It was built as a high school, so this is hardly surprising.</p> <p>The Middle School is located on a busy main road, rather than the quieter residential streets of the First School. Primary school children are taken into school by their parents, while the older middle and high school pupils are much more likely to walk to school alone, or, if driven by their parents, to be dropped off near the school gates. I believe the plans now include a 'dropping-off' area and some car parking, which will help to some extent. However there will still be the problem of exiting the site into heavy traffic. Also, it seems wasteful to use limited funds to provide something that would not be needed at the current site. As a resident of Station Lane, I see the daily congestion here and know the problems it causes for my neighbours. However, I see this is preferable to moving the problem down to Bradford Road and the Kingsley Drive area.</p> <p>I remember that when the issue of using the Middle School as the site of a High school was discussed, the Council thought the existing building should be demolished and a new building provided, at a cost of £25 million. The 2009 consultation document on relocating the First School also stated that the existing Middle School building was unfit for use as a primary school. Surely this fact has not changed!</p> <p>I hope that common sense will prevail and the decision be made to leave the First School on its current site. I would then ask Kirklees to reconsider their plans for this site and keep KS1, KS2 and Nursery as separate buildings, and save money. Surely any grand rebuilding schemes can wait until we are past the present economic recession and funds are more readily available.</p> <p>I'll repeat what the community of Birkenshaw has consistently asked for - that the Council leave our First School where it is, extend it as necessary, and allow the Middle School site to be used for a high school.</p>	
<p>Main concern is the drop off system for cars. Whilst I wouldn't have to use it myself the concept of 3 &amp; 4 year olds being dropped off in the school grounds &amp; then left to take themselves to a classroom or assembly point is simply not viable &amp; collecting your children will be even harder, at least if dropping off it's a case of your child(ren) existing car then you driving off but in terms of collecting ... Assuming 100 cars use this system how long will it take children to get into cars safely, ensure they are belted up &amp; then move off, the driveway cannot cope with even that volume! Parking outside either entrance is not ideal either, particularly in high volumes. Other biggest concern is size of the site, I worry the grounds are too</p>	<p>One of your concerns is that the kitchens at the first school could not cope with 2 extra year groups however they would have to manage this for year commencing Sept 2013 as part of the transition. If this is considered to be possible for this particular school year why cannot it be achieved on a permanent basis?</p>

<p>big for the children to be safely watched. Added to this a public footpath runs alongside the bottom field &amp; this is very inadequately fenced off, this alarms me greatly.</p>	
<p>The grounds in the current location feel secure &amp; offer my children great ecological opportunities some of which have taken years to establish eg the pond area which provides wonderful opportunities for exploring wildlife.</p>	<p>Due to personal experiences of working in a portacabin whilst work was undertaken at my place of work I am aware of how impractical this can be during a cold winter, the pipes froze on many occasions leaving us without water &amp; heating and the risks the children missing out on days &amp; days of education.</p>
<p>Birkenshaw Middle School was built as a secondary School, and unlike the other middle schools in the pyramid can not be as easily adapted, and the building was never intended for use by pupils under 11. The situation of the school is on a busy main road, unlike the current First School, which can be accessed from at least 3 roads, with the minimum of congestion considering the numbers involved. The concern for me is the increased congestion at the middle school, and the safety issues, with a long driveway when children still have to be taken to their classrooms due to their age. Even with the additional parking suggested for the middle school, I do not feel that this will be sufficient. The middle school only has four entrances to cope with at least 14 classes, plus nursery, where as the current 1st school has individual entrances to the classrooms, and would only require ones to the new classrooms. The toilet facilities and cloakrooms at the middle school are in blocks, more suited to the older ages it was intended for; each classroom at the 1st school has its own cloakroom and toilets. The site at the middle school is large and open, much more difficult to secure, with playground activities again aimed at older children. The playground facilities at the first school are excellent, with a woodland area and pond, which could not easily be replicated on the middle school site, so part of their education would suffer. Whilst it is considered better for primary school children to all be housed in the same building, the buildings at the first school offer a very good environment for the different ages of the children as they are used at the moment. To me the benefits of continuing at the current site, far outweigh the move to another site just because it is bigger, and all the children would be under one roof.</p>	<p>No Comments</p>
<p>Birkenshaw Middle School was built as a secondary School, and unlike the other middle schools in the pyramid cannot be as easily adapted, and the building was never intended for use by pupils under 11. The situation of the school is on a busy main road, unlike the current First School, which can be accessed from at least 3 roads, with the minimum of congestion considering the numbers involved. The concern for me is the increased congestion at the</p>	<p>No comments</p>

<p>middle school, and the safety issues with the long driveway when children still have to be taken to their classrooms due to their age. Even with the additional parking suggested for the middle school, I do not feel that this will be sufficient.</p> <p>The middle school only has four entrances to cope with at least 14 classes, plus nursery, whereas the current 1st school has individual entrances to the classrooms, and would only require ones to the new classrooms. The toilet facilities and cloakrooms at the middle school are in blocks, more suited to the older ages it was intended for; each classroom at the 1st school has its own cloakroom and toilets. The site at the middle school is large and open, much more difficult to secure, with playground activities again aimed at older children. The playground facilities at the first school are excellent, with a woodland area and pond, which could not easily be replicated on the middle school site, so part of their education would suffer. Whilst, it is considered better for primary school children to all be housed in the same building, the buildings at the first school offer a very good environment for the different ages of the children as they are used at the moment. To me the benefits of continuing at the current site, far outweigh the move to another site just because it is bigger, and all the children would be under one roof.</p>	
<p>This school is on an excellent and well developed site ideally suited for the children. With some investment this site could easily and cost effectively be adapted to suit the additional requirements of Year 5 and 6 children. I believe the comparative capital costs stated for sites have been created deliberately to skew opinion towards moving site. Taking a practical view it is obvious to me that remodelling the Bradford Road site will practically cost much more than the simple option of adding further classroom space at the Station Lane site, which would be circa £1m from independent (unbiased) sources. A 2 storey school is unsuitable for this age group. The vehicular access for child drop off is poor - the creation of a drop off driveway for this age group is a waste as parents will need to park up and leave their vehicles to walk children directly to the door. Bradford Road and Kingsley Drive will become choked with traffic - Station Lane is well away from primary routes and few issues are caused.</p>	No comments
<p>How can a school that allegedly was going to cost £30,000,000 can now only cost under £5,000,000?</p>	No comments

**35 responses from Birkenshaw Middle School parents/carers**

32 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School, 5 responses made no comment 27 made the following comments

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
It is perfectly suitable as it is and the community want it to stay where it is.	Stop the political posturing and do what the local community are demanding, leave the first school where it is and give us a local high school on the middle school site.
It will be too big, too far for many to walk to and near very busy road. Parking will be terrible as some parents will have to drive.	No comments
I do not think the huge middle school site is suitable for primary school pupils. As a parent with another child in a primary school, I would be put off sending them to such a big school.	No comments
Existing school meets all the requirements and is unnecessary to move it	No comments
Looks political move to everyone as no coherent reason or tangible benefits to anyone apart from a group of local councillors - supposedly representing their constituents.	No Comments
<p>Moving to the middle school site would mean a considerable amount of money would have to be spent on access to the site. This is money wasted as it is not being spent directly on children's surroundings and education. Even with a "drop off" area there would still need to be a separate path for pedestrians which, to make it safe would need to be fenced off from the drop off area for cars. Having visited Birkenshaw Middle School on parents' evening and other events when it is permitted to drive down to the school, I imagine the drop off area would soon become grid-locked as cars have to wait on exit to get back onto the busy main road. If the back entrance were also used for pedestrian access, again this would cause considerable congestion on Kingsley Drive, which is a narrow road on this residential area.</p> <p>There are not enough entrances at Middle School to enable parents to take their young children directly to class. The middle school plans show minimal internal alterations and as it was originally built as a High School in 1959 and functioned as one for 13 years; it is wholly unsuitable to meet the needs of young children. There is an open staircase, which small children would have to regularly negotiate to access library and ICT facilities, and this would be a major hazard. The First School site is an idyllic setting. The grounds provide children from a suburban/urban area a chance to experience an almost rural environment. The two separate buildings provide two small friendly environments for the pupils, and as a member of staff there I actually feel that this has many advantages</p>	The proposed move to BMS site disrupts children who should have been relatively unaffected by the re-organisation. Young children will not understand that this is relocation but will think they have to move schools and leave their old one which they all love.

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>over being in one building. The plans that Kirklees have drawn up for this consultation for the alteration of the existing site look only at the development of one building. I am sure that alterations to the two existing buildings would provide the best solution. I am obviously very much aware that cost is a huge issue, and no one is asking for more money. We just want to ensure the money is spent wisely and ensure the future of our lovely school - where it is.</p>	
<p>The current site of Birkenshaw First School is very welcoming. There is a fantastic "Eco Area" which cannot be replicated along with many other playground sculptures which the parents via FOBS have raised funds for. There are two separate buildings &amp; playgrounds for key stages 1 &amp; 2 allowing the younger children to feel safe and content and the older children feeling "older" I feel that the council are misleading in their figures being quoted. It will cost no more to make the necessary changes to the first school that it would to change to Middle School. It is accepted that funds are no longer available to completely rebuild on Station Lane (which is the ridiculous figure being quoted). To add four new classrooms in the form of portacabins will cost the same which ever site they are located. The correct size toilets &amp; basins are already in place at the current site, they would need to be completely replaced at the Middle School Site and that just for starters. The parking around Kingsley &amp; Tetley Drive areas is would be much much worse with a Primary School located on Bradford Road as younger children do tend to go to school by car, especially if they have younger siblings as well. The council have already stated in previous consultation papers that the Middle School site is completely unsuitable in its current form for a Primary School and it would need to be completely rebuilt, making changes to the current First School the only sensible option.</p>	No comments
<p>The first school is well situated and would be best left as is as per the wishes of the school board. Birkenshaw Middle is far too big for a primary school and too open for young children.</p>	No comments
<p>How is BMS site now ready for a primary school when only recently it was judged to be unsuitable? How has cost for development of school suddenly decreased to just under £5m when previously quoted over £20m? School could be easily improved at much less cost than quoted in your documentation.</p>	No comments
<p>The middle school site should be left for the setting of the BBG High School</p>	No comments
<p>Everything about this school is suitable for the needs</p>	No comments

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
of the children from the age of 3 upwards.	
The current site is adequate subject to some re-development to be retained as a First School.	No comments
I do not consider the middle school site to be a suitable one for a first school - due to size, location, accessibility for young children ie the 2 very busy roads near the school	No comments
This is a fantastic school in a fantastic setting. It is part of the community.	No comments
I very strongly disagree with this proposal, the first school is the heart of the Birkenshaw village, and the middle school is located on an extremely busy main road and on the periphery of the village. I used to live outside of the catchment area for the first school and had to lodge an appeal to get my child a place at this school and I then subsequently moved into the area, this is something I know I would not have done if the school had been located on the middle school site. I think moving this school will destroy Birkenshaw as a tight knit community with lots of community spirit and still a strong feeling of village life with very close links with the church and the school the centre and the heart of this village. Please listen to our views this time!!!	No comments
Why change a fantastic school.	It is an appalling proposal.
Not a positive move local community feeling negative.	Road traffic concern - cost of rebuilding
I strongly back the development by BBG Academy Trust to have a free school in our local area and the site of Birkenshaw Middle School would be the ideal choice for this new school. Education for local children must be in the local area.	Do not move them.
I back the development of BBG Academy Trust to have a free school in our area and the site of Birkenshaw Middle School would be the ideal choice for this new school.	Do not move them.
No parent that I have spoken to wants their child to go to a large primary school. Young children need to feel safe, and not overwhelmed, by their surroundings. As I understand it, the large playing fields that you are proud of, would need to be tarmac for car parking purposes, as there is very little provision for off street parking for taking children in to school.	Again, too much uncertainty for children and parents.
How can a school that allegedly was going to cost £30,000,000 can now only cost under £5,000,000?????	No comments
Birkenshaw Middle School was built as a secondary School, and unlike the other middle schools in the pyramid can not be as easily adapted, and the building was never intended for use by pupils under 11. The situation of the school is on a busy main road,	No comments

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>unlike the current First School, which can be accessed from at least 3 roads, with the minimum of congestion considering the numbers involved. The concern for me is the increased congestion at the middle school, and the safety issues, with a long driveway when children still have to be taken to their classrooms due to their age. Even with the additional parking suggested for the middle school, I do not feel that this will be sufficient.</p> <p>The middle school only has four entrances to cope with at least 14 classes, plus nursery, whereas the current 1st school has individual entrances to the classrooms, and would only require ones to the new classrooms.</p> <p>The toilet facilities and cloakrooms at the middle school are in blocks, more suited to the older ages it was intended for; each classroom at the 1st school has its own cloakroom and toilets.</p> <p>The site at the middle school is large and open, much more difficult to secure, with playground activities again aimed at older children. The playground facilities at the first school are excellent, with a woodland area and pond, which could not easily be replicated on the middle school site, so part of their education would suffer.</p> <p>Whilst it is considered better for primary school children to all be housed in the same building, the buildings at the first school offer a very good environment for the different ages of the children as they are used at the moment. To me the benefits of continuing at the current site, far outweigh the move to another site just because it is bigger, and all the children would be under one roof.</p>	
<p>Why move a perfectly good school from one site to another just for the sake of it? The Birkenshaw Middle School buildings have previously been assessed in the 2009 consultation document as "unfit for future use as a primary school, and should be demolished", whereas the existing buildings at Birkenshaw CE First and Nursery School could be remodelled and updated to provide a good quality primary school. The school does not necessarily need to be in one building, so could not extra classrooms be provided between the two existing buildings with their own separate external door, cloakrooms 7 toilets without the need to 'join up' the school buildings. This would ensure the children feel safe within their own year groups and assist with safety of children when dropping off and picking them up directly from their own classrooms. If the school was relocated there are major concerns over road</p>	<p>Seems ok if this proposal is implemented. Need to ensure as little disruption as possible for children moving to the Bradford Road Site in September 2014, in terms of welfare and support for the children involved, in settling into a new school site/building, with unfamiliar classrooms, environments etc. A possible phased start date on entry for separate years may be beneficial.</p>

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>safety and traffic issues. It is not possible and totally inappropriate to drop off young children in a 'turn round and drop off area' at the entrance to the school site - they are too young to see themselves into school! Some of the pupils currently in Nursery are only 3 years old, and in Reception only 4 years old!! They need to be accompanied by parents/carers directly to the classroom door. The logistical nightmare of cars then trying to negotiate the 'turn round and drop off area' and then get back out onto the main road through the volume of traffic would be an impossibility, causing severe congestion on what is already a very busy road. The alternative to park amongst the Kingsley Drive area would again cause severe traffic congestion and problems for residents.</p>	
<p>Birkenshaw Middle School was built as a secondary school, and unlike the other middle schools in the pyramid cannot be as easily adapted, and the building was never intended for use by pupils under 11. The situation of the school is on a busy main road, unlike the current First School, which can be accessed from at least 3 roads, with the minimum of congestion considering the numbers involved. The concern for me is the increased congestion at the middle school, and the safety issues with the long driveway when children still have to be taken to their classrooms due to their age. Even with the additional parking suggested for the middle school, I do not feel that this will be sufficient.</p> <p>The middle school only has four entrances to cope with at least 14 classes, plus nursery, whereas the current 1st school has individual entrances to the classrooms, and would only require ones to the new classrooms.</p> <p>The toilet facilities and cloakrooms at the middle school are in blocks, more suited to the older ages it was intended for; each classroom at the 1st school has its own cloakroom and toilets.</p> <p>The site at the middle school is large and open, much more difficult to secure, with playground activities again aimed at older children. The playground facilities at the first school are excellent, with a woodland area and pond, which could not easily be replicated on the middle school site, so part of their education would suffer.</p> <p>Whilst, it is considered better for primary school children to all be housed in the same building, the buildings at the first school offer a very good environment for the different ages of the children as they are used at the moment. To me the benefits of continuing at the current site, far outweigh the move to</p>	<p>No comments</p>

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
another site just because it is bigger, and all the children would be under one roof.	
Why would you want to waste time and money to locate this school? This is on a perfectly good piece of land with potential to expand. There seems to be no regard for children's education in all of this process. Secondary school on the middle school site.	No comments
Again a good location at present in the heart of Birkenshaw and many people can walk to school.	No comments
This school is an excellent school with an excellent location and has everything needed for a first school. It should not be moved.	Transition sound but the next school for these children should be birkenshaw high

**2 response sheets stated 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School, and made no comments.**

**1 response sheet did not state a view about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School, and made the comments below.**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
The cost of remodelling the existing school is far cheaper than adapting the middle school. The 2009 consultation the council said the middle school was unfit and should be demolished.	Nothing known communication poor

**38 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School parents/carers**

**2 responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Just makes sense	No Comment
No comment	I have chosen this because it's a great school

**34 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School.**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Not a good idea to relocate. It means travelling even	Same as above.

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
further it just not fair or right	
(Primary school status excellent) Keep school as it is cut the powers that be money and put into education. Stop building new homes, spend money on refurbishing schools	Stop being cruel & greedy.
Current 1st school is in the middle of the catchment area, therefore more suitable.	No comment
This school currently sits in the middle of catchment area - accessible to all	No comment
As an ex-pupil of this school I feel that there is ample space within the 2 school buildings (and pre-school) to accommodate 2 more years without a huge expense. There is lots of outdoor space and it would greatly disrupt pupils to be moved when there seems to be no reason for it!! A simple outdoor modular building would be less expensive and as a parent I would be happier with my child staying in a place they are familiar with rather than them being put in a school that was too big as it was initially built to be a high school. These children start at 3 years old they are too young to be walked down such a large drive way (to Birkenshaw middle) and be faced with what to them is a huge building, not an enjoyable thought for children and parents on their first day. The Council have to remember that these children are PRIMARY school children and should not be just pushed into something as it suits the council. I understand that some children within the area are going to middle school sites but were these schools initially built to be high schools and then changed??	There does not need to be any transition, therefore there would be no need for a comment.
I feel that the current site for Birkenshaw First School is sufficient at the moment and there is no need to move a whole school. I think that the cost of adding 4 more classrooms to the current school could not possibly be more expensive than moving all the pupils, this is going to cause stress and disruption to the children. No one I have spoken to within East Bierley and Birkenshaw wants the school to move so I cannot understand why the Council does not appear to be acting on what most parents want in the area.	I do not have a child at this age so cannot comment, but I feel it must be a very distressing time for both pupils and parents and they currently have no answers to what is happening with the High Schools in our area.
The staff & pupils don't want to relocate. Everyone in our area wants BMS as a high school.	No comment
This school is an excellent school with an excellent location and has everything needed for a first school. It should not be moved.	Transition sound but the next school for these children should be Birkenshaw high
Simply because it is not necessary - it is a well established school with adequate room/size for pupil numbers.	Not at this time
Why would you want to waste time and money to locate this school? Which is on a perfectly good piece of land with potential to expand? There seems to be	No comment

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
know regard for children's education in all of this process. Secondary school on the middle school site.	
The current location of the first school is not only a lovely site but also a perfect site.	No comment
I would like that middle school site to be used for a high school in Birkenshaw.	No comment
The Station Road site is in a safe residential area - ideal for primary age children. The Bradford Rd site is on a busy main rd.	No comment
AGAIN LOCAL this word means nothing to you!	No comment
You only want to site them there to there can be no high school!!!	No comment
Because I believe you are only moving the 1st school to try to stop BBG making the middle school into a high school.	No comment
Think of the children and their needs. What are you going to do with the site if the school closes?	No comment
I think Birkenshaw First School have adequate space to accommodate a further 2 classrooms on their current site	No comment
It is not necessary for all accommodation to be housed within a single building, making option 1 a possibility. There is a great deal of community support for retaining both Birkenshaw and East Bierley First Schools on their existing sites.	There would be less overall disruption if option 1 were to go ahead. Also, the location of Birkenshaw and East Bierley First Schools currently allows many families to walk to school, and moving to the BMS site will make this much harder/impossible for a great number of people.
Nothing wrong with current school provision and on a large site which can accommodate extra children.	No comment
They have a superb location and should remain where they are.	No comment
Birkenshaw First School is on a site that can in the future continue to meet the requirements of the school and therefore should remain there. No disruption to children and leaving the middle school site for the development of BBG High.	Leave them where they are.
It just makes more common sense to invest on the site and adjoin to the main school building, causing less disruption to classes, lessons and pupils - plus being the cheaper option.	Let them stay where they are.
It is being moved purely to stop the BBG High School.	Pupils currently in yr 5 should have been able to stay in their first school in line with Gomersal!
Appears to be totally ridiculous! Nobody wants it yet the Council appear to be keen to push it through?	Forget it
Local schools are producing excellent results. A new super school may not produce the same high standards. Why change for an unknown outcome? Local schools - more pride in school, less travelling, better for environment. Options 1 & 2 dismissed with	No comment

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
no meaningful reasons.	
Again a good location at present in the heart of Birkenshaw and many people can walk to school.	No comment

**2 responses stated ‘don’t know’ about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

**4 responses from Gomersal Primary School parents/carers**

**4 responses disagree with the proposal relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery school**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Birkenshaw Middle should be made into a high school, Whit Mount is too big, has too many children attending.	No comment
Children at primary schools are only young, stop trying to cram a greater amount of children together. Young children require manageable sized buildings, easy commuting and a small amount of teachers they can bond with. Don't make things impersonal.	As above.
The existing site is adequate.	No comments
Completely pointless, unnecessary and unwanted move from what I know of local opinion. Unsuitable site for a primary school and there is another option for this site as the council is well aware!	No comments

**5 responses from Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College parents/carers**

**4 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery school**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
My son went to Birkenshaw First School and is a lovely school and it needs to stop there so we can keep Birkenshaw Middle.	No comments
This school is an excellent school with an excellent location and has everything needed for a first school. It should not be moved.	Transition sound but the next school for these children should be birkenshaw high

Completely pointless, unnecessary and unwanted move from what I know of local opinion. Unsuitable site for a primary school and there is another option for this site as the council is well aware!	No comments
This is a political decision, it has nothing to do with Education	No comments

**1 response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

**6 responses from parents/carers that did not state which school they were linked with**

**6 responses disagree with the proposal relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery school**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
The nursery is located in a good place within back of the main building; the children are used to this environment.	Any upheaval to the children is not good but if they stay in the same place this will benefit the children/parents.
This school is excellent; with great amenities it has been there for many, many years, it is a safe site. I would not be happy about any changes to this wonderful school and its site!	No comment
I think the current location is more suitable.	No comment
The school is not suitable for a first school it is on a main road the drop off zone would be far too dangerous. Its pupils are happy where they are it's a fantastic location and better to add year 5/6 onto the existing building.	No comment
Because in 2009, Birkenshaw Middle School was assess by Kirklees Council as "unfit for but are used as a primary school	Our child in settled into a familiar and well established school.

**16 Response sheets were received from governors who answered this section**

**2 responses from Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School governors**

**2 responses disagree with the proposal relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery school**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Safety of the children	Welfare and wellbeing of the children.
There are 3 fundamental flaws in the Proposal. 1. Building	No comment

Why have you decided this is your view	Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School
<p>There are a whole range of factors that make up a good working school environment, of which having one building might be one.</p> <p>Others would include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The suitability of existing buildings and grounds.</li> <li>* The ease of safety of access.</li> <li>* The upheaval of transfer to a site that cannot offer any improved facilities to those already provided.</li> <li>* What can you do with a fixed sum of money.</li> </ul> <p>The 'core specification that all accommodation would be housed in a single building' is not in my view a high priority. In fact, the proposal makes it the ONLY factor to consider, which is a big error. I would put it last in my list.</p> <p>The current 2 building situation works very well indeed. ALL the educational and catering requirements for a Primary School can be met perfectly well on the current site. The provision of an enclosed, attractive walkway between the two buildings would perfectly meet the needs for children to be able to access the whole school without putting on outdoor wear.</p> <p>When asked 'What educational benefit is there in having one building as opposed to two?' The LA representative simply couldn't give one. We were all amazed.</p> <p>In fact, there are current benefits in having two buildings. Moving from the one to the other, as the child grows up, is considered a small rite of passage which the children look forward to immensely. Having two halls is a blessing and certainly the needs of Primary School numbers.</p> <p>2. What can you build for £2.7m? That should be the question.</p> <p>If you make One Building the sole criteria, then you immediately bias the choice in favour of the school that currently has one building.</p> <p>No wonder the costs come out in favour of adapting Birkenshaw Middle compared with almost starting from scratch at the current site.</p> <p>But if you say 'What can we provide for £2.7m on each site?' that makes it a flat playing field for making comparison, especially when money is so tight.</p> <p>For that sum you can have a superb Primary School on the existing site, with 2 Halls, full catering facilities, fantastic grounds already established AND GOOD access. One that builds on all that has been established over the past few years. For that sum, you could do nothing at the Middle School site</p> <p>3. Ease and Safety of Access</p> <p>This hasn't even been mentioned in the proposal.</p>	

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>The current site makes access for parents and children very easy indeed, with two drop off point's right next to the buildings in very low traffic residential roads.</p> <p>Moving the Primary School to the Birkenshaw Middle School site would be a nightmare. Trying to park on the very busy A651 at peak times would be horrendous with the increased numbers of children. And access from Kingsley Drive also very difficult. This may not seem important to educationalists, but ask parents which of these two sites they would be comfortable with, with regard to access, there is no contest.</p> <p>A very important part of this school is its Christian ethos, which is very affirming of all the children, whatever their background. This could be replicated if the move went ahead, as could standards of teaching and facilities. But there is simply no need, when you already have a school that can meet all the educational and access needs perfectly well.</p> <p>Once you lose this obsession with 'one building' you'll be free to see the better option. I hope you're able to do it.</p>	

**3 responses received from Birkenshaw Middle School governors**

**3 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>Moving to the middle school site would mean a considerable amount of money would have to be spent on access to the site. This is money wasted as it is not being spent directly on children's surroundings and education. Even with a "drop off" area there would still need to be a separate path for pedestrians which, to make it safe would need to be fenced off from the drop off area for cars. Having visited Birkenshaw Middle School on parents' evening and other events when it is permitted to drive down to the school, I imagine the drop off area would soon become grid-locked as cars have to wait on exit to get back onto the busy main road. If the back entrance</p>	<p>The proposed move to BMS site disrupts children who should have been relatively unaffected by the re-organisation. Young children will not understand that this is relocation but will think they have to move schools and leave their old one which they all love.</p>

<p>were also used for pedestrian access, again this would cause considerable congestion on Kingsley Drive, which is a narrow road on this residential area.</p> <p>There are not enough entrances at Middle School to enable parents to take their young children directly to class. The middle school plans show minimal internal alterations and as it was originally built as a High School in 1959 and functioned as one for 13 years, it is wholly unsuitable to meet the needs of young children. There is an open staircase, which small children would have to regularly negotiate to access library and ICT facilities, and this would be a major hazard. The First School site is an idyllic setting. The grounds provide children from a suburban/urban area a chance to experience an almost rural environment. The two separate buildings provide two small friendly environments for the pupils, and as a member of staff there I actually feel that this has many advantages over being in one building. The plans that Kirklees have drawn up for this consultation for the alteration of the existing site look only at the development of one building. I am sure that alterations to the two existing buildings would provide the best solution. I am obviously very much aware that cost is a huge issue, and no one is asking for more money. We just want to ensure the money is spent wisely and ensure the future of our lovely school - where it is.</p>	
<p>How is BMS site now ready for a primary school when only recently it was judged to be unsuitable? How has cost for development of school suddenly decreased to just under £5m when previously quoted over £20m? School could be easily improved at much less cost than quoted in your documentation.</p>	<p>Doesn't make any sense to anyone!</p>
<p>Not a positive move local community feeling negative.</p>	<p>Road traffic concern - cost of rebuilding</p>

**3 responses received from East Bierley CE(VC) First School governors**

**3 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<p><b>Why have you decided this is your view</b></p>	<p><b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b></p>
<p>Looks political move to everyone as no coherent reason or tangible benefits to anyone apart from a</p>	<p>No comment</p>

group of local councillors - supposedly representing their constituents.	
The middle school site should be left for the setting of the BBG High School	No comment
No need to move school.	No comment

**4 responses from Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College governors**

**3 responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Best value for money and best available facilities	No comment
All the other vacated Middle School sites are being used as the sites for the new primaries. In all cases this has enabled the facilities and outdoor space to be significantly improved. It makes good sense for the Birkenshaw Middle site to be used in the same way.	No comment
Makes good financial sense and the proposed new site will provide improved facilities.	No comment

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
There is a need for a non denominational primary school on that site.	Children should be able to go to Whitcliffe Mount with their peers in other middle schools.

**1 response received from St. Peter's CE(A) J, I & N School governors**

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
The BMS site should be made available for a much needed secondary school for the local communities. The existing site is in the middle of Birkenshaw at the heart of the community.	I can't believe Kirklees didn't consult the school in the first place

**3 responses received from governors of schools outside of North Kirklees**

**3 responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

Why have you decided this is your view	Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School
Most appropriate and efficient use of existing buildings and	No comment

**38 response sheets were received from school staff who answered this section**

**8 responses from Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School staff**

**8 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

Why have you decided this is your view	Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School
Birkenshaw F & N School is an established site with excellent grounds and plenty of scope to expand.	Leave them where they are at Birkenshaw F & N School site.
<p>Moving to the middle school site would mean a considerable amount of money would have to be spent on access to the site. This is money wasted as it is not being spent directly on children's surroundings and education. Even with a "drop off" area there would still need to be a separate path for pedestrians which, to make it safe would need to be fenced off from the drop off area for cars. Having visited Birkenshaw Middle School on parents' evening and other events when it is permitted to drive down to the school, I imagine the drop off area would soon become grid-locked as cars have to wait on exit to get back onto the busy main road. If the back entrance were also used for pedestrian access, again this would cause considerable congestion on Kingsley Drive, which is a narrow road on this residential area.</p> <p>There are not enough entrances at Middle School to enable parents to take their young children directly to class. The middle school plans show minimal internal alterations and as it was originally built as a High School in 1959 and functioned as one for 13 years; it is wholly unsuitable to meet the needs of young children. There is an open staircase, which small children would have to regularly negotiate to access</p>	<p>The proposed move to BMS site disrupts children who should have been relatively unaffected by the re-organisation. Young children will not understand that this is relocation but will think they have to move schools and leave their old one which they all love.</p>

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>library and ICT facilities, and this would be a major hazard. The First School site is an idyllic setting. The grounds provide children from a suburban/urban area a chance to experience an almost rural environment. The two separate buildings provide two small friendly environments for the pupils, and as a member of staff there I actually feel that this has many advantages over being in one building. The plans that Kirklees have drawn up for this consultation for the alteration of the existing site look only at the development of one building. I am sure that alterations to the two existing buildings would provide the best solution. I am obviously very much aware that cost is a huge issue, and no one is asking for more money. We just want to ensure the money is spent wisely and ensure the future of our lovely school - where it is.</p>	
<p>I believe the present site is the better location. It has better/safer access. It is in a better state of repair. I object to public money being spent on creating access to the BMS site.</p>	No comment
<p>We would like to take this opportunity to explain to you just what Birkenshaw c/e means to us. Myself and my wife have lived on the premises and I have worked here for the past 32 years and over this period of time we have seen many changes - all for the better.</p> <p>When we arrived here all those years ago there were actually two schools on this site and a big open space in between them, being just a playing field then after a period of time the school actually merged into one (being called schools for the future) and I actually looked after both buildings, after a while a Nursery was put on the field in between both buildings but nearer to the Southcroft building and this of course was beneficial to both the school and the parents.</p> <p>Over the years there has been an outdoor classroom added comprising of a pond where the children can go pond dipping - with supervision of course and trees were added around the pond they are now very well established as they have been there for many years it is very rural. We do not have any trouble whatsoever with vandalism and the grounds are a credit to the school.</p> <p>We have added many outdoor play items for the children - none are dangerous they are fixtures and it's a joy to see the children happy and playing safely instead of just running about on a field and inside the school buildings we are so child friendly its truly</p>	No comment

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>brilliant, many schools go down hill over the years - ours has exceeded all expectations and has excelled getting better and better, in fact other schools have been to our school and tried to copy our ideas to bring their schools into the 21st century, its actually a pleasure and a joy to live and work here - how can we be expected to give all this up we love this school and this site and could not possibly envisage living or working anywhere else.</p> <p>We feel so strongly about our school and are so proud to be part of it.</p>	
<p>The grounds at the first school provide an ideal environment for the children to learn about education for sustainable development. This is not the case at the middle school site.</p>	No comment
<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>I have been a member of staff at Birkenshaw First School for nearly 17 years - A long time I hear you say. Yes long enough to have seen many changes which have occurred on our site. Changes that have grown over the years to provide our children (which I hope you agree are our number 1 priority) with a greater learning and safe environment.</p> <p>12 of these years I have spent working in the nursery setting. Yes a temporary building which is still standing and providing a fantastic educational start. A building that stands within its own safe perimeter allowing the staff to extend the outdoor learning some of which has already taken place by building a pretend barbeque, creating digging/planting areas, a playhouse. We have many more ideas and the space to include more learning opportunities not only in the Nursery but throughout the school.</p> <p>Being a part of the foundation team means spending a lot of time providing an outdoor curriculum. It is on going, something which doesn't happen over night and has taken time to establish. Time of dedicated people, not just staff but also parents, grandparents etc.</p> <p>Our pond and woodland area is a reflection of this. It means that we can take our children's learning (in all year groups) to a different level. A place of discovery which becomes exciting as we look at the pond life, turn over logs in search of mini beasts, enter a world of imagination as we make dens and act out stories such as 'We're going on a bear hunt'.</p> <p>Alex's Garden:</p> <p>This is a place dedicated to one of our children who sadly died of a heart condition whilst in Reception class 10 years ago. It is a special place that is used</p>	No comment

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>for quieter learning like reading, time to reflect and build upon children's morals of the important things in life. This is a place that is also special to Alex's family who can remember where he spent happy times in those few short years that he had.</p> <p>We can't just pick up Alex's Garden and place it somewhere else because it wouldn't have the same meaning.</p> <p>Church and Local Community:  We have a very close link with the church. It is a place where we go mostly as a whole school to join in with celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival etc. The route which we walk down is a short and safe with only a small road on Town Street to cross and the side street of Allen Croft. Some year groups also use this route when their learning requires them to explore local surroundings such as the village shops and the park. From the middle school site the only route would probably be along Whitehall Road to the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of old lane. This is a longer route with the children having to walk a longer distance next to a very busy road.</p> <p>Parking: What about the parking on the middle school site? Yes I've listened of how you can extend this, do that and the other but I firmly believe you are kidding yourselves. Our parent's right through to year 4 do not just want to drop their children off at the gate. They want to park up and walk their children to their classroom doors. They like to have the opportunity to wait and make sure that their child is safely within the classroom when the doors open.</p> <p>At our site allows them to do this. We have routes at both sides of the school. On the middle school site there will be a large build up of traffic as cars try and get up and down the driveway and back out onto the main road. A large build up of traffic could put the children in danger and that may end up with a serious accident occurring. I am also aware of the other route which is located on Kingsley Drive. The volume of traffic will still create many problems.</p> <p>My passion for this school is also on a personal level. My children attended it along with four of my nieces and now I have three grandchildren and a great nephew in attendance, with others to follow. So I'm asking you to invest into a place which is the</p>	

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
heart of the community. We are happy with what we have got. We have the land to accommodate years 5 & 6 that can be adapted. We know we can make this work and we will, with or without your support!	
We have excellent, child friendly grounds which the school have worked hard to achieve. The middle school is for older children not for younger years.	It will cause a lot of unnecessary disruption for both children and staff.
We have a safe fantastic school which is in a lot better condition than the middle school site. To make the middle school site suitable for nursery/reception would be far harder than putting year 5/6 on the first school. Also, the main road and proposed drop off zone would be dangerous.	At our school we have 3 entrances parents can park up and take them to class not just leave them in a drop off zone.

#### **5 responses from Birkenshaw Middle School staff**

#### **4 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Feel that the relocation of school is moving primary away from the heart of Birkenshaw and also is a distance for parents and pupils to relocate.	Needs of pupils do not seem to be a priority?
Not a positive move local community feeling negative.	Road traffic concern - cost of rebuilding
On the whole not wanted by community or the present management of school.	Road traffic concerns - no traffic control for foreseeable future.
Birkenshaw First School is on a site that can in the future continue to meet the requirements of the school and therefore should remain there. No disruption to children and leaving the middle school site for the development of BBG High.	Leave them where they are.

#### **1 response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and made the comment below**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
I can see the point due to financial reasons.	No comment

#### **11 responses received from East Bierley CE(VC) First School staff**

**11 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Because it's current location is suitable. Cheaper to keep it where it is and to expand	No comment
The current site is large enough and could also be expanded at less cost.	No comment
Current site is beautiful and enables the school to give a beyond 1st class education.	None
Site school on large enough to expand	No comment
It is cheaper to keep them on their current site as the grounds are large enough to expand to take their extra year groups. If move to BMS site - less chance of BBG High being built.	Why move to another site? Keep the consistency for the children where they are - it's where they know.
The current school is big enough to take more pupils/expand and it is a cheaper option.	No comment
Current site large enough for expansion. School have developed the site to their own liking.	No comment
Because it is cheaper for them to stay where they are and to expand on the current site.	No comment
The current site has adequate provision/space to be a primary	No comment
I strongly back the development by BBG Academy Trust to have a free school in our local area and the site of Birkenshaw Middle School would be the ideal choice for this new school. Education for local children must be in the local area.	Do not move them.
I back the development of BBG Academy Trust to have a free school in our area and the site of Birkenshaw Middle School would be the ideal choice for this new school.	Do not move them.

**14 responses from Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College staff**

**12 response agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Best value for money and best available facilities	No comment
Seems to be the best value for money option at a time when resources are limited.	No comment
It makes economic sense to utilise Council owned redundant buildings, particularly where the function remains the same.	No comment
Again its down to free schools	Consolidating the local primary schools into one is a good way of saving money and attracting more skilled staff.

The Birkenshaw Middle school site is larger, more modern and easier to access providing an overall better learning environment	No comment
Relocation costs to the Birkenshaw Middle School site is cheaper and more cost efficient option than the Station Lane site. It is a more sensible business option.	Any alterations to the Birkenshaw Middle School site can take place without disruption to the education of children at the existing and nursery school (Sept 2014)
Middle school size would provide better facilities/more space.	No comment
So that all pupils would be housed in a single building and all accommodation would be permanent.	No comment
The larger middle school site should offer good facilities for students, though I appreciate that moving is distressing.	No comment
Financially the best option, and the right choice for the community of Birkenshaw (based on community views)	No Comment

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
The site is at the heart of the village and should stay there (easy access for all)	No Comment

**1 response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School but made no comments**

**10 response sheets were received from pupils who answered this section**

**5 responses from Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School pupils**  
**5 responses disagree with the relocation of Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>My reasons we shouldn't move are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* because we have a lovely school</li> <li>* because we love our pond and wild life</li> <li>* we have old trees</li> <li>* we have a safe playground</li> <li>* the steps at the middle school are too big for the small children</li> <li>* we love our classrooms they are big and have comfy carpets to sit on at carpet time</li> <li>* we love our equipment</li> <li>* all of our classrooms have their own door so our</li> </ul>	No comment

<p>parents can drop us off and collect us from school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* we come to our school safely if we move we will have to cross a busy main road and walk along another busy road</li> <li>* we have new things in our school</li> <li>* we have loads of clubs because we have 2 big halls</li> <li>* we have won loads of trophies and awards for our school and outside space and eco work</li> <li>* our outdoor space is very important to our school and we are proud of it</li> </ul>	
I don't think children from nursery to 11 should be crossing and walking along a major rd like Bradford rd.	I'm happy to stay at Birkenshaw First School
Not safe for children from nursery to age 11 walking backward and forward to school on Bradford Rd.	Don't even want to think of it. No deal. Children at first are so happy.
<p>I am a year 4 pupil in the First school and I don't want the school to move.</p> <p>We are all happy where we are. Having builders at our school building year 5 and 6 classrooms won't bother me because we want to stay here and if year 5 and 6 classrooms were being built it would be interesting to watch.</p>	No comment

**2 responses from Birkenshaw Middle School pupils**

**2 responses disagree with the relocation of Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
It's too big and should be a high school.	We need to know what is happening and I wish I could stay here as high school
Birkenshaw First School don't want to move.	Leave as it is leave Birkenshaw alone.

**3 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School pupils**

**3 responses disagree with the relocation of Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
I want BBG High School on that site for my younger sister.	No comment
My friends do not want to move.	No comment
No comment	No comment

**60 Response sheets were received from local residents who answered this section**

**32 responses from Birkenshaw residents**

**2 responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

Why have you decided this is your view	Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School
Most effective use of money.	No Comment
The parking situation - I have family at this school - ok they will have to walk a litter further so what.	It does not matter where a child is taught as long as they are.

**30 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

Why have you decided this is your view	Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School
A Kirklees consultation document dated 2009 states 'the middle school site IS NOT suitable for use as a primary school and would have to be demolished' I would like to know why Kirklees now see the site as suitable!!! Is this because Kirklees will just make whatever they want to do 'fit' their requirements at the time. I think the community is fed up of being ignored and blatantly lied to - the 2009 consultation document is also in Kirklees archives!!	The transition process will be better all round if the first school children remain on their school site. And the poor unfortunate children who will have to remain in the shell of a supply teacher run school at Birkenshaw middle school until 2013 will suffer less disruption than they will suffer while having the school transformed for primary use!! Aren't these kids' educations going to suffer enough!!
The middle school is unfit for use as a primary school and does not allow classroom entrances and separate toilets required by younger children nor does it provide a safe and secure perimeter. The current primary school site has had significant investment in buildings and grounds and is an idyllic and safe location including an established woodland area and pond. The additional classrooms required could be added without significant cost in comparison to the refurbishment of the middle school. Children feel safe in the current school layout being divided into buildings of KS1 and KS2 where they are amongst their peers. I feel passionately that the relocation of the school is entirely unnecessary, has been designed with political motives in mind, and does not consider the young people whose education should be at the heart of the school.	No comment
We already have a fantastic local school that can be extended to relocate. Is a total waste of funds?	No comment
This school is excellent; with great amenities it has been there for many, many years, it is a safe site. I would not be happy about any changes to this wonderful school and its site!	No comment
Current site already suited to this age and just needs extending. Middle school not suitable as per previous report of 2008.	The children have enough disruption to cope with without changing current location of the first school as well.

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Locality, good site	No comment
Again, good school, serving community & performing well appears to be disregarded as local councillors play political games at the expense of children, teachers, staff & community	No comment
The 2009 consultation document says that the middle school buildings are unfit for use as a primary school. The capital costs have obviously been doctored to suite the council's agenda.	The first and nursery school should stay at Station Lane where heavy traffic is banned. Bradford Road is too busy for primary age children and the two storey building is unsuitable.
Why change something that is working perfectly at the moment. This site is perfect for a Primary School, away from the main road, not as costly to adapt as a complete move would be.	No comment
<p>Moving to the middle school site would mean a considerable amount of money would have to be spent on access to the site. This is money wasted as it is not being spent directly on children's surroundings and education. Even with a "drop off" area there would still need to be a separate path for pedestrians which, to make it safe would need to be fenced off from the drop off area for cars. Having visited Birkenshaw Middle School on parents' evening and other events when it is permitted to drive down to the school, I imagine the drop off area would soon become grid-locked as cars have to wait on exit to get back onto the busy main road. If the back entrance were also used for pedestrian access, again this would cause considerable congestion on Kingsley Drive, which is a narrow road on this residential area.</p> <p>There are not enough entrances at Middle School to enable parents to take their young children directly to class. The middle school plans show minimal internal alterations and as it was originally built as a High School in 1959 and functioned as one for 13 years; it is wholly unsuitable to meet the needs of young children. There is an open staircase, which small children would have to regularly negotiate to access library and ICT facilities, and this would be a major hazard. The First School site is an idyllic setting. The grounds provide children from a suburban/urban area a chance to experience an almost rural environment. The two separate buildings provide two small friendly environments for the pupils, and as a member of staff there I actually feel that this has many advantages over being in one building. The plans that Kirklees have drawn up for this consultation for the alteration of the existing site look only at the development of one building. I am sure that alterations to the two existing buildings would provide the best solution. I</p>	The proposed move to BMS site disrupts children who should have been relatively unaffected by the re-organisation. Young children will not understand that this is relocation but will think they have to move schools and leave their old one which they all love.

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>am obviously very much aware that cost is a huge issue, and no one is asking for more money. We just want to ensure the money is spent wisely and ensure the future of our lovely school - where it is.</p>	
<p>1. The Council have already gone through a statutory consultation on reorganisation in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid area. This consultation resulted in massive local support from parents and the community to retain the new Birkenshaw Primary school on the Station lane site and East Bierley Primary in the village. These views were upheld by Members in Cabinet and therefore a formal decision had been made to support the views of the local communities.</p> <p>2. The Council's new proposals seek to over ride the original and well supported decision. This seems to be based on spurious round figure costs for adaptation based on as yet not thought out requirements for what facilities the school actually needs, or a range of ways in which this could be achieved.</p> <p>3. The existing schools were built to serve primary pupils need and have most of the facilities currently required. The middle school was built as a secondary school and still has specialist facilities that cater for the needs of older pupils. These facilities will require massive adaptation to make them suitable for primary needs. These costs will only become apparent as details plans and costs are drawn up and are always more costly than original estimates.</p> <p>4. As a local resident I am actually aware of the transport issues concerned with any school. Parking is an issue at present on Station Lane and in Southcroft and would need addressing if the new school was to be retained on this site. However, parking and infra-structure would be chaotic in Birkenshaw if the school were to be moved to the middle school site.</p> <p>5. This site has only one narrow entrance. How are parents going to park to deliver infants to classrooms down a long drive? If parking and a turn round are to be built within the grounds this needs to be built into the cost. But, getting in and out onto a busy trunk road would be almost impossible. If parents park outside the school for the time necessary to deliver and collect young children up to four time a day, the traffic disruption will not only be a nightmare outside the school but will have a tailback effect into</p>	<p>No comment</p>

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>Birkenshaw village which already has problems with traffic for much of the day.</p> <p>6. Installing a Pelican crossing will not solve the problem but almost certainly make it worse. Has this been costed into the plan? If members want an example look no further than the traffic at Tong just up the road.</p> <p>7. The sketch plan for the Station lane site indicates the demolition of the Junior building and the building of a new hall as well as classrooms. The school currently has two halls which can be put to good use for the curriculum and the ethos of the school. Why go to the cost of demolishing one to build another. The argument about a whole school gathering is some what spurious today. In most schools assemblies are organised on a year group or phase basis, because this is often more effective and they do not have a space for the whole school to come together.</p>	
<p>We have attended meetings in the past, no one listening. Anything to stop a Free School on the Middle School site.</p>	<p>No comment</p>
<p>The school doesn't want to/need to move - invest in the school already there at less cost it will cost to move to the other site.</p>	<p>No comment</p>
<p>Again political. You only want this to stop a free school being established on the Middle School site.</p>	<p>No comment</p>
<p>Poor site for school with access and roads. Poorly designed school for age of children. No improvement for children. Don't agree with financial comparison. Previously I have taken an interest in the changing schools system as a mother of 2 pre-schoolers however my eldest son started at the Birkenshaw First School's nursery this term and now I really start to see the merits of the school. The design of the school is excellent with three separate areas for the children different age ranges and in particular the individual entrances to each classroom, something I have not seen elsewhere but works so well. External playground space is well designed and effort has been made to make it interesting and fun to young minds. And it was also good to see their use of the grassland for PE exercises. All in it is an excellent school and the kids genuinely look happy.</p> <p>I understand that changes need to happen. Changing from the 3-tier to 2-tier system will undoubtedly have many issues. I myself was educated in the Shelley High 3-tier pyramid and I actually think it is a great system but I can appreciate that adapting to run 2</p>	<p>No comment</p>

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>schools in probably a great financial saving and worth going down this path.</p> <p>However to move the site of the primary school from Station Lane appears to have no benefits. In fact I arranged to meet with the head teacher of the first school, Mrs Holt, to try to understand who would see the benefits. I am personal friends with some of the teachers there and they could see no positives. In fact I know [named teacher] has spent a lot of time and effort to get the eco-school status which is a great and positive credential which I am sure will be lost. As always things seem to come down to money, which is understandable in the current financial climate. But if the parents are against the change of school site and the teachers are against the changing site then is cost cutting enough, particularly when this may not even be a cost reduction. I now understand that the schools can only be compared on a 'like-for-like' basis and hence can only be considered with a full rebuild of the first school at great expense and hence the middle school site will always appear more appealing on this poor comparison. This does seem a ridiculous method not being able to consider the first school in its current arrangement.</p> <p>I have many reasons to dislike the middle school site and you will probably have heard them numerous times from others already. Unfortunately many parents drive their children to and from school. The middle school site is on a busy and dangerous road with limited car access. The number of cars will only increase as younger children less frequently are walked; they need escorting to the classroom and cannot be dropped off by the road as an older child might and with the school size likely to increase to accommodate the change in need, I can only guess at the chaos this would cause during commuting time. Living off station lane I accept the traffic issues, as we have all adapted to them, and given half the children enter from the far side of the school do you think that Bradford road can really take potentially 300, 400 cars parking over 20 minutes twice daily? I have seen the plans for a drop off area but also understand there are no plans to widen the road access.</p> <p>The middle school building was previously considered unfit for adaptation into a high school by the council when considering the site of a high school a few years back, hence my understanding that Howden Clough and Whitcliffe were considered rather than a Birkenshaw High school. How can the building be so easily be used now? If it couldn't be used for children</p>	

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>of 10yrs+ how do you think 3yr olds will be able to use the school with its many steps? How will a 5yr old find their way to a classroom after drop off at an entrance alongside 400+ other pupils? On my previous visits to the middle school for information about these school changes over the years I have found it a cold and unwelcoming building ... and couldn't even park my car for these meetings!</p> <p>If possible I would like more understanding against altering the first school to accommodate the extra 4 classes. The consultation document I received and my understanding from council meetings is that it comes down to money. Why only consider a 'like for like' single building rebuild when a simple extension to accommodate 4 classrooms would suffice? I am told by Mrs Holt that the extra children can easily be accommodated for dining and hall space without further changes. And as for the nursery, yes it is a temporary building but it is wonderful. And again I am informed that the building should be fine for some time to come. I also understand that the First School Governors have had architectural plans drawn up for sympathetic changes to expand the school and make general improvements including a permanent building for the nursery and covered walk ways weaving between the buildings; all at a much lower expected cost than your own modifications. Would the changes not be better guided by the staff using this school? Especially if costs incurred by the tax payer are lessened and yet the improvements more beneficial. In summary I would like to see Birkenshaw Primary school on the site of Station Lane. I think it has far more merits for the children, the parents and the general population of Birkenshaw. If the cost can be lessened by the school governors plans this is an additional benefit. I am strongly against moving this school to the Bradford Rd Middle School site.</p>	
<p>The current school and site is excellent, friendly and welcoming. Just right for infants, which is why we are choosing this school over Drighlington Primary which is all in one building and is awful?</p> <p>This school sits in lovely grounds into which a lot of effort has been put to create a wonderful environment for its young pupils to enjoy and learn from. There isn't a school like it in the immediate area, or surrounding villages.</p> <p>The school and nursery have a lovely friendly, warm, welcoming atmosphere from the office reception area to all areas. The pupils and staff all appear to be happy here. The school, nursery and grounds have such a good feeling about them which is why we have</p>	<p>No Comment</p>

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
<p>chosen to send our child to nursery there over our own village school which is Drighlington. Drighlington Primary is the result of the existing Infants school being extended to accommodate the Junior school which closed. Both schools, separately, were friendly and welcoming but the resulting Primary School is quite frankly awful. It is very grey and clinical inside and the atmosphere hardly welcoming, nothing on the walls, any welcoming posters, and wall murals. This is why we have chosen Birkenshaw as it is just right for young children. If it were to be relocated and extended into one building ie where the middle school is, it would end up like Drighlington, and we would have to look at other schools again. The traffic issues at the school wouldn't be as bad as those by the middle school, which is quite awful as it is, especially for the Kingsley roads and Tetley Drive. I have relatives in that area.</p> <p>It would be such a loss to lose this little gem of a school with superb grounds to create a primary on the middle school site which is totally unsuitable for very young pupils.</p>	
<p>No need to move school.</p>	<p>No Comment</p>
<p>There is a need for a non denominational primary school on that site.</p>	<p>Children should be able to go to Whitcliffe Mount with their peers in other middle schools.</p>
<p>As there seems a lot of support to stay on their current site, it seems right that they should stay there.</p> <p>As there are only enough children for 2 schools in Birkenshaw and E. Bierley, it is reasonable that the public should be informed of the capital and revenue comparative cost and facilities that would be offered having a primary school on the middle school site compared with E. Bierley.</p> <p>As there are more primary age children living south of the Whitehall road it would seem fairer to this community if the second school was located on the middle school site.</p> <p>Some south Birkenshaw children have to walk further than those in E. Bierley to the current Birkenshaw C of E school. Walking by the most direct route from E Bierley to Birkenshaw C of E is less than 1 mile.</p> <p>May I ask is it fair and reasonable that Gomersal and Cleckheaton have the choice of C of E and non-denominational education but Birkenshaw has not? It would seem to be fair and reasonable that there should be a non-denominational school on the middle</p>	<p>No comment</p>

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
school site. The largest number of children would have around a mile to walk to school. They would also have the choice of a C of E or non-denominational education as they have in Gomersal and Cleckheaton.	
It is not necessary for all accommodation to be housed within a single building, making option 1 a possibility. There is a great deal of community support for retaining both Birkenshaw and East Bierley First Schools on their existing sites.	There would be less overall disruption if option 1 were to go ahead. Also, the location of Birkenshaw and East Bierley First Schools currently allows many families to walk to school, and moving to the BMS site will make this much harder/impossible for a great number of people.
Why close a good school/rip heart out of Birkenshaw/church/further to go: more cars/safety.	No comment
No connection but know there is a lot of opposition to this proposal.	No comment
The school produces excellent results; it is in a quiet area in the village so the children can travel to and from school in safety generally with a parent.	No comment
This site (Station Lane) is working, is ideal & is proven to be a good place for primary children (with more provision for 9 - 10 yr olds)	Present middle school site more suitable for secondary education (as it was originally!)
The present site is ideally situated, it is safe accessible and could easily be adapted to become a primary school at very little cost!!	No comment

## **21 responses from East Bierley residents**

### **19 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Birkenshaw First School is an excellent school and it is suited to First School pupils	Stay where they are
I am worried about road safety. The middle school site is on a busy 'A' road. The existing first school is on a minor road. Many primary children go to school by car. The relative development costs are modest.	They seem sensible.
Speaking to the teachers & parents of children I know this seems a very strange decision & one that nobody wants. Spend money to develop school you already have - what will happen to site - will you sell for houses? Invest in education & keep the school where it is & don't make the children suffer!	No comment
In time of cost cutting you seem to be spending money without any logical reasons. School can be easily improved at a snip of cost your documents	Don't do it.

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
suggest with little disruption to children, school, teaching & community.	
It makes more sense to invest on the site & adjoin to the main school building, this will cause less disruption to classes and lessons & pupils, plus it's cheaper!	Let them stay where they are.
Decisions were made without adequate consultation with those concerned.	A lot of disruption would be experienced by the children and staff.
It would appear little consultation took place, and perhaps the overriding factor is financial with little regard to the staff and children concerned.	The children of Birkenshaw Primary should be enabled to remain in their own school.
Ideal location at present with little benefit in re-locating.	Would also cause increased traffic in & around Bradford Road area.
There is a good school - good site already	N/A
It would be "better, cheaper, easier" to invest and stay on the present site and adjoin to the main building - causing less disruption to the kids & classes.	Let them stay where they are.
The middle school site should be left for the setting of the BBG High School	No comment
The school is in the heart of the community easily accessible to all pupils. If moved most children from the top of Birkenshaw would have to drive in a car.	No comment
At this present time with money shortage why waste it on changes which are not necessary as the schools are perfect.	Leave all things as they are at present time. Money available was available but ignored and is now lost.

**2 responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

**1 response from a Tong resident**

**1 response agreed with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and made no comments**

**1 response from a Cleckheaton resident**

**1 response disagreed with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery**

<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Let them stay where they are and then BMS can stay where they are & WMS will stay the same size.	No comment

**1 response from a Batley resident**

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery**

Why have you decided this is your view	Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School
<p>My middle grandchild currently attends Birkenshaw Nursery school and will soon be followed by his brother in a few years. I am regularly involved with picking up my grandson whilst his mother is at work.</p> <p>I understand that you are considering moving the site of the school to that of the middle school on Bradford Rd. Having spoken to my daughter-in-law about the plan I felt I needed my thoughts to be heard on the matter. Bradford Rd is a busy road with very poor access to the middle school. Given the age range of the children will be far younger I would expect the number of cars to increase and in ability to get the children to school safety or predictably will be difficult. Last year a pupil of the middle school was killed crossing the road, it is a dangerous and fast road. What are the benefits of the move?</p> <p>If the only changes needed for the first school is to accommodate four extra class rooms can these not just be built on the current site? I see the banners outside the school and if the teachers and the parents and local residents do not want this change why not leave the school where it is. Surely this would be a better use of tax payers' money and also be at the wishes of the community.</p>	

**2 responses from BD19 residents**

**2 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School**

Why have you decided this is your view	Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School
Completely pointless, unnecessary and unwanted move from what I know of local opinion. Unsuitable site for a primary school and there is another option for this site as the council is well aware!	No comment
Not a positive move local community feeling negative.	Road traffic concern - cost of rebuilding

**2 responses from Local Residents that did not declare their area**

2 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School but made no comments

**13 Response sheets were received from other interested parties who answered this section**

3 responses agree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School

<b>About you</b>	<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Headteacher Tong High School	No comment	No comment
Company Secretary Tong High School Trust	No comment	No comment
Cleckheaton Ward Councillor	All the other sites of the closing middle schools are being used for the new primaries. This is to be welcomed as all the middle school sites have plenty of outdoor space for play, formal sports, and environmental projects.	No comment

9 responses disagree with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School

<b>About you</b>	<b>Why have you decided this is your view</b>	<b>Are there any comments that you wish to make about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw CE( C) First and Nursery School</b>
Grandparent Linked With Birkenshaw First School	My two grandsons attend the first school, they thorough enjoy it there. I am not from Birkenshaw but understand the importance of having a school which is at the heart of the community. The school is set in lovely tranquil grounds, having visited the middle school site it doesn't have either of the above. I am also aware that a previous report by council states the middle school is unfit to be a primary school, so given the above and council comments then a move to the middle school is not a good one.	No comment
Grandparent - Birkenshaw F & N School	Want Birkenshaw Bradford Rd site for a secondary school.	No comment

Grandparent - BMS	Decisions were made without adequate consultation with those concerned.	A lot of disruption would be experienced by the children and staff.
Grandparent - BMS	It would appear little consultation took place, and perhaps the overriding factor is financial with little regard to the staff and children concerned.	The children of Birkenshaw Primary should be enabled to remain in their own school.
Grandparent	It would be "better, cheaper, easier" to invest and stay on the present site and adjoin to the main building - causing less disruption to the kids & classes.	Let them stay where they are.
Grandparent - BMS & East Bierley	No connections but know there is a lot of opposition to this proposal.	No comment
Grandparent	It makes more sense to invest on the site & adjoin to the main school building, this will cause less disruption to classes and lessons & pupils, plus it's cheaper!	Let them stay where they are.
Grandparent	No comment	No comment
Not specified	No comment	No comment

**1 response from a Grandparent stated 'don't know' about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and made the comment below**

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?</b>
Grandparent	Although the school would be better placed at Bradford Road for my grandchild, I would prefer the site to be developed as a secondary school. (Even more advantageous).	No comment

**Emails and letters addressing the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

30 emails and letters comment on the proposal in whole or in part.

2 emails / letters support the proposal

26 emails / letters oppose the proposal

2 emails / letters ask the LA to consider alternative proposals

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>2 emails / letters support the proposal</b>
291 Parent/carer school in the BD19 area email	Re: Location Birkenshaw Primary - I believe it would be better on the middle school site, due to the middle school site originally built to accommodate more pupils and the scope for expansion in the future.

<p>288 Parent/Carer Birkenshaw Middle School email</p>	<p>As a Parent of a year 5 student currently attending Birkenshaw Middle School and a daughter attending St Lukes Pre-school, I am obviously interested and concerned about future schooling in the area. I live in the East Bierley/Birkenshaw area.</p> <p>My initial belief is that as soon as the Government stopped the BSF funding then the Council should have decided to maintain the 3 tier system rather than try and reorganise on a shoestring. However, if the Council is set on moving to a 2 tier system then I also have a few comments to make.</p> <p>I have to say that even though it may be an advantage to my own children, I am totally opposed to the 'Free School' and 'Academy' initiatives. I believe this is divisive and that the poorer children will suffer disproportionately. It also makes planning school reorganisation for the Council extremely difficult as it appears to be a moving target. I have great sympathy for the Council at this time.</p> <p>What I think is important though, is that any building programmes that the Council need to move to 2 tier should be at the most economical for the Council and Ratepayers. If this disadvantages the 'Free School/Academies' then so be it. Specifically, assuming the Council has a free hand to move Birkenshaw First School to the land on Birkenshaw Middle School then it should do so, if it is financially beneficial to do it. My concern if you have to spend more on Birkenshaw First School to convert it to a full primary school on the current site, then you will have a lack of funding available for the conversion of East Bierley school to reorganise for years 5-6.</p>
<p><b>Respondent</b></p>	<p><b>26 emails / letters oppose the proposal</b></p>
<p>4 Parent/carer Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School email</p>	<p>I am writing to make my views known. My son currently attends Birkenshaw CE(C) First &amp; Nursery School and is in Year 2 and my youngest son is due to start school nursery in January 2013, aged just 3, which my eldest son attended. The nursery at the current site which you refer to as "Modular accommodation" works extremely well. To it's benefit it is independent from the main buildings which is not intimidating for very young children. It should be remembered that for a lot of children this maybe their first nursery experience, and the small independent building is seen as a "safe haven" for the young children. It has its own separate enclosed outside play area which provides an extremely safe and secure environment for the very young children as the noise levels are reduced and there are fewer accident risks. I see no need at all for the Nursery to form part of the main building, which equates to less expense. Why is the Councils core specification to be that all accommodation is housed in a single building and be permanent? It seems to me that these specifications have been decided upon to cause as much negativity as possible towards the existing site. In your consultation document you refer to the parents of children who attend East Bierley First School wanting their own village primary school. That is exactly what I and everyone that I have spoken to want - To retain our village school. Not a school which I understand will technically be in Gomersal and not Birkenshaw! PLEASE LISTEN TO US. At present the children are within a short walking distance of the village church which they attend several times during the year with no need to cross busy main roads. Has this been considered? If the first school was to move to the Bradford Road site I will have serious concerns regarding the safety of the children. For example the current site has two entrances, both are situated in residential areas with sufficient off site parking space to enable parents/carers to park safely, walk children to their classroom door and wait for the children to be let in safely by their class teacher. The middle school site is on a main road, which means considerably more risk to the children (and parents/carers) at drop off and collection times. There also appears to be only one entrance with parking being on the main road, which will cause considerable congestion, risk and be hazardous to other road users, who are probably in a rush to get to work! In addition there does not appear to be the option of accompanying children to their classroom door. Again is should be remembered the children will be as young as 3 years old that</p>

	<p>cannot be let out of the car unaccompanied in a turning circle. Page 6 of your brochure makes it very clear that Year 5 &amp; 6 pupils will remain at the current Birkenshaw First School site until 2014. This raises a number of questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* What budget has been put aside to implement the additional 4 classrooms to accommodate years 5&amp;6 on the current site?</li> <li>* have the above costs been factored in to the minimum and maximum cost options for the move of the school to the Bradford Road site, if not why not?</li> <li>* Your maximum cost option to remain on the current site seems extremely excessive and appear to include demolition and rebuild of a new school. Where is the like for like cost for the Bradford Road option as a single storey building is better suited for young children.</li> <li>* Why would the Council view the addition of Modular classrooms at the existing site s being acceptable from 2012 but not after 2014, when the current Nursery (modular accommodation) has been in place for many years.</li> <li>*why is money being wasted on building the additional classrooms for very short term use when the money can be better spent on modifying the existing site for long term use. What have your minimum and maximum costs for the current site been based on? The seem to be based on the ideal and do not offer a fair like for like comparison which grossly distorts the figures, to the detriment of the existing site. I understand the Governors of Birkenshaw First have obtained revised costing to modify the existing site. Why have these not been shown of considered? I also understand that on one of your plans for the existing school "Alex's Memorial Garden" becomes a store. This is insulting to say the least and proves the council lacks respect and regard for the emotional well being of the children and clearly does not understand the benefits the existing site offers. The plans for the remaining at the current site also seem distorted and again to the detriment of the current school location. The current site has an eco friendly habitat which offers a wonderful outside experience for the children. This has taken many years to establish and cannot be easily replaced. It seems that no real consideration has been given about what is best for children. A building on more than 1 level with limited classroom entrances is completely inappropriate for young children and in my opinion in unacceptable as it poses too many risks. My opinion is the political view is being used to the detriment of Birkenshaw First and the children and there seems to be some bias within the "Whitcliffe Mount Pyramid". On a separate note I can see no relevance of the ethnic origin questions on the reverse of your response sheet, at the back of the consultation paper. All that matters is the safety and development of ALL children, regardless of race or ethnic origin. But from my surname you can probably guess that the original (not current) ethnic origin of my children is Gypsy or Irish Traveller. From a Data Protection point of view it would be interesting to know what you will do with that piece of personal data, and why it has been collected as I see it as being excessive and not relevant for the purpose of the questionnaire. Data Protection Principle 2 states Data shall be obtained for 1 or more specified and lawful purposes and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes and Data Protection Principle 3 states Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose or purposes for which they are processed.</li> </ul> <p>I URGE YOU TO PLEASE LISTEN TO THE VIEW OF PARENTS AND CARERS.</p>
<p>164 Parent/carer Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School email</p>	<p>I STRONGLY DISAGREE with the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw First &amp; Nursery School. There are numerous reason why Birkenshaw First school should remain in its current site. Kirklees own documentation produced for June 2009 consultation agreed wholeheartedly that the existing buildings could easily be adapted to provide an all through 2 class room entry primary school with nursery. Indeed, as the school is already a First school, it simply needs additional classrooms building to cater for years 5 &amp; 6. There is no need change and remodel the whole school. The additional work could be done at a fraction of what Kirklees said it would cost. By contrast the same documentation said that the existing Middle school buildings</p>

	<p>are unfit for future use a primary school and would therefore need to be replaced completely. Clearly this would be far more expensive and the money could be better used extending the current first school. The site that the current First school is on is already a secure site; this cannot be said for the middle school site, which although large has no secure boundaries. The outdoor space on the current site has been developed over the years to provide lovely playgrounds for each of the key stages (FS/KS1/KS2). The site also has a pond, woodland area, gardens and vegetable plots which are invaluable to the children's learning; these are not in existence on the Middle School site, which is actually very harsh and unattractive with just playing fields and a tennis court. Each classroom has its own door leading from the playgrounds and so parents can deliver their children's individual classrooms; this is not the case at Middle school where children would just be dropped off at a central point and taken, by their teachers to their classroom. How would pupils be handed over to their parent/carer at the end of the school day? Also, the classrooms all have their own toilet and washing facilities; again, this cannot be said for the Middle School site, yet it is vital for children so young. Bradford Road outside the Middle School site is a busy main road and it would be difficult for any cars entering the site to leave, regardless of whether they were turning left or right. This would cause major congestion in and around the site, having a knock on effect on the children's safety. As a primary school containing 8 year, with 2 classes in most years, there will be far more cars used to transport children to and from school than are currently used by parents of Middle school children who are, due to their age unable to walk to school by themselves. Having a drop off area is not an option for younger Primary &amp; Nursery school children, parents must be able to park and walk their children to their classrooms. Additional congestion and parking problems will have a big impact on local residents and may also affect local shops that rely on passing trade as people will find alternative routes and avoid Gomersal and Birkenshaw villages. Any money set aside to address these issues would be better spent on improving the learning facilities and environment for the children. The Middle school is set over 2 floors and provides a very real danger to young children, particularly given the design of the stairs. There are no real problems on the current First school site where all classrooms are easily accessible. Any remodelling and redecoration of the current Middle school site will not change the fact that it was built as a Secondary Modern school. The building and grounds are totally unsuited to a primary school. The idea that only one year at a time moves to the Bradford Road site seems ludicrous. How can a school operate efficiently with only 1 year in it or across 2 sites??</p>
<p>166 Parent/carer Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School email</p>	<p>Dear Sirs</p> <p>I wish to lodge my objection to the proposals raised regarding the above two schools</p> <p>I strongly object to the proposal to move the current First &amp; Nursery school from the Station Lane site to the former middle school site. The Middle school site is large and in open grounds, immediately raising concerns for the safety of all children, but in particular those in key Stage 1.</p> <p>On the Station Lane site, toilets and cloakrooms are contained within the classrooms, ideal for young children, whereas on the Middle School site these are in central blocks which are totally unsuitable for young children who have to "go" when the "urge" arises!</p> <p>The middle school site has limited pupil entrances which is totally unsuitable for young children and parents. Parents want to see their child delivered safely to the classroom doors. This is wholly achievable on the present Station Lane site as each classroom has its own external door. This is totally unachievable on the middle school site.</p> <p>Drop off and collection points from a traffic point of view is totally unacceptable on the Middle School site, given the school is on a very busy main road with lunatic drivers haring up and down Bradford Road. These problems simply do not exist on</p>

	<p>the present Station Lane site.  Moving the present First &amp; Nursery school to the middle school site simply should not happen. It is not what the parents (or children) want. Four new classrooms is all that is required at Station Lane and the way the school has operated and been successful over the many years it has been open is indicative of the fact that the Station Lane site works well for the KS1 and KS2 children.  Please do not close our Station Lane site. It would be an absolute travesty.</p>
<p>245  Parent/Carer  Birkenshaw  CE(C) First  and Nursery  School  letter</p>	<p>I write in relation to the proposed transfer of Birkenshaw First &amp; Nursery to the Birkenshaw Middle school site. Following the meetings regarding the education system being switched from 3 tier to 2 tier the option of two tier appeared to be the way forward. However, the disruption I can foresee this will create it is beginning to beg the question whether it is worth it. What we have currently in the village are brilliant schools. The banner outside the middle school has long boasted about its academic success and Birkenshaw First &amp; Nursery where my five year old is a pupil, is an award winning school too. Environmentally and academically the school continues to flourish. This brings me to the burning issue - if ain't broke why fix it. I have read your consultation document but I cannot find in it what would happen to the Station Lane site. They cynical view would be that may be this site would be considered for housing - a rather large house with an equally large garden is on the market next door. Draw your own conclusions. The issue for me as a parent of someone who has been educated at these two schools is the teaching and the location. Much hard work has been put into developing the Station Lane site to provide a natural habitat for wildlife where children can learn about nature in a safe environment. It is a primary school; it isn't a middle school which can be intimidating for youngsters just by the sheer size. I can remember my move to the middle school and it is a different learning environment for an 11 year old, you are expecting children in nursery and reception age to adjust to this at their age? The location of the middle school site is a very busy main road. The children who you want to utilise this building have little road sense at their age, despite drilling home the green cross code. Parking is another issue - I reiterate Bradford Road is a busy main road - I've lived on it! I find the whole situation of great concern and I don't think it has been logically thought through. I accept what you have reported; buildings and expense issues but I feel all this will at the end of the day be at the expense of our children's education. I hope you will take into consideration my views.</p>
<p>290  Parent/Carer  Birkenshaw  CE(C) First  and Nursery  School  &amp; BMS  email</p>	<p>I am a parent of children both in the first school and the middle school.  I strongly disagree with the first school being moved to the middle school site this is not a suitable site for primary school children especially the foundation and key stage one children. The school was built as a <b>SECONDARY SCHOOL NOT A PRIMARY!!!</b> There are not sufficient entrances for a start for the younger children they would not be able to be seen in and out at the beginning and ending of the day, the cloakrooms and toilet blocks are not to the specification of young children, playground facilities are far too big and over a large area which wouldn't be suitable. One of the main concerns would be the traffic, the roads around the school are not suitable for people who need to park and take their children into school, it would cause major hold ups on the main road as it is already a busy road on a morning with people going to work I know I travel on it every day and the Kingsley estate is <b>DEFINITELY</b> not set up for lots of cars parking there. I would imagine the residents would be mortified if this happened. There is also the question of how much it would cost if you had to change the road system in some way to accommodate the vehicles.  The site the first school is on has plenty of room for four more classrooms and they wouldn't cost as much as altering the middle school site. It also needs to be looked at all the hard work that the children and staff and parents have put into improving the outside area with the pond, planting, chickens etc that they have.  On a more personal note the school has a reflective garden in the name of a little</p>

	<p>boy that went to the first school it needs to stay where it is as Alex came to this school he didn't go to the middle school and it would have no representation of his life there IT NEEDS TO STAY AT THE FIRST SCHOOL SITE.</p> <p>As I said before I have children at both schools so I do know what both schools have to offer and the First school is ABSOLUTELY SUITABLE FOR THE CHANGE TO PRIMARY. IT DOES NOT NEED TO BE MOVED!!!!!!</p>
154 Parent/Carer East Bierley CE(VC) First School email	<p>I do not agree that Birkenshaw First and Nursery school should be relocated. This school adequately supports the necessary education needs and feel that money spent on a new school/relocation would not be cost effective.</p>
287 Parent/Carer East Bierley CE(VC) First School Governor Birkenshaw Middle School Resident East Bierley email	<p>Proposal to relocate Birkenshaw First and Nursery School</p> <p>I disagree with this proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the current Birkenshaw First School site houses a well established school which has become and should continue to be an integral part of the local community.</li> <li>- the existing site provides parents with close and easy access to the school when dropping off and picking up their children with minimal disruption to traffic and the local community: this is essential with regards to children as young as 4 years old.</li> <li>- retaining the current site provides a long term solution to accommodate year 5 and 6 children with the scope for future expansion at minimal cost, especially when compared with the alternative proposal to relocate the school to the current Birkenshaw Middle School site and the need to redevelop the school to cater for much younger children, assess and manage the impact on traffic, etc.</li> <li>- schools are an integral part of the local community, therefore we should grab the opportunity to redevelop the Birkenshaw Middle School to become a high school and provide children in the surrounding area with access to a first class, LOCAL secondary education eliminating the need to travel several miles and the traffic and costs this involves.</li> </ul>
153 Parent/carer Governor Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School	<p>I would like to confirm that I am totally against your proposals to move our school from its current purpose built, and wonderfully developed site, to that of the current Birkenshaw Middle School (BMS).</p> <p>I am a parent of a child at the Birkenshaw F&amp;N School and also Chair of Governors,</p> <p>Having thoroughly read the consultation documents as well as the proposed plans for both school sites I would like you to consider my comments as part of your consultation which are in no particular order:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Practicality of school site - Our current site has been developed over a number of years with the children's education in mind. We have cultivated an environment that cannot just be replicated using a large amount of money, as you cannot just plant large mature trees, a pond with its own eco system, meadowland, hard and soft play areas designed for children of different ages.</li> <li>2. Transport/Parking considerations - Our current site has 2 entrances with access via local roads surrounded by housing. This provides relatively safe parking especially when parents have to take their children into school rather than just dropping them off on the roadside. The BMS site is situated on a very busy main road with heavy traffic passing the school gates, making the route unsafe for children especially the smaller ones. The plans to have a drop off area within the school grounds of BMS are totally unworkable as you would have vehicles in the same area as parents and children walking into school. Most children at Primary school age, especially Key Stage 1 and Nursery children will need to be taken to</li> </ol>

the classroom door as they do now, rather than being "dropped off". The area around Kingsley and Tetley Drive would be grid locked at school times, made even worse every week when Celebration Assembly takes place when parents would leave their vehicles for an even longer period than usual. I understand that senior officers have not seen the current problem nor considered the impact on local residents.

3. We have been told that the best use of assets on the current site would be to knock down one current building (Sherburn Building) and build additional accommodation on the South Croft building. This seems rather a waste of the current 2 buildings when they can both be developed with additional accommodation being added to one of the buildings ie. Sherburn and the cost to develop the existing buildings can be achieved well within the anticipated cost of developing the BMS site ie £2.87m with permanent buildings. I understand from the recent governors meeting that monies have yet to be allocated to the project and our children could be in a position that they move but no work is done on the buildings to make them appropriate for younger children.

4. The consultation documents mention the need to address the existing dining, hall and kitchen facilities. You need to be aware that our current hall facilities are approximately 25% larger than they need to be even with the increase in pupil numbers, your own council report on our kitchen facilities show they are suitable to cater for c. 500, plus the dining facilities are more than sufficient. All that would need to be done would be to slightly extend the lunch time for the catering staff. I believe this to be a very misleading part of the consultation document and something that needs to be addressed.

5. We have also been told by council officers that there is no educational benefit to having one building rather than 2 so I can see no other benefit. In fact pupils and parents see a huge benefit in having 2 buildings rather than 1, namely it separates the very young, smaller children, from the much larger, older children, so they do not feel intimidated in the slightest. The children also look forward to moving to the Key stage 2 building as they get the feeling of "moving up" whilst being within the same school as it has a totally different feel to it and they are taught in a different environment.

6. It was mentioned in your own council consultation report from 2009 that the BMS site was not fit for purpose and would have to be demolished and re-built if the primary school was housed there. I cannot see how this has now changed, even though the economic situation is worse than before. The building was either suitable or not, no matter the economic position. I have been told by council officers, that the initial surveys done in 2009 were not comprehensive, which I find hard to believe. I know that the surveys were very comprehensive in 2009 as these were mentioned in the reports.

7. An aspect of the BMS plan that concerns me is the lack of toilet facilities especially for the younger children. Each classroom currently has toilet facilities and this needs replicating otherwise the children will be placed in a very difficult position. This would lead to staff having to take children to the toilet thus wasting valuable lesson time for all concerned. I appreciate that the plans state that adequate facilities will be built, but I cannot see where these will be as they cannot be built near the classrooms.

8. It mentions also in the consultation document that using the BMS site for the Birkenshaw Primary School would be in line with other Primary school changes where the middle schools have been used to house the larger primary schools in the same areas, ie Whitechapel, Gomersal and Heaton Avenue (on the West End Middle school site). What the document fails to make clear to all stakeholders is that our site is large enough to be developed whereas all the other sites are not. Therefore to make the comparison is extremely misleading as you are not comparing like with like. Each site should be considered on its own merits and we feel that the consultation document does not do this.

	<p>At the last governors meeting council officers mentioned that there are still many areas still to be dealt with, which I feel are too onerous to be able to consider moving the school from its current site.</p> <p>So, given that there is no educational benefit of placing all children in one building, together with the fact that the current 2 buildings can be developed with additional accommodation well within the figures quoted in your consultation, I strongly request that you reconsider the decision to move our school site to one that was originally built as a High School and in your own words is "unfit for purpose" as a Primary School.</p>
<p>165 Governor East Bierley CE(VC) First School</p> <p>Staff East Bierley CE(VC) First School</p>	<p>Section 3: I disagree with the proposal to relocate the current Birkenshaw First &amp; Nursery School to any other site.</p> <p>It's current site is well established, central to the whole of the village &amp; has enough land to accommodate any expansions necessary to facilitate Primary needs.</p> <p>The current Governors &amp; SMT have spent a lot of time &amp; money on developing the current site, including things that are not transferable to a new site.</p> <p>Generally I feel that the transition periods &amp; re-organisation of these 2 schools &amp; East Bierley First School should have been sorted out at the same time as the rest of the Cleckheaton pyramid. If it had been, the money for all the re-organisation would have been shared out more fairly &amp; we would not have been in this situation now. We definitely feel that our group of schools has not had a fair deal at all.</p>

<p>167 Chair BBG Academy Trust email</p>	<p><b>REVISED PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE BIRKENSHAW MIDDLE SCHOOL (BMS) FROM AUGUST 2013</b></p> <p>As Chair of the BBG Academy Trust (BBGAT) I am responding to the Council's consultation on the above proposal, and the connected proposal to transfer Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School (BFS) to the vacated BMS site from September 2013.</p> <p>The BBGAT is pleased to confirm its support for the cessation of BMS as a Middle School in summer 2013, but objects most strongly to the proposal to transfer BFS to the BMS site. As you know, and as is acknowledged in your consultative document, the Business Case for the BBGAT-sponsored High School to open in September 2013 was approved by the Secretary of State in November of last year, and our preferred site is the BMS one. It is at the heart of the community we will serve, and the premises provide excellent value for money as a base for expanding capacity to meet our community need for a 750 pupil High School. The transfer of BFS to the BMS site would force us to develop our High School on an alternative site, at much greater cost.</p> <p>The main reason put forward in the Council's consultation document for transferring BFS to BMS is that it would be cheaper to convert and expand the BMS site to accommodate a 420 place primary school – you quote minima and maxima for both sites, and the means are approximately £3.9m for the BMS site and £5.8 for the BFS site. We do not have the detailed knowledge to counter these estimates, nor is it our place to do so. However, we do understand that BFS itself believes the on-site conversion costs are likely to be very much lower than your estimates, and so may well provide better value for money than the development on the BMS site.</p> <p>In addition, it seems clear that BFS itself, vociferously including the parental community it serves, has no wish to transfer site, understandably preferring to remain "at home" – but of course, it is for them to make their own response to this consultation.</p> <p>In sum, we can see no good reason, least of all popular support, for the Council's proposal to transfer BFS to the BMS site, and would ask you to reconsider and withdraw this proposal; and so, with the closure of BMS in August 2013, agree to provide the site for the use of BBG High from its opening in September 2013 – with access from early 2012 to begin to prepare for the necessary building work. As I have assured the Council many times, BBG High will play its full part in the local community of schools. Our vision for the school is straightforward – co-educational and non-selective, providing a first class education to the children of our community, so that they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve – academically, practically, culturally, artistically and in sport</li> <li>• Contribute – to the achievement of their fellow students, and to school, family and community life</li> <li>• Enjoy – working hard in a caring environment, based on mutual respect between staff and students.</li> </ul> <p>BBG High will be a school that all concerned, including Kirklees Council, will be proud of. We look forward to the Council's support to bring our school into being.</p>
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<p>52 Resident Birkenshaw letter</p>	<p>I am writing regarding the above proposals to relocate Birkenshaw First School to the site of Birkenshaw Middle School. I find your consultation document lacking in facts, lacking in truth and also lacking in concern for the education of children in this village.</p> <p>The Middle School, as I am sure you are aware, was built as a secondary school to serve the children of this area. It was not built as a primary school and in your very own words "the existing buildings are assessed as being unfit for future use as a primary school". Three years after publishing those very words I fail to see what has changed - if it was unfit then it remains unfit now!</p> <p>The site (which I point out is actually in Gomersal) is on a very hazardous main road and your proposals for a "drop off area" only confirms that you are totally out of touch with primary education, parents and children! Do you have children? From your proposals I think probably not! Because if you had you would know how important it is for parents to see their children safely into their classroom and be outside the door waiting for them when school finishes. To have the opportunity to speak to teaching staff, other parents or perhaps call into the school office to discuss matters, buy uniform, hand in money. You see a school is more than just a building it is a community, one that cares for its children and parents. A drop off zone is almost an insult to parenting!</p> <p>The site the first school occupies at the moment is absolutely ideal, as is its location. It has two entrances where parents can park or walk in safely with prams and toddlers and without causing unnecessary danger or causing road congestion. The layout of the school with its separate Nursery, KS1 building and KS2 building means that even though it is a large school each unit remains small and the children feel secure. Each classroom has its own entrance and its own toilets (NOT a toilet block). It is all on one level (the middle school does not allow Years 5 &amp; 6 to go upstairs at its present building!). There are two halls which are fully utilised and a kitchen which far exceeds the Middle School specification! The outdoor provision is second to none and plays a key role in the ethos of the school. The site is secure, has purpose built play areas, nature areas, a pond and mature planting. I doubt if you have even considered how much it would cost to even secure the perimeter of the Middle School site!</p> <p>You have repeatedly carped on about the Government's withdrawal of the "Building Schools for the Future" money and bemoaned the fact that you have been left with not a lot to spend on educational capital projects and yet you present figures ranging from £2.87m to £7.12m! The First School can be extended on its present site to take 2 extra years (4 classes) and meet all the educational requirements for considerably less than the minimum spend required to alter the Middle School site, yet you have not included these plans and costs in your consultation document (plans which are considerably better designed than the ones you have drawn up!)</p> <p>As a Kirklees ratepayer I expect the Council to adhere to its best value principals. In this case your comparative costs are nonsensical! I suggest you sack your planning team and renegotiate your building contracts! This is the third time you have wasted time and money on unnecessary consultations - that is my council tax you are wasting and to be honest I am fed up with it! There is obviously a political or personal agenda in all this! I think it is about time a forensic accounting team was brought in to investigate the Council's tendering and costing policies and perhaps the Ombudsman should be brought in to look at whether the Council is really committed to doing what is best for the education of the children in this area!</p>
<p>70 School Council Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery</p>	<p>As a school council we visited Birkenshaw Middle School to see for ourselves what the building and facilities were like. We have listed a few points below that we would like you to consider when making the decision whether to move us from our current site.</p> <p>* There are a great many steps in the building which were dangerous and very big for the little legs of our younger friends.</p>

<p>School letter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* There were many very dark, long corridors which may be very daunting to our younger school and all the doors looked the same which would cause confusion.</li> <li>* All the Smart boards were set very high on the walls, we took a picture of one our members trying to reach it and it was not possible. We use our inter-active boards a great deal.</li> <li>* The chairs were all too large for us and even with small chairs; the tables were very high in some of the classrooms.</li> <li>* The rows of hooks for our coats were set very high and the cloakrooms were not always close to the classrooms.</li> <li>* The windows were also very high so it would be difficult for us to see out. Some of the window frames were very dirty and rotting.</li> <li>* The pond area is smaller than the one we currently have here.</li> <li>* The changing rooms were scruffy and would not be needed by us.</li> <li>* In some classrooms there was machinery that did not look safe for us, our teachers said some of them were de-humidifiers which suggested the rooms might be damp or the windows didn't open.</li> <li>* All the sinks and toilets were too high for us.</li> <li>* The playground was not big enough for small people and bigger people to play in safely together. We would want to have our own playgrounds for year groups as the games the bigger children play might be harmful to little people - not to mention any bad language the older children might use.</li> <li>* The car park was not big enough for us to park due to the staff cars so what would it be like for our parents to drop us off safely.</li> <li>* Mrs W could not drive into the gateway until someone else had come out - there is not enough room for our parents to be able to bring us into school safely. Some of us are far too young to be dropped off at the gateway and there are too many cars flying past the gateway for it to be safe anyway.</li> <li>* We thought that some children might get lost around the school as they had to go to the toilet. Our classrooms all have their own toilets so we do not have to leave the classroom unaccompanied.</li> <li>* The whole building felt very big to us and like a maze. The corridors were very long, poky and too small for classes to pass each other safely - don't forget some of us are very little!</li> <li>* The classrooms did not have a carpet area for us to sit and chat; we like to discuss what we are doing and have circles times.</li> <li>* The hall was very big and the stage was very high - we thought it would be easy for our little ones to fall of.</li> <li>* The climbing frames were much too high for us and the boys showing us around said even they don't use it very often because it is too high.</li> <li>* There wasn't a very good feel to the building, it felt cold and not very welcoming, more like a hospital than a happy place to be in and work in.</li> <li>* The school had paint missing off lots of walls. It looked like everywhere would need decorating. Our school is already nicely decorated.</li> <li>* We all have a door to use to go outside from our classroom. This is really safe for us as we can line up and go home straight from our classroom. The middle school only has four doors to take us out. This is not very safe for us and someone could get lost.</li> <li>*The year 8 boys who showed us around the middle school explained that year 5 and 6 stayed mainly in their classroom and didn't go upstairs very often because it was not as safe for them as the year 7 and 8 pupils. How can this then be safe for us - Nursery to Year 6? We will have to go upstairs and move around each week for ICT and Library. We even have to go up some stairs to the hall.</li> </ul> <p>Please consider what we have said, we may be small but we have thoughts and opinions about where we would like to learn. We know it will cost lost of money to make Birkenshaw Middle School into a warm, inviting, friendly learning centre so please think about spending that money on our building where we are safe, happy</p>
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	<p>and enjoying our school days. We thank you for reading our thoughts.</p>
<p>96 Staff Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School letter</p>	<p>I am writing to express my views on the current Consultation on the relocation of Birkenshaw First &amp; Nursery School. I strongly oppose this move for the following reasons:</p> <p>The current site is a safe secure environment that can be accessed through three separate entrances, all of which are safe for pedestrians and vehicles. None of the entrances are situated on a main road unlike the middle school, whose main entrance is situated on Bradford road. Bradford road is a very busy road with very little parking. You have suggested creating a turning circle for parents to use when dropping children off. There are several worrying issues with this suggestion; Primary children (especially Nursery through to Year 4) are rarely just dropped off, parents want to take their children to and collect them from the school door. Parents attend more school based activities such as assemblies. Where are these cars going to park? On Bradford Road or on Kingsley Drive this is just not practical or safe. Even if you do create a turning circle, drop off point or car park, the main road entrance to the school is only wide enough for one car, people will be unable to gain entry or exit easily causing grid lock on Bradford Road. I strongly object to any public money being spent on creating access, creating turning circles, car parks or widening entrances. This is an absolute waste of public money when we already have a perfectly accessible suitable location at the current site.</p> <p>The Middle School building is not suitable to be used as a Primary School, I refer you to the previous consultation 2009 when your own consultation document states: The Middle School buildings have been assessed as unfit for future use as a primary school and should be demolished. The Middle school has no individual external classroom doors, no individual classroom based cloakroom and toilet facilities. These are both very important to the younger children, KS1 children need quick access to the toilet, and surely you can not expect a 5 year old to wait until break time or a member of staff to exit the classroom every time a child wants the bathroom.</p> <p>There are many steps in the building, the ICT suite and the Library facilities are on the second floor off the building. Our Nursery &amp; Reception children would have difficulty accessing these facilities. Even if you relocate these to the ground floor it would mean having another year group on the second floor, the second floor is currently used for Year 7 &amp; 8.</p> <p>The Middle school building has had no investment over the last 4 years and is shabby and needs a lot of the fixture and fittings replacing, unlike the First school which has been well maintained and is in a good state of repair.</p> <p>The Middle schools out door space is large and open and not suitable for a Primary School, looking at the plans you have identified very small play areas for Nursery &amp; Reception, KS1 &amp; KS2. The current site has had a lot of investment spent on its play areas. Foundation has its own secure play space, there is a wide variety of spaces for the KS1 &amp; 2 children to use from the ball court to the fort to the hard play areas as well as the quiet areas. To recreate this on another site would cost a substantial amount of money, yet another waste of public money when we already have these facilities on our current site. The only outdoor facility that you seem to have identified the current site is missing is a football pitch. Surely it would be more cost effective to create one on the present site (behind Nursery).</p> <p>I would like to remind you that when the BSF &amp; Primary Capital funding was pulled you decided to carry on with the plans for a two tier system, you have already identified that the Middle school building is unsuitable for Primary education and you have a duty to provide a suitable building or buildings to deliver Primary education in this area. With the current financial constraints the common sense solution is to use what you already have. Keep the first school on its current site</p>

	<p>extend the KS2 building, provide a football pitch/playing field at the rear of the Nursery and give some stability to the education of the children of Birkenshaw.</p>
<p>97 Governing Body Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School letter</p>	<p>On behalf of the governing body of Birkenshaw First &amp; Nursery School I would like to confirm that we are totally against your proposals to move our school from its current purpose build, and wonderfully developed site, to that of the current Birkenshaw Middle School (BMS).</p> <p>We have thoroughly read the consultation documents as well as the proposed plans for both school sites and would like you to consider our comments as part of your consultation.</p> <p>Firstly, the consultation document does not mention how strongly our governors, community, staff and parents feel about our current site although it mentions the support for a Primary School in East Bierley. We believe this to be totally misleading and would like you to formally recognise that fact.</p> <p>The reasons why we know that the decision to move our school site to be the wrong one include the following factors, which we would like you to consider, and are in no particular order:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Practicality of school site</li> </ol> <p>Our current site has been developed over a number of years with the children's education in mind. We have cultivated an environment that cannot just be replicated using a large amount of money, as you cannot just plant large mature trees, a pond with its own eco system, meadowland, hard and soft play areas designed for children of different ages. We would like to see your plans for the external play areas as well as the external environment together with the associated costs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Excellent Facilities on current site</li> </ol> <p>The consultation documents mention the need to address the existing dining, hall and kitchen facilities. You need to be aware that our current hall facilities are approximately 25% larger than they need to be even with the increase in pupil numbers, your own council report on our kitchen facilities show they are suitable to cater for c. 500, plus the dining facilities are more than sufficient. All that we would need to do would be to slightly extend the lunch time for the catering staff. We believe this to be a very misleading part of the consultation document and something we need to address when officers meet with governors.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Benefits of two buildings on current site</li> </ol> <p>The consultation document states that all accommodation should be housed in a single building, but we have also been told by council officers that there is no</p>

educational benefit to having one building rather than 2; in fact our pupils and parents see a huge benefit in having 2 buildings rather than 1. Namely, it separates the very young, smaller children, from the much larger, older children, so they do not feel intimidated in the slightest. The children also look forward to moving to the Key stage 2 building as they get the feeling of "moving up" whilst being within the same school as it has a totally different feel to it and they are taught in a different environment.. We would appreciate a detailed report on why the council has a core specification for our school, rather than schools in general, that all accommodation should be in one building. We appreciate that if we were discussing the building of a new school then it would be housed in a single building, but we are not in this case.

#### 4. Kirklees 2009 Consultation Report

It was mentioned in your own council consultation report from 2009 that the BMS site was not fit for purpose and would have to be demolished and re built if the primary school was housed there. We cannot see how this has now changed, even though the economic situation is worse than before. The building was either suitable or not, no matter the economic position.

#### 5. Toilet Facilities

An aspect of the BMS plan that concerns the governors and parents is the lack of toilet facilities especially for the younger children. Each classroom currently has toilet facilities and this needs replicating otherwise the children will be placed in a very difficult position. This would lead to staff having to take children to the toilet thus wasting valuable lesson time for all concerned.

#### 6. Use of Middle School site for Primary Schools

It mentions also in the consultation document that using the BMS site for the Birkenshaw Primary School would be in line with other local Primary school changes where the middle schools have been used to house the larger primary schools in the same areas, ie Whitechapel, Gomersal and Heaton Avenue (on the West End Middle school site) What the document fails to make clear to all stakeholders is that our site is large enough to be developed whereas all the other sites are not. Therefore to make the comparison is extremely misleading as you are not comparing like with like. Each site should be considered on its own merits and we feel that the consultation document does not do this.

#### 7. Survey Reports

We have previously requested sight of all the surveys undertaken on our school site and would ask that these be sent to our school for our attention at your earliest convenience which needs to be before the cabinet visit on the 31st October, so that we are possession of all the facts.

We were initially led to believe that the move to the BMS site was purely on economic grounds, although we have since discovered that this is not the case. In a meeting between Kirklees officers together with our Head and Chair it was discussed by officers that the move was due to many reasons and that even if one option was more expensive than another the "best" option would be proposed. During this meeting it was discussed that the decision was one that was finely balanced and could have gone either way.

So, given that there is no educational benefit of placing all children in one building, together with the fact that the current 2 buildings can be developed with additional accommodation well within the figures quoted in you consultation, we strongly request that you reconsider the decision to move our school site to one that was originally built as a High School and in your own words "unfit for purpose" as a Primary School.

158  
Staff  
Birkenshaw  
CE(C) First  
and Nursery  
School  
letter

I am writing regarding the non-statutory consultation to relocate Birkenshaw CE C First & Nursery School to the site of Birkenshaw Middle School. I have read your proposals in great detail and attended meetings you have held and I find no valid reasons to recommend the proposal to relocate and several reasons to disagree with your findings and recommendations.

Firstly, you seem almost obsessed with the fact that because other primary schools have relocated to middle school sites that that must be the way to go! However the other primary school sites have not had any land on which to expand and the middle school sites they have been relocated to were originally built as middle schools. Birkenshaw First School has lots of land on which to expand and Birkenshaw Middle School was originally built as a secondary school and would be extremely difficult and very expensive to alter to become a primary school.

Also the location of the middle school, whilst suitable for older children (the majority of who walk to school) is certainly not suitable for parents to take small children from 3 years old who would have to negotiate that busy road with prams and pushchairs! I find your plans for a "drop off" zone not only ludicrous but totally out of touch with today's society. The First School has 2 entrances Station Lane and Southcroft Avenue and the roads around the school are residential and quiet. Parents can park safely and walk their children into school. The First School has 3 buildings which I think is an enormous advantage not disadvantage! Each classroom has its own entrance door where parents can take their children in, settle them down and perhaps have a word with the teacher. That could not happen at the Middle School site. Not only is the drop off zone not practical there is insufficient parking for parents, the entrance is too narrow, and joining the main road again would be impossible! The whole area would be grid locked and very dangerous!

Also in the present First School each classroom has its own toilet facilities which are imperative for small children who can "pop to the loo" and rejoin their class whenever they want without disrupting the education of the rest of the class. I think your consultation document is also VERY misleading in its content suggesting that there are insufficient Hall, dining and kitchen facilities at the present First School - when in fact there is over capacity of all three!

The wonderful grounds of the First School are an integral part of the whole ethos of the school and play a large part in many educational topics. It is alright to say that that could be replicated at the Middle School but at what cost? And it would take years to establish. Children going through school for the next 10 years plus would therefore not have the advantages that those grounds give and the enrichment to the curriculum it provides therefore their education would be less rich.

May I point out that as a Church School, the Church also plays a major role in the life of the School? It is only a short walk for the children and they do not need to cross any busy roads. From the Middle School site that walk would be impossible. The links with Playgroup in the Village, the links with Helen Howes Nursery and Birkenshaw Kinder garden who pick up and drop off children at the school would all be impossible if the school were moved to the Middle School site. You would therefore be destroying vital links with the Community and probably causing many businesses that depend on the school permanent hardship.

A lot of your document talks about "associated costs" and "providing value for money solution". You talk about "subject to availability of capital funding" - the truth is there is NO money! There are NO detailed costings for the adaptation and refurbishment of the Middle School site, instead a "ball park" figure has been used on what it has cost in the past to relocate other primary schools (which are not comparable) to their Middle School sites (not Secondary School Sites). On those grounds alone anyone with a jot of common sense would see that it would be far cheaper to add 4 classrooms onto a school that is already 95% ideal than to have to totally gut the middle school, redo all the grounds, alter the driveway and after all that it would still fail to offer the teaching environment that exists at the moment at

	<p>the present First School! You will also have failed to provide the best education for hundreds of children. Your remit surely is to recommend to Cabinet the proposal which provides the best education for the children, the least disruption to their education at the best possible price - It is apparent to everyone that the answer to that is to leave the First School where it is now - any outcome other than that I feel would leave the Council open to questions from the Local Government Ombudsman!</p>
<p>206 Grandparent Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School letter</p>	<p>We in live in south Kirklees and hope that our opinion can still be taken into account for the changes to the school site of Birkenshaw Primary after the changes to the 2-tier system. Our grand-children currently attend Birkenshaw First school and we have had many conversations with my daughter over the years about the changing school system in the area. The kids are really happy at the school and the school site they currently attend. They currently are able to walk to school on Station Lane and I know would need to drive should the school be moved to the middle school site. I drive on Bradford Road regularly and find it a fast and dangerous road and certainly not a fit place for school children of a young age. And I truly cannot see how the parent's cars can be accommodated for drop off and pick up times at the school. As a business man in the private sector I cannot understand the finances nor approach to the school alterations needed. My understanding is you feel you would need to knock down the current first school and re-build as a single building to address the changes you feel would be appropriate and hence might prefer the single middle school building. This seems a poor use our taxes. Why could an extension to the modular school not be considered? I've picked the boys up from the school once before and it seems to have a great design and ease of access already. We may not be local residents but as I said above I am in interested party and we will be paying taxes to fund these changes and I hope you will take into account both our opinions in this matter. We would like the Primary school to continue of the current site of the First School on Station Lane.</p>

<p>209 Resident Birkenshaw letter</p>	<p>Further to the above mentioned consultation document please find detailed below several feedback comments for your consideration.</p> <p>The existing primary school site has entrance doors for each classroom ensuring parents can drop off and collect their children from their own class teacher. The middle school site and plans does not enable this to happen - how would class teachers ensure that children were directly passed from the teachers to the parents care?</p> <p>The existing primary school site with its split buildings enables small, close knit communities to be formed in each of the key stages. The middle school plans would have a very large number of very young children mixing together and would loose this valuable benefit.</p> <p>I see no negative issues with the primary school having 2 separate buildings, and as mentioned above I actually see this as a positive situation. I would think that the remodelling of the exiting primary school buildings or even construction of a third building at the primary school site would be much better solutions than that in the consultation document. Having 2 halls within the school provides twice as much internal PE area, room for assemblies etc.</p> <p>I am concerned that the middle school site is a 2 storey building which is not suitable for young children; in addition the ground floor of the middle school site is not level and has several small flights of stairs within the ground floor level.</p> <p>In the 2009 consultation documents it was deemed that the middle school site was unsuitable for a primary school - why has the council now reversed this opinion when no significant changes are planned to the site?</p> <p>A large number of parents drive their primary school children to school as the children are too young to walk even short distances. The primary school site has 3 possible access routes accessing from 4 separate roads, spreading the traffic - all roads are also low traffic residential roads. The middle school has only 2 access routes, one from a residential road in a large housing estate that is busy with cut-through traffic and residents existing the estate, the other entrance is on a very busy main road. The proposals show that the Bradford road access would be adjusted slightly - however the volume of traffic parked around the Bradford road entrance, and entering and exiting the school through this entrance would cause serious road congestion in the area, in turn causing further increased safety concerns when coupled with very young children in the area with no road sense. I hope that my views as detailed above will be taken into account in the consultation process.</p>
<p>210 Unknown respondent letter</p>	<p>Response to the consultation document about the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw First &amp; Nursery School</p> <p>Further to the above mentioned consultation document please find detailed below several feedback comments for your consideration.</p> <p>A large number of parents drive their primary school children to school as the children are too young to walk even short distances. The primary school site has 3 possible access routes accessing from 4 separate roads, spreading the traffic - all roads are also low traffic residential roads. The middle school has only 2 access routes, one from a residential road in a large housing estate that is busy with cut-through traffic and residents existing the estate, the other entrance are on a very busy main road. The proposals show that the Bradford road access would be adjusted slightly - however the volume of traffic parked around the Bradford road entrance, and entering and exiting the school through this entrance would cause serious road congestion in the area, in turn causing further increased safety concerns when coupled with very young children in the area with no road sense.</p> <p>The existing primary school site has entrance doors for each classroom ensuring parents can drop off and collect their children from their own class teacher. The middle school site and plans does not enable this to happen - how would class teachers ensure that children were directly passed from the teachers to the parents care?</p>

	<p>I see no negative issues with the primary school having 2 separate buildings, and as mentioned above I actually see this as a positive situation. I would think that the remodelling of the existing primary school buildings or even construction of a third building at the primary school site would be much better solutions than that in the consultation document. Having 2 halls within the school provides twice as much internal PE area, room for assemblies etc.</p> <p>I am concerned that the middle school site is a 2 storey building which is not suitable for young children; in addition the ground floor of the middle school site is not level and has several small flights of stairs within the ground floor level.</p> <p>I hope that my views as detailed above will be taken into account in the consultation process.</p>
<p>231 Resident Birkenshaw letter</p>	<p>As a resident of Birkenshaw I take an interest in community plans and events. Having read the booklet re non statutory consultation proposals for Birkenshaw CE© F &amp; N School I would like to add some comments.</p> <p>I think it is a very poorly thought out idea to move this primary school from Station Lane to the present middle school site on Bradford Road.</p> <p>The first thing that springs to mind is my concern regarding the safety of these very young children - some only nursery school age. Bradford Road is an extremely busy road and children this age cannot simply be dropped off near the school entrance. Naturally parents will want to take their children into the school grounds and make sure their small children are safely in their classroom or nursery. At present the children who attend middle school are age 9 upwards. Many walk to school which is better for their health and the environment. Some pupils will arrive by car but most are dropped off somewhere near the school entrance and their parents drive off straight away.</p> <p>With younger children on the site the traffic will be very much increased and cars will be stationary for much longer periods adding to congestion on an already busy road. If parents were to use the Kingsley entrance this again would add to congestion and parking problems in a busy residential area. Pouring money into attempting to solve traffic issues is yet another concern when money should be directed to schools and our children's education.</p> <p>I am aware that there are a few difficulties re parking near the primary school but the school is not on a main road. This purpose built school is well suited to younger children with a fine woodland area and a pond. The pupils take a great pride in 'green issues'. The class rooms have easily accessible cloakrooms and toilets and the external play spaces are very well thought out and contribute to physical development in a 'fun' way.</p> <p>The middle school was never intended to facilitate very young children (too many stairs - too open) it was built as a secondary school with older pupils in mind.</p> <p>I find it hard to believe that extending the primary school to accommodate the extra classrooms is not the cheapest and best option not only for local children and parents but also for the council.</p> <p>I refer to the 2009 consultation document which states: Birkenshaw CE© F&amp;N Options for primary school provision in Birkenshaw &amp; East Bierley 2009 There are 2 buildings on the site that can be remodelled and updated to provide a very good primary school. The existing building could be adopted to provide either a 2 class entry or a 1 class entry all through primary school What has changed? If the site was very good in 2009 it is still very good in 2011 If the school could be remodelled in 2009 it can be remodelled in 2011. I refer to 2009 consultation document which states: Birkenshaw middle school The existing buildings are assessed as being unfit for future use as a primary school and would be demolished and replaced by a purpose built primary school I would have thought this to be an expensive option.</p>

	<p>We already have in Birkenshaw CE primary school a purpose built school with land available for extension. The safety and wellbeing of our young should be the most important consideration and at Birkenshaw CE© F &amp; N school children are in a happy, safe, environmentally friendly environment, receiving a good standard of all round education.</p> <p>I have no allegiance to any particular political party but politics seems to be clouding the issues. It would be so wrong to play politics with children's lives.</p>
<p>232 Unknown respondent letter</p>	<p>Further to the above mentioned consultation document please find detailed below several feedback comments for your consideration.</p> <p>I am concerned that the middle school site is a 2 storey building which is not suitable for young children; in addition the ground floor of the middle school site is not level and has several small flights of stairs within the ground floor level. In the 2009 consultation documents it was deemed that the middle school site was unsuitable for a primary school - why has the council now reversed this opinion when no significant changes are planned to the site?</p> <p>The existing primary school site has entrance doors for each classroom ensuring parents can drop off and collect their children from their own class teacher. The middle school site and plan does not enable this to happen - how would class teachers ensure that children were directly passed from the teachers to the parents care?</p> <p>The existing primary school site with its split buildings enables small, close knit communities to be formed in each of the key stages. The middle school plans would have a very large number of very young children mixing together and would lose this valuable benefit.</p> <p>I see no negative issues with the primary school having 2 separate buildings, and as mentioned above I actually see this as a positive situation. I would think that the remodelling of the existing primary school buildings or even construction of a third building at the primary school site would be much better solutions than that in the consultation document.</p> <p>The existing primary school site has a number of additional features that add to the educational experience, such as the woodland area, pond, wildflower meadow, and Alex's memorial garden.</p> <p>As someone who is experienced in the building trade, I do not believe that the costs in the proposals are accurate or reflective of the real costs. The remodelling of the existing primary school site could be done for much less than the costs in the proposal.</p> <p>A large number of parents drive their primary school children to school as the children are too young to walk even short distances. The primary school site has 3 possible access routes accessing from 4 separate roads, spreading the traffic - all roads are also low traffic residential roads. The middle school has only 2 access routes, one from a residential road in a large housing estate that is busy with cut-through traffic and residents exiting the estate, the other entrance are on a very busy main road. The proposals show that the Bradford road access would be adjusted slightly - however the volume of traffic parked around the Bradford road entrance, and entering and exiting the school through this entrance would cause serious road congestion in the area, in turn causing further increased safety concerns when coupled with very young children in the area with no road sense. I hope that my views as detailed above will be taken into account in the consultation process.</p> <p>This is a one shot deal, it is highly likely that neither the education officers, or council members will still be in their positions when this entire process is complete and the new schools are both up and running and bed down.</p> <p>I implore you to make the right decisions.</p>

<p>233 Unknown respondent letter</p>	<p>Further to the above mentioned consultation document please find detailed below several feedback comments for your consideration.</p> <p>I am concerned that the middle school site is a 2 storey building which is not suitable for young children; in addition the ground floor of the middle school site is not level and has several small flights of stairs within the ground floor level.</p> <p>In the 2009 consultation documents it was deemed that the middle school site was unsuitable for a primary school - why has the council now reversed this opinion when no significant changes are planned to the site?</p> <p>I see no negative issues with the primary school having 2 separate buildings, and as mentioned above I actually see this as a positive situation. I would think that the remodelling of the existing primary school buildings or even construction of a third building at the primary school site would be much better solutions than that in the consultation document.</p> <p>A large number of parents drive their primary school children to school as the children are too young to walk even short distances. The primary school site has 3 possible access routes accessing from 4 separate roads, spreading the traffic - all roads are also low traffic residential roads. The middle school has only 2 access routes, one from a residential road in a large housing estate that is busy with cut-through traffic and residents exiting the estate, the other entrance is on a very busy main road. The proposals show that the Bradford road access would be adjusted slightly - however the volume of traffic parked around the Bradford road entrance, and entering and exiting the school through this entrance would cause serious road congestion in the area, in turn causing further increased safety concerns when coupled with very young children in the area with no road sense.</p> <p>I hope that my views will be taken into account in the consultation process.</p>
<p>248 Resident Birkenshaw letter</p>	<p>I am writing as a concerned long term resident of Birkenshaw regarding the proposed changes to the schools. I don't think it very suitable to move Birkenshaw First School from Station Lane to a busy main road which creates more hazards for the safety of young children. The congestion would be doubled with all the cars, but having said that not all parents have the use of a car to get their young children to school! It is quite a long walk, especially in the bad weather, to get there from the beginning of Bradford Road to the school.</p> <p>I am not a young mother with children any more, but I have a young neighbour with a 3 year old child who has no car and no immediate family to help her out so when she comes to be in a position to need this school would find it extremely difficult to manage.</p> <p>I know times have change but I think things should be thought out a bit more. It is going to be a long journey for the children who leave Birkenshaw school then if they have to go all the way to the new proposed Secondary school! I am so glad I have not got to stress about this problem myself but feel so sorry for the parents who have to!!! I just felt that I had to put my points in place along with all the other concerned parents.</p>

<p>277 Birkenshaw ward councillors</p>	<p>Statutory consultation about proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and non-statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First &amp; Nursery and East Bierley CE(VC) School</p> <p>We are writing to you in response to the above named consultation. We agree with the many comments that have been submitted by the governors of Birkenshaw First and East Bierley First schools regarding their schools and by the BBG Academy Trust regarding Birkenshaw Middle School.</p> <p>To summarise our views: Birkenshaw First School: We oppose the council's plans to move the school to the site of Birkenshaw Middle School and support the proposals by the school governors to expand the physical capacity of the school on its present site by developing alongside present buildings and maintaining a multi-building school on site. Having seen the governors indicative proposals for both these schools we support the view that both schools could be enhanced to take the extra pupils needed for the age change at well below the lowest capital figure officers have produced just for Birkenshaw First School</p>
<p>280 Head Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School letter</p>	<p>In September 2011 I began my tenth year as Headteacher of Birkenshaw CE(C) First &amp; Nursery School. When I first came here, the buildings were dilapidated and dull, and the furniture and equipment outdated and in poor repair. The grounds consisted of two small hard surfaced playgrounds with a path and muddy field between them, and an overgrown and underused pond and woodland area. Since then, the grounds and buildings have been transformed, and we now have a warm, welcoming and well resourced environment, designed with young children in mind, and truly loved by them, their parents, staff and visitors to the school.</p> <p>I am not claiming credit for this; everyone involved with school has played a part in making the changes, and the children and their needs have been central to every development. I am retiring at the end of this school year, and my overriding motivation at the present time is to leave the school secure on its present site, because I know that the environment we have created has a huge impact on the children's education.</p> <p>You will be aware from what I have said at Cabinet meetings that we have achieved many prestigious awards based on the environmental education work we do: the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, the Kirklees Arthur Halliwell (Memorial) Sustainable Schools Award 2011, The Food for Life Partnership Bronze Award and Fairtrade School Status to name some of them. We are teaching children to love and care for the environment and to be responsible citizens with a global perspective. They learn about the wonders of nature at first hand, they help to grow food in our kitchen garden which they can then eat for school dinner or use for cooking activities, and they design and plant their own flower beds.</p> <p>Our pond, outdoor classroom and woodland/nature area are the envy of other schools, whom we invite to use them, and we have some beautiful mature trees. Our photo story 'A Year in the Life of Our Playground Tree' , is on the Open Futures website and was acknowledged as being 'incredibly powerful and moving' by a group of teachers in Manchester. We could not achieve that with a sapling!</p> <p>The whole playing area is designed with children in mind; there are active and quiet areas, different seating arrangements, 'forts' for imaginative play, playground markings to encourage physical activity, a ball court for sports and secure separate areas for Nursery and Reception children. Because of this, and the associated games equipment available at playtimes and lunchtimes, the children are stimulated, happy and occupied and we do not experience any behaviour problems. Visitors frequently comment on the quality of our children's play and their kind and caring manner towards each other. When our outdoor play facilities were first established, a number of other schools asked if they could come and observe them in action, and they became a model for practice elsewhere.</p> <p>We have three buildings, but we are one school with one ethos. The separate</p>

	<p>buildings enable us to have small families within the one big family and as a result, all the children feel very safe and secure. At the same time, they can all play together at break times and come together for assemblies and special events. The older children look forward to moving up to 'big school'. The year 4 children work with Nursery children as part of their ICT lessons, and the older children make books to share with the younger children. Everyone knows that they belong to the same school.</p> <p>All our classrooms benefit from their own external door, cloakroom and toilets. Parents can see children directly into and collect them directly from their class and this is very important to them (and us). Not only does it ensure the children's safety, but it enables us to communicate and build relationships with parents and carers on a daily basis. Children do not have to go out of class to daunting cloakrooms and toilet blocks and this reduces time wasting.</p> <p>The fact that we have two halls is a positive bonus when it comes to timetabling PE and also enables us to run a larger number of after school sports clubs than would otherwise be possible.</p> <p>We have a modern kitchen that can cater for 500 children and a dining room (one of the halls) that can accommodate that number.</p> <p>During my career I have taught in primary schools and was Headteacher of one in Leeds. As a result I am very aware of the needs of Year 5 and Year 6 children and know that these can be very well met in additional buildings on our present site. Indeed, we will continue to add an additional dimension to their education through our environment.</p> <p>I have chosen not to write about the negatives of the Birkenshaw Middle School site. As I have clearly stated before, I have no interest in any future use of that site other than a firm belief that it is not the right place for our school to be. What we have here could not be replicated elsewhere in a short period, and a whole generation of children would miss out. I am well aware of the argument that a school is more than buildings and grounds. However, our school ethos and the education we provide are inextricably bound up with our environment; to move us would be to tear the heart out of the school. Birkenshaw Primary School on the Middle School site would not be the same as Birkenshaw Primary School on our present site and I feel passionately would be poorer in spirit as a result.</p> <p>Please leave us where we are! Angela Holt Headteacher</p>
<p>285 Staff Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School letter</p>	<p>We are writing in response to the consultation on the proposal to move our school (Birkenshaw CE(C) First &amp; Nursery School). There are many things which make our school special and unique. We would like to you consider these as part of the consultation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A very special feature of our school is having 3 buildings. The children and parents look forward to "moving up to the big school" as a "rite of passage". Due to having 3 buildings the school can remain open if we have a problem in one of the buildings. This ensures that a large majority of children can continue with their education.</li> <li>2. Our site has 3 entrances; none of these are on major roads. As there are two places for cars to park there is less congestion in any one place, when children are being dropped off at and picked up from school.</li> <li>3. Alex's Garden - we have special reflective area in school in honour of the memory of a child who died when he was in Reception. Siblings of the family still attend our school. The garden has huge significance for children, staff and parents. As Alex attended our school, this could not be replicated anywhere else.</li> <li>4. We have a stunning outdoor environment which is well established. This consists of a woodland area, conservation area, pond, outdoor classroom, mature trees, individual class garden which have been designed and developed by the children, kitchen garden (which supplies the school kitchen), chickens, orchard, wild meadow and large expanse of grass. It is at the heart of everything we do as a school. It cannot be replicated in a short time. A whole generation of children</li> </ol>

would miss this as a new outdoor area would take years to become established.

5. As a school we use the grounds for many different activities throughout the year. Sports day is organised in a very specific way to make good use of our grounds. We hold Easter egg rolling competitions annually (using our hilled area). Orienteering courses are mapped out in the school grounds and we invite other schools to use these.

6. Children have a diverse range of outdoor opportunities at playtimes. We have a ball court, forts, tyre park, quiet seating areas and differentiated stimulating playground areas. We have put a significant investment into this and the impact on the children's behaviour and social skills has been amazing.

7. As part of our curriculum children are taught to respect, love and nurture our environment as we are trying to develop a generation of environmentally conscious citizens. This is reflected in our achievements of the Eco Schools Green Flag Award, Kirklees Arthur Halliwell (Memorial) Sustainable School Award 2011, Fair Trade School Status and Food For Life Partnership Bronze Award. We are also planting trees as part the latest Woodland Trust Initiative to extend and preserve our woodland environment. We feel moving would negate this ethos as it would be extremely difficult to explain to the children why their environment, which they have loved and cared for, no longer matters. Our school grounds are used for teaching across the curriculum. We have quiet areas, shade and several intimate spaces. It would be very difficult to use a wide open space in the same way.

8. Many of our Learning Challenges (topics) use the substantial historical archive which we have in school, to bring the children's learning to life. We have a complete set of log books from the day the original Church and Community Schools opened together with photographs, eye witness testimonies and other documents. The children enjoy using these and have a sense of pride in knowing that their school has been providing quality education for over half a century on this site alone. This unique depth of historical reference could not be replicated.

9. We are an Open Futures School. Open Futures has been tailored specifically to our environment which has really impressed members of the Open Futures Trust who have been into school. The LA encouraged us to become an Open Futures school as our existing school ethos would support it.

10. The geographical location of our school means that we are at the heart of Birkenshaw village giving us strong community links. We can access the village quickly and safely, without crossing any major roads. We regularly visit St Paul's Church and the Methodist Church for celebrations and educational visits and use the village as part of our curriculum on a weekly basis. This will clearly not be possible with the same degree of safety if we move sites as we will have to cross busy main roads, including one with a roundabout which leads to the M62.

11. We have strong links with East Bierley First School. Our close proximity to the school enables us to engage in many interschool activities. The distance from the proposed site to East Bierley would seriously damage these links.

12. We were graded Outstanding for care, guidance and support in our last OFSTED inspection and feel that this would be very hard to sustain if we moved to the new site. At our school, Nursery and Reception have their own enclosed play areas which are safe and secure. Children and parents have commented that they feel very safe in these areas. Each year group has their own external doors which lock once the children are inside. This means that the building is secure and that staff can also collect and hand children to parents easily and safely at the end of the day. Due to all our external doors we can evacuate the building in less than 1 minute during a fire practice. This would be very difficult and dangerous to do from a multi-storey building with very young children.

Thank you for taking the time to read our views. We cannot stress strongly enough how much the school ethos is influenced by our environment. We fear that the children will miss many special and unique educational opportunities if we moved from this site.

	Signed by 37 members of staff
286 Wakefield Diocesan Board Of Education letter	<p>WAKEFIELD DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION RESPONSE TO THE KIRKLEES LOCAL AUTHORITY NON STATUTORY CONSULTATION ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS FOR BIRKENSHAW CE(VC) FIRST AND NURSERY SCHOOL &amp; EAST BIERLEY CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL</p> <p>The Directors of the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education met on 13 October 2011.</p> <p>After consideration of Kirklees LA proposals as set out in the document for the non statutory consultation affecting the above named schools, and a subsequent visit by members of the Board of Education to the schools, the following decisions have been recorded:</p> <p>a) Birkenshaw CE(VC) First and Nursery</p> <p>The Board supports the Governing Body's commitment to retaining the school community on its current site.</p> <p>In 2009/2010 the Board of Education registered its support for the LA proposal to change both Birkenshaw CE(VC) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First School into an all through Primary Schools for pupils aged 5 - 11 years. The Board of Education expressed its frustration, together with the LA, governors, families and local community, when the Primary Capital Programme was cancelled with the inevitable consequence that the planned refurbishment of the schools would not proceed.</p> <p>The LA's current proposal to move the school community to the Birkenshaw Middle School site raises many issues for the Board of Education in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* securing the safeguarding of all pupils across an open and expansive site</li> <li>* managing pupil safety at the school's entrance</li> <li>* eliminating the risk of potential conflict between pedestrians and traffic on the access road at the beginning and end of the school day</li> <li>* the Middle School buildings retain the majority - if not all - the features of the original Secondary Modern High School. Having visited the school members of the Board believe that the planned level of refurbishment would not alter the internal environment to create an authentic Primary School</li> <li>* the external environment of the current First School site clearly enhances the delivery of the curriculum and is fully reflective of the Christian ethos at the heart of the school's life. The Board believes that to deny this formative experience for a significant number of children and their families is not the best way to support the</li> </ul>

	<p>development of a young life.</p> <p>The members of the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education kept their discussion focussed on the issues of the two schools as they exist at the present time. It was felt that, despite the possibility of further developments in the north of Kirklees, the members of the Board would not let this distract them from responding specifically to the consultation document.</p>
<b>Respondent</b>	<b>2 emails / letters ask the LA to consider alternative proposals</b>
302 Resident Birkenshaw letter	<p>Re - Birkenshaw E.Bierley Primary Schools reorganisation</p> <p>My response is primarily as a resident of Birkenshaw for over 40 years, living south of the Whitehall road, and secondly as a Foundation Governor of Whitcliffe Mount B &amp; E College.</p> <p>From your information there is a desire/need for, 420 places at Birkenshaw C of E school and 210 places at E. Bierley 630 places in total for Birkenshaw and E. Bierley</p> <p>In your report there is sufficient children for 2 primary schools but not for 3. Would it be better to consider Birkenshaw and Gomersal together, giving more flexibility, choice and cost saving?</p> <p>As there are quite a number of children going to Gomersal 1st school who live along and off Bradford Road, south of the Birkenshaw roundabout and north of the bridge over the M62 motorway, with a Gomersal post code but considered to be Birkenshaw. It could be beneficial to both Birkenshaw and Gomersal to move Gomersal 1st to Birkenshaw Middle school site, then both villages would benefit from the choice of a non denominational school. If St Mary's at Gomersal was also moved to Gomersal Middle School site it would be approx 1 mile along Oxford road and Bradford Road to Birkenshaw Middle school then 1 mile to Birkenshaw C of E school. More children able to walk to school and far less traffic congestion than currently along Oxford road when Gomersal 1st and Gomersal middle enter or leave the schools.</p> <p>A Non-denominational Primary south of Whitehall road on the Birkenshaw Middle school site. There is desirability for a non denominational school shown in the petition I have collected and enclosed. There seems a large number of children from Birkenshaw currently going to Gomersal First school; would it be better to relocate Gomersal First to Birkenshaw middle school site, it has a Gomersal post code? The non-denominational education would be available for both villages. It is important to have good primary schools which are easily accessible to the most number of children.</p> <p>Environmental and social considerations. As there are more primary aged children living in Birkenshaw south of the Whitehall road, some with a Bradford postcode and some with a Wakefield postcode it seems more logical for a primary school to be located the point of most need, on the Birkenshaw Middle school site south of Whitehall road. The school has access from the west on Bradford road and from the east from Kingsley Drive, and would mean that very few children under 11 years would have to walk more than 1 mile to school, this dual access reduces the possibility of accidents on the very busy Bradford Road.</p> <p>Birkenshaw Middle school is located almost 1 mile north of the current Gomersal Middle school site. From Birkenshaw Middle School north to Birkenshaw C of E school is about 1 mile and only a little further to the Kirklees/Bradford boundary at Tong. From the Birkenshaw roundabout along Whitehall Road East to the Kirklees/Leeds boundary is also about a mile. Therefore BMS is the best location for a large majority of primary aged children.</p> <p>Many parents living north of Whitehall road want the C of E school to stay on the Southcroft/Station Lane site, if possible they should have that choice. Is it so much to ask the children of E Bierley to walk under one mile from E. Bierley C of E to Birkenshaw C of E school going along South View Road, down a short distance down Bradford Road, then left along Moorlands Road to a short footpath leading</p>

	<p>directly onto Southcroft Gate, a short walk down the hill, then up Southcroft Drive and turn right along Southcroft Avenue to Birkenshaw C of E 1st School. These children would have to walk far less distance than many more are asked to walk south of the Whitehall road to Birkenshaw C of E school.</p> <p>I have asked parents signing the petition to detail their personal comments direct to Kirklees, as my petition only gives a broad brush impression.</p> <p>Summary</p> <p>In my humble opinion it could be far less social and economic cost for Gomersal, Birkenshaw and E.Bierley reorganisation to be considered together. Would the cost of having 3 primary schools approx 1 mile apart be lower? It would give more choice to families:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. St Mary's C of E school on the Gomersal Middle school site,</li> <li>b. Gomersal primary (non-denominational) on the Birkenshaw Middle school site and</li> <li>c. Birkenshaw C of E on Station Lane/Southcroft site, this would give a choice to many families of C of E and non-denominational education within a 1 mile radius of their homes.</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Three good schools in three good locations for possibly a lower capital cost and revenue costs, and is a long term answer rather than a short term solution. A temporary classroom in a playground, in very limited space at E.Bierley is far from ideal.</li> <li>2. Three good heads could compete for pupils and support each other.</li> <li>3. Gomersal and Birkenshaw would have the choice of both C of E and a non denominational.</li> <li>4. This would give the most educational stability locally.</li> <li>5. Most children would have the least distance to walk to a primary school of their choice.</li> </ol>
<p>72 Resident Birkenshaw email</p>	<p>As a resident of Birkenshaw for over 40 years. I am very disappointed at the very limited choice of options that are shown as available. Starting last Monday 24 Oct I conducted a survey of south of the Whitehall Road, (near Birkenshaw Middle School) and believe that their views are being under -represented. Following the personal survey several of the parents have been helping me collect a petition (copy enclosed). The petition will be submitted with my response before 18th Nov 2011. From this petition I have evidence of the desire of many parents south of the Whitehall Road that there is a desire and a need for two primary schools in Birkenshaw. It is with some reluctance that many people in E Bierley think that their school will close, is it fair that the 53 children and parents resident in E Bierley have stronger representation than the majority of parents and children below Whitehall Road? I understand that there are not enough children for 3 schools, but there are enough for 2, it is the location that needs to be reconsidered. Gomersal and Cleckheaton have the choice of C of E or non-denominational schools why not Birkenshaw? By the most direct route E Bierley C of E school and Birkenshaw C of E School is under a mile apart. Some parents and children from E Bierley would have to walk a shorter distance to Birkenshaw C of E school than those in south Birkenshaw, this seems to be grossly unfair. Some of the footpaths on Birkenshaw lane are very difficult and barely possible with a pushchair and this is on a bus route with parked cars at the side of the road, very difficult when there is snow and ice.</p> <p>E Bierley school is very well run and successful school would it be such a big ask for them and their head to amalgamate the 2 C of E schools and have a non denominational primary on the middle school site? This would increase choice, competition and would make more long term economical and social sense than 2 primary schools at the extreme edge of Kirklees. Most children would then have no more than 1 mile to walk to school. You do not need to reminding by me that capital is difficult to come by and likely to get even worse,. It must be a lower capital cost to adapt two smaller schools than make a large primary on the</p>

	<p>Birkenshaw C of E site. It is responsible and right that the Cabinet should inform the public of these capital costs.</p>
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Please identify the costs of 2 primary schools located on

1. The current Birkenshaw C of E school site
2. And the current Birkenshaw middle school site.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**“Do you agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village?”**

**141 Response sheets were received from parents/carers who answered this section**

**39 responses from Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School parents/carers**

**16 responses agree with the proposal to to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 14 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
I believe East Bierley school is an integral part of the village.	N/A
Retaining the school where it is important, as long as you are taking in the right amount of children in area capacity. Meet the needs still of families.	N/A
Believe it is crucial to East Bierley to maintain a school for village children.	No comments
The school is in a perfect location in the heart of the village and provides an ideal environment for children.	No comments
As long as you then don't try to close it because you don't have enough children. Most private schools limit places to 19 children per class to offer a better standard of teaching.	No comments
No comments	No comments
If this means the local children will still attend and they have to decline children from out of the area then so be it. It also works well with the plans for Birkenshaw 1st School	I think by reducing the intake it should be seamless. By doing this and retaining the Birkenshaw primary on its original site ensures the community spirit.
East Bierley First School is a well run school, at the heart of its community, and serves as a great place, and convenient, safe school for local children.	The first schools and middle schools in their existing state have great transition processes that put the children in a position they feel confident. A free school on the middle school site would continue this.
Another well established school in the heart of the community	No comments
Village schools should remain operational to best serve the community.	No comments
Its is important to retain a village school	Agree with this decision/proposal
I agree because this is an important village school but Birkenshaw 1st should be left where it is due to drop off concerns at the middle school site.	No comments
I feel it is important to retain a good school within the heart of the community.	Don't know.

It is a very good school and it takes a long time to develop such a good environment that the children are proud of and feel happy, safe and secure, if the pupils were combined with the other school you would lose the community feel as the school would be too large.	No comments
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**11 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 7 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
This school should be moved.	No comments
If Birkenshaw First is relocated you will find a lot more parents at the top of Birkenshaw applying to East Bierley School - has this been taken into consideration.	No comments
Whilst I accept there is limited space to extend I do not believe mixed age groups would benefit the children's' education. I also feel that you would have no problem filling 30 places per year irrespective of the number of children who live within the catchment area. This is an excellent school, why deny the extra pupils that opportunity? Also, if you are happy for Birkenshaw to operate on 2 levels in parts as your Middle school site plans suggest why can't you develop East Bierley on 2 levels?	No
This is an outstanding school & it makes no sense to deprive children of the opportunities it offers.	Same concerns expressed as Section 3 part c
Would destroy school and make it elitist	Keep school intake at 30.
Think it makes sense to retain the school in its current building if possible, but reducing the PAL to 20 from 30 may be a bit short sighted. This only just covers the projected numbers of children in each year group in the area, and may not be adequate to cope with any increase in numbers.	Seems ok if implemented
Children from surrounding areas would be at a disadvantage due to limited places.	No comments

**12 responded 'don't know' to the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village . 3 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
It is for East Bierley residents to decide. However if I was a resident my choice would be to agree, but I would need more information on how effective a seven year school span divided by five classes, would be.	No comments
If it is the only option for East Bierley and if residents ok with it may be ok. But don't know enough about	No comments

this village	
Not sure as would that then increase the size of classes in Birkenshaw school? Where would the 10 pupils in theory who are displaced go?	No comments

**32 responses from Birkenshaw Middle School parents/carers**

**6 responses agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 3 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
East Bierley is too small to take an extra 2 years full of 30 children. Playground v. small	No comments
I feel it is important to maintain the village school.	No comments
This school is and always has been an excellent school in a wonderful village location. This should not changed!!!!!!!	Transition fine but these children should move to Birkenshaw High.

**21 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 14 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
Think it makes sense to retain the school in its current building if possible, but reducing the PAL to 20 from 30 may be a bit short sighted. This only just covers the projected numbers of children in each year group in the area, and may not be adequate to cope with any increase in numbers.	Seems ok if implemented
Serves local/surrounding areas well - excellent teaching, inclusively and results.	No comments
Whilst I understand the difficulties in expanding the school, I am concerned that the school will not be viable in the future.	The school is over subscribed year after year. It is no argument that many of the pupils are from outside Kirklees when the school is on the boundary. It is simply serving the area it is situated in.
Community requires a school for local children - people like to live where full services provided.	Pupils will have to travel to school a greater distance - safety of children.
As East Bierley has an 'outstanding' record for delivering a high standard of education. I think it should remain at its current size to accommodate local children. As a local resident I believe that the increase in floor space to accommodate yrs 5 & 6 will not impact on the village.	I hope that the current level of education is maintained during and following any transition period.
East Bierley First School should remain at its current level of 30 children per year as it delivers an outstanding level of education to local children and should continue to do this. As a local resident I see no impact on the communities as the school	I would like to see that the current level of education is maintained during any transition period.

increases to accommodate years 5 and 6.	
Seems to be the first nail in the coffin for the eventual closure of the school - another bizarre decision made by an out of touch council "hell bent" on plans & not prepared to listen to anything or anybody else.	No comments
I believe East Bierley First School should remain with an intake of 30 because:- * To intake only 20 from the village would be very limiting and restrict social diversity. * To have 20, would mean split age classes, I believe a lot of parents given the choice would then choose Birkenshaw 1st instead with single age group classes. * If we can accommodate children temporarily during the 'bulge' while the last 30 intake works through then we can do it on a more permanent basis.	Yes if Birkenshaw Middle had closed in 2012 along with the other middle schools, my year 5 child would have been retained at East Bierley this year as in the very original proposal docs sent out.
There is enough room at East Bierley first school to accommodate the year 5 and 6 pupils.	No comments
Why change a fantastic school	It would seriously affect the community.
Should extend not reduce	No comments
Children from surrounding areas would be at a disadvantage due to limited places.	No comments
You are restricting places which are always in demand which will force parents to have to place their children in a school further away from where they live and one they will be very reluctant to send them too. Children need to have plenty of others around them, it helps to gain friendship and communicated skills.	To reduce numbers will not prepare them for when they go up to the next school where they will be faced with larger classes and year groups which would be very intimidating. You will be making transition a very difficult one which could be detrimental in a child's education future. If they are unable to deal with what will seem to be a sheltered upbringing to possible and potential crisis for them in encouraging such larger years.
The school needs extending to provide a more varied range of facilities to the older children staying at East Bierley.	No comments

<b>5 responded 'don't know' to the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 2 made the following comments</b>	
<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
This part of the proposal does not directly affect our family so I feel it unfair to comment..	No comments
Such a high cost for only maximum of 20 pupils per class, lovely school but a high price to pay.	No comments

**66 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School parents/carers**

**8 responses agrees with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 6 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
So we can have accommodation for all our pupils at the school.	No comments
Keeping the village school is paramount. Part of common land was offered use it.. Build on. Keep history. Future generations will have no history.	30 class intakes would be great! Stop mixed age teaching!!
A mixed system works well in Leeds with teachers I have discussed with, so long as the teachers have the resources to teach all abilities then I see no issues.	No
It is vital to retain a school in this small but vibrant community - close the school in E.B. destroy the community. Reduction of numbers to save the school on its present site.	Arrangements are sound
The size of the building to the number of pupils size of playground etc	Only that this messing and politics does that children no good.
This school is and always has been an excellent school in a wonderful village location. This should not change!!!!!!!!	Transition fine but these children should move to Birkenshaw High.

**58 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 50 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
Not happy about mixed year learning. East Bierley oversubscribed would make more difficult for local choice in education. Would make difficult for siblings to have a place.	No comments
Don't like mixed age group teaching. I believe the governors are looking into alternative arrangements to keep school numbers to 30. Some parents may not get siblings into school, this could cause major issues.	No comments
I think that East Bierley should be able to stay as they are, having an intake of 30 children and extend the school by adding a building to the side of the school to accommodate the extra classrooms they will need. I don't agree with a lower intake of 20 children as I think this will disrupt the education our children receive by having to mix classes	No comments
I am a parent of a child in class 1 and I have a child coming through the preschool whose year of entry to	No comments

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Not happy about mixed year learning. East Bierley oversubscribed would make more difficult for local choice in education. Would make difficult for siblings to have a place.	No comments
<p>East Bierley First School would be Sept 2013. I am deeply troubled by the proposal put forward to reduce the intake to 20 pupils per class. I have 2 major concerns.</p> <p>1. As a family who live outside the catchments area (Toftshaw Lane BD4 6QT), we were fortunate to gain a place for our eldest child at the lovely village school round the corner from where we live. If the proposed reduction to 20 places goes ahead, it is entirely probable that our youngest child will not be able to follow his brother and attend East Bierley First School. This is extremely upsetting for my family and I as we love this school and were looking forward to the day when both our children would attend. I don't think enough consideration has been given to children who already attend who have siblings and live out of catchment area. The worst outcome for us would be to have our children attend 2 different schools or to have to move our eldest child out of East Bierly, a school where he has a solid friend base and where he has come on leaps and bounds academically.</p> <p>I feel very sad that we would not receive consideration due to the fact we don't live in the village, even though we already have a child at the school. I also think that only taking children from village could lead to quite a closed off environment. What about diversity?</p> <p>2. My other concern is the proposed mixed age teaching that would have to come into effect to accommodate 7 year groups in 5 classrooms. I have grave reservations about this being the right teaching environment for my son. To split children up from their friends is unacceptable to me, especially as my child has struggled socially and has just started making firm connections with his peers. I must say that I feel let down by Kirklees Council and feel that siblings that live out of the catchment area have not been considered at all in this proposal.</p> <p>After hearing the school Governors views that we should stay at 30 and use modular buildings, I wholly support this and would ask you consideration on this idea.</p>	
I am a resident and a parent of children who attend this wonderful Ofsted awarded outstanding school. I am aware that the school is small and is situated in the middle of a village green. This is what makes	Again I do not think there is a need for change.

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Not happy about mixed year learning. East Bierley oversubscribed would make more difficult for local choice in education. Would make difficult for siblings to have a place.	No comments
<p>our school; it's what the children, parents and Residents love about the school, looking out of their window and seeing a beautiful duck pond and pretty village. I have listened to our headmaster and governors who have explained the proposals they have to keep our school at a 30 in take. I believe as a parent that this will be more beneficial to my children and their education then reducing the intake and stopping children who my children may other wise not meet attending the school, a bigger catchment means more diversity. Two modular building would accommodate 2 more years and with clever organisation of lunches and playtime I feel there is no need to reduce the in take at our school. We have rugby, football a cricket facilities within the village which I am sure are happy to aid the school if required we already use the cricket pitch for sports day. I am also no happy as I have a child who will start reception in 2013 and I do not agree with merging classes these children will have a different education to their peers and when they reach high school it may be affect them. I would not like to think that I would be a parent of a younger child in the year that is highly academic and would be held back at the end of the year due to their age.</p>	
<p>East Bierley is an outstanding school providing a wonderful environment for the children who are lucky enough to go there, it is the heart of East Bierley and a great asset to the village. I feel reducing the PAN to 20 would disadvantage many of the children in the surrounding area, my daughter would not of been able to attend. I do not understand why you would want to reducing such a highly performing school. I would also like to comment on behalf of all the parents who have siblings of children at the school who do not live in East Bierley Village, I know some are very worried about their next child and if the PAA were to be reduced. It could mean that a sibling only a couple of years younger could end up in a different school. This would be a nightmare for any parent and it feels that there is no consideration has been made for this: as this proposal is due to go out next year.</p>	<p>My only comment is that I feel very frustrated that there is no resolution yet on the High school in our area, and that no one at the council appears to be supporting or adhering to our wishes for a good secondary education in this area. I do not want my daughter to go to a school which has 1800 pupils; I feel this is too large.</p>
<p>I would like the school to continue taking '30 pupil' year groups as this would better accommodate those families that currently have a child/children at the school and wish other younger siblings to attend. The modular buildings can be an excellent cost</p>	No comments

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Not happy about mixed year learning. East Bierley oversubscribed would make more difficult for local choice in education. Would make difficult for siblings to have a place.	No comments
effective means of providing extra space needed, and a 30 pupil intake school will provide a more diverse learning environment than one with small class sizes.	
East Bierley First School delivers an outstanding education to its current intake of 30 pupils and should continue to offer this to as many local children as possible.	Let the school continue to give an excellent education to local children throughout any transition period. This can be achieved by NOT messing with current intake numbers.
I don't want to reduce to 20, its always worked as it is, plus I think mixed age teaching is really not a good idea; I wouldn't want any child to be left behind.	Yes - leave this as it is.
The School will become a Private School for East Bierley!	As before.
30 intake is and should be allowed to be sustainable - local residents/Governors/staff/community support this - listen to your electorate! Whatever happened to potential land swap with member of village which seems to have been conveniently forgotten!	Forget it - work with the school to make it work rather than against it.
We don't want reduced numbers and mixed age classes. Surely the point of these changes is to improve education not go backwards.	No comments
Reducing the intake to 20 would have a huge detrimental effect on not only the pupils & staff but also the pre-school & the local community as a whole. This excellent school must be supported in any way possible. I understand viable proposals have been made in order to extend the school.	No comments
Better for school to be 30 more diversification	
No comments	Siblings in school/mix age/ability groups
No comments	Reducing intake to 20 would lower our chances of our son to get in. His older sister is already at E.B
No comments	Will reduce the chance of my daughter ** getting in to East Bierley First School.
No comments	Reducing class sizes lowers the chances of my child getting into the school.
No comments	Concerns as my child falls within catchment area and above proposals may affect his attendance.
No comments	Do not agree with the reduced numbers or the mixed age groups. Also already have a sibling in the school.
He has got relatives at school, this will reduce his chances of getting into school	No comments
I feel that reducing the pupils to 20 will be an	No comments

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Not happy about mixed year learning. East Bierley oversubscribed would make more difficult for local choice in education. Would make difficult for siblings to have a place.	No comments
disadvantage to my children's education. I am happy with the proposals that the school have made to keep the school at 30. I do not like the idea of merging different children at different stages.	
No comments	Don't agree with mixed age classes.
No comments	Lower chance of my daughter attending school due to missing catchment area
No comments	Lowers chance of getting into school
No comments	Makes catchment area too small
No comments	Sibling at East Bierley FS
No comments	Larger disadvantage to child's learning
No comments	I've got a child already at East Bierley 1st School. Also I'm out of catchment would be impossible to take to different schools.
No comments	Because ** has made a close circuit of friends at pre school who he would love to follow through his school life.
No comments	Currently have a sibling in pre school. Impossible for him to go to another school when other 2 siblings at EB school.
No comments	Sibling at East Bierley First school
No comments	Slightly out of catchment, 30 pupils means more spaces available
No comments	Sibling at East Bierley First School
My youngest child may not be able to follow his brother to EB First School	No comments
No comments	sibling already at school
No comments	My son has a sibling at East Bierley First School and it would be awkward for me to travel to two different schools if he didn't get a place.
The school is more than capable of keeping to 30 including + 2 extra years. IT IS TOO GOOD A SCHOOL.	No comments
My youngest child wouldn't get a place with his older siblings as we are out of the catchment area.	No comments
No comments	Currently live slightly out of catchment area - this proposal would affect us greatly as it would reduce my daughter's chances of getting a place at our preferred school.
If you could rubber stamp a guarantee that the school will stay for ever then 20 But my fear is that if reduced the school will close with ten years.	Yes they need to transfer to a local high school no 1800 super boot camps in Cleckheaton.
Numbers should be kept the same and modular buildings should be put on the site to accommodate extra children. A village needs a good local school	No comments

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Not happy about mixed year learning. East Bierley oversubscribed would make more difficult for local choice in education. Would make difficult for siblings to have a place.	No comments
or the heart of the area is ripped out. Pride in school, greener, better education, children excel more. Why fix it if it isn't broken?	
My daughter attends East Bierley First School and My son is due to start in Sept 2013. We are not in the catchment area and unlikely to get a place if numbers dropped to 20.	No comments
I do not agree with mixed age classes, children should be taught with pupils their own age.	No I'm happy with these arrangements.
Changing to 20 pupils a year is not the answer.	No comments
I don't believe that reducing the admission number to 20 will be in the community and the schools best interest. I am a parent of a child in class 1 and have a child in the pre-school who is due to start at East Bierley First School in Sept 2013. We live out of catchment area and if the proposed reduction in class size goes ahead it will be very likely that our youngest son will not be able to follow his older brother in the school of our choosing. I don't believe that families who live out of catchment, but who have already started their children at East Bierley, have been given much consideration at all. I understand that Kirklees have a responsibility to provide school places for children who live in Kirklees, but we are already here! I have lived in this area all my life (32 years). I have never known any other community but this one and I have to say I feel nothing but complete abandonment at this point. The school have put forward a very good case to keep the class size at 30 and I hope this idea is being given great consideration as I feel it would be the best solution. At the moment the school enjoys a breath of social diversity but a class size of 20 would mean the school would be quite cut off from outside influences and would create an introvert environment. I hope my feelings and the feelings of many other parents in the same position will be considered.	I had never heard of mixed age teaching until I attended a consultation evening and had it explained to me by a Kirklees councillor. I am not too sure in my feeling about it, but having discussed it with some of my friends it would seem that it is working successfully in many schools across the Kirklees and Bradford Council areas so time will tell I suppose!
I agree very strongly to keep a first school in East Bierley, but it is not necessary to reduce class sizes.	It has already been agreed at previous consultations that there is land available to accommodate 2 extra classes.
You are restricting places which are always in demand which will force parents to have to place their children in a school further away from where they live and one they will be very reluctant to send them too. Children need to have plenty of others around them, it helps to gain friendship and communicated skills.	To reduce numbers will not prepare them for when they go up to the next school where they will be faced with larger classes and year groups which would be very intimidating. You will be making transition a very difficult one which could be detrimental in a child's education future. If they are

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Not happy about mixed year learning. East Bierley oversubscribed would make more difficult for local choice in education. Would make difficult for siblings to have a place.	No comments
	unable to deal with what will seem to be a sheltered upbringing to possible and potential crisis for them in encouraging such larger years.
The school needs extending to provide a more varied range of facilities to the older children staying at East Bierley.	No comments

**4 responses from Gomersal Primary School parents/carers**

**4 responses agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE (VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 1 made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE (VC) First School?
Young children and small classes can be better managed. Children will not get left behind or become unnoticed.	No comment

**6 responses from Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College parents/carers**

**3 responses agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 2 made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
This school is and always has been an excellent school in a wonderful village location. This should not be changed!!!!!!!	Transition fine but these children should move to Birkenshaw High.
Less cars taking children to somewhere else. Small = ok	No comment

**2 responses disagreed with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 1 made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Because I wanted my son to go to this school and he couldn't because it was at the time they made	No comment

Bradford schools into a two tier system	
It's a lovely village school and it would keep the village alive.	No comment

**1 response received responded 'don't know' to the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 1 made the following comment**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
It doesn't affect my family.	No comment

**5 responses from parents/carers that did not state which school they were linked with**

**1 response agrees with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 1 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
Because it is important to keep the school within the village as it is perfectly located within the village and for local people.	No comment

**2 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 1 made the following comment**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
The school should remain as it is. Councils need to understand village needs, we are not a City, and we are a SMALL VILLAGE GET IT!!!	No comment

**2 responded 'don't know' about the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 1 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
Because we have no contact with this school.	No comment

**14 Response sheets were received from governors who answered this section**

**3 responses from Birkenshaw Middle School governors**

**3 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 3 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
Whilst I understand the difficulties in expanding the school, I am concerned that the school will not be viable in the future.	The school is over subscribed year after year. It is no argument that many of the pupils are from outside Kirklees when the school is on the boundary. It is simply serving the area it is situated in.
Community requires a school for local children - people like to live where full services provided.	Pupils will have to travel to school a greater distance - safety of children.
Seems to be the first nail in the coffin for the eventual closure of the school - another bizarre decision made by an out of touch council "hell bent" on plans & not prepared to listen to anything or anybody else.	No comment

### **3 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School governors**

**3 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 3 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
Serves local/surrounding areas well - excellent teaching, inclusively and results.	No comment
I believe East Bierley First School should remain with an intake of 30 because:- * To intake only 20 from the village would be very limiting and restrict social diversity. * To have 20, would mean split age classes, I believe a lot of parents given the choice would then choose Birkenshaw 1st instead with single age group classes. * If we can accommodate children temporarily during the 'bulge' while the last 30 intake works through then we can do it on a more permanent basis.	Yes if Birkenshaw Middle had closed in 2012 along with the other middle schools, my year 5 child would have been retained at East Bierley this year as in the very original proposal docs sent out.
Would destroy school and make it elitist	Keep school intake at 30.

### **1 response from St. Peter's CE(A) J, I & N School governors**

**1 responded 'don't know' about the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made no comment**

### **4 responses from Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College governors**

**2 responses agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 2 made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Best value for money and only realistic way to keep a school in the village.	No comment
The school is a key part of the community but cannot be expanded sufficiently to become through primary with 30 places per year.	No comment

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village, and made the following comment**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
It is under one mile to Birkenshaw C of E School by the most direct route.	No comment

**1 responded 'don't know' about the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village, and made the following comment**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Not applicable to WM Governing Body	No comment

### **3 responses from governors of schools outside North Kirklees**

**3 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 1 made the following comment**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
I think the most efficient use of building is to have one primary school for the area based on the former middle school site	No comment

### **33 response sheets were received from school staff who answered this section**

#### **4 responses from Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School staff**

**1 response agrees with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made no comments**

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made the following comment**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Whilst I understand the difficulties in expanding the school, I am concerned that the school will not be viable in the future.	The school is over subscribed year after year. It is no argument that many of the pupils are from outside Kirklees when the school is on the boundary. It is simply serving the area it is situated in.

**2 responses stated 'don't know' about the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made no comments**

**5 responses from Birkenshaw Middle School staff**

**2 responses agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Do not want to lose village schools as I live in East Bierley	No comment
Think good that the village retains it school.	Only drawback is anyone else wanted to go to school due to limited numbers they will be unable to go due to number restrictions.

**3 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Community requires a school for local children - people like to live where full services provided.	Pupils will have to travel to school a greater distance - safety of children.
The school should remain as it is offering a full educational service for that age group.	Communities need local schools for local people.
East Bierley First School delivers an outstanding education to its current intake of 30 pupils and should continue to offer this to as many local children as possible.	Let the school continue to give an excellent education to local children throughout any transition period. This can be achieved by NOT messing with current intake numbers.

**11 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School staff**

**11 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for
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	<b>Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
We don't want mixed age classes. We want to continue with the social cohesion. We don't want to lose a member of staff. We don't want to face risk of closure if numbers fall.	No comment
We don't want mixed classes; two additional classrooms required want to maintain social cohesion.	No comment
Mixed age classes are a negative/creating a 20 PAN will create a socially un-diverse school which will affect pupil's education.	No comment
Two additional classes on site. No mixed age classes. Do not want risk of closure if numbers fall.	No comment
Don't agree with mixed age classes. Need to continue with social and community cohesion - won't get if reduce intake. Don't want to lose staff. If numbers reduce there is an increased risk of closure. We've already fought to stay open.	Keep them on site in 2 portcabins on the "moor"
No to mixed age classes. Continue with social cohesion. Keep existing staff - not to lose any. Risk of closure if numbers fall.	No comment
Want 2 additional classrooms on land next to school. Do not want mixed age classes. Do not want to lose staff. Want to maintain social cohesion. Do not want to risk closure when numbers fall.	No comment
Don't want mixed age classes, we want to continue with the social cohesion, don't want to loose staff, maintain intake level as if this falls we could be closed in the future.	No comment
The school is a popular over subscribed school which should keep to a 30 intake. I think mixed age groups are less favourable to teach (as the spread of maturity and ability is too great). I also think parents may be less inclined to enrol their children into a mixed age/year group school.	No comment
As East Bierley has an 'outstanding' record for delivering a high standard of education. I think it should remain at its current size to accommodate local children. As a local resident I believe that the increase in floor space to accommodate yrs 5 & 6 will not impact on the village.	I hope that the current level of education is maintained during and following any transition period.
East Bierley First School should remain at its current level of 30 children per year as it delivers an outstanding level of education to local children and should continue to do this. As a local resident I see no impact on the communities as the school increases to accommodate years 5 and 6.	I would like to see that the current level of education is maintained during any transition period.

### **13 response from Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College staff**

**8 responses agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 6 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
Best value for money and only realistic way to keep a school in the village.	No comment
This would be the most efficient use of resources and accommodation.	No comment
To keep the school with the village of E Bierley in line with community views	No comment
To keep a local primary school for children in East Bierley village.	No comment
Seems a reasonable suggestion given the desire of local residents	No comment
So that there is a local community primary school in East Bierley Village.	No comment

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made the following comment**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
The cost of a rebuild or significant adaptation when balanced against the cost of relocation seems wasted money.	No comment

**4 responded 'don't know' about the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made no comments**

### **5 response sheets were received from pupils who answered this section**

#### **1 response from a Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School pupil**

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made no comment**

#### **1 response received from a Birkenshaw Middle School pupil**

**1 response disagrees with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
It's a brilliant school so we should give other children the opportunity to go there.	Leave it as it is don't change it to 20 pupils.

#### **3 responses from East Bierley CE(VC) First School pupils**

**3 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 2 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
It will be too small and the school will close.	No comment
I want to keep my school open for lots of years and so many more can enjoy my school.	No comment

**58 Response sheets were received from local residents who answered this section**

**29 responses from Birkenshaw residents**

**6 responses agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 5 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
The school is in a perfect location in the heart of the village and provides an ideal environment for children.	No comment
It is a good village school and serves the community well	No comment
I agree with the need to keep infants provision in East Bierley	No comment
Children should not have to make long journeys before the start of the school day so are more prepared for lessons when school is near home.	No comment
Village schools should remain operational to best serve the community.	No comment

**20 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 15 made the following comments**

<b>Why have you decided that is your view?</b>	<b>Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?</b>
This is a retrograde step - splitting year groups - is this Kirklees plan to ensure that the school fails!! I feel all decisions by Kirklees relating to the schools have a hidden agenda. I believe the East Bierley community must be allowed to remain	Again, very poor planning by Kirklees, I feel sorry for these children that Kirklees are not providing a good option of education.
The school should remain as it is. Councils need to understand village needs, we are not a City, and we are a SMALL VILLAGE GET IT!!!	No comment
Whilst I understand the difficulties in expanding the	The school is over subscribed year after

school, I am concerned that the school will not be viable in the future.	year. It is no argument that many of the pupils are from outside Kirklees when the school is on the boundary. It is simply serving the area it is situated in.
The size of a school matters. 20 places will mean mixed age classes. This places many more demands on teachers to cater for the needs of a wide age range. One can only assume that within the proposal cost is more important than education.	No
Discussions should be had to join E. Bierley and Birkenshaw C of E on 1 site so that a non-denominational primary should be opened on the Birkenshaw middle school site.	No comment
I would like the school to continue taking '30 pupil' year groups as this would better accommodate those families that currently have a child/children at the school and wish other younger siblings to attend. The modular buildings can be an excellent cost effective means of providing extra space needed, and a 30 pupil intake school will provide a more diverse learning environment than one with small class sizes.	No comment
As I live on border of Kirklees how get my son in when no places. Also, have the First Birkenshaw School within walking distance.	No comment
30 places to 20 - no way. 12 months later there would be an excuse to close it.	No comment
First step to closing East Bierley School then you will tell us that is under subscribed and only 20 children, not worth having a school in East Bierley you must think we are all daft.	No comment
30 places is better for the children, school & community - leave it alone & if the development proposed along Tong Street goes ahead it will easily be required.	The above should be easily achieved with village support.
Reducing the number of pupils will be the first step to closing East Bierley School.	No comment
Mixed classes (ages) could be quite a challenge re National Curriculum.	No comment
Would destroy school and make it elitist	Keep school intake at 30.
It is under one mile to Birkenshaw C of E School by the most direct route.	No comment
An ineffective use of money. The 'local' issue was ignored with other schools eg St Lukes. The impression given is that it is purely a political decision - possibly as a result of campaigning by specific councillors.	No comment

**3 responded 'don't know' about the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 1 made the following comment**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
If it is the only option for East Bierley and if residents ok with it may be ok. But don't know enough about this village.	No comment

**22 responses from East Bierley local residents**

**7 responses agree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
It may be necessary to make sure children from East Bierley have priority over children outside the village.	As it will be several years until the pupils are affected, I should think it will have no significant effect on the children.
If this is what is needed to ensure East Bierley First School remains viable, then it should be promoted.	The children at this school are less likely to be affected in the foreseeable future as will not be transferring to BMS for several years.
The school is a focal part of village life, to close the school would 'rip' the heart out of the village. Why change when the school is highly successful.	No comment
I live close to the school and don't think it should be extended.	No comment
The school will retain its village status and no additional land will be required after the plan has been fully implemented. I assume there is space elsewhere for the lost capacity of 10 places?	They seem sensible.
There are 3 options for extending East Bierley School. I would like the options stated plus costs.	I would like a free school on premises at Birkenshaw Middle School for East Bierley pupils after the First School
Agree because East Bierley could not possibly cope with ANY increase in traffic to the village. Increasing the school to 180 pupils as the headmaster would like is definitely not an option. There is no land for the modular buildings as the land is common land and very much used by East Bierley residents and visitors. The land the school is looking at in EB to build a new school on is greenbelt, again not an option. Residents at the side of this land bought extra small plots to increase their gardens and were not allowed to use them as gardens as they were told it was greenbelt. Surely then it cannot be used to build on. Also, the option the school are looking at to take over the village hall above the Chapel as a classroom should definitely not be considered. Turfing residents out of the hall (art classes, coffee mornings, senior citizen meetings, brownies, operatic society rehearsals, etc) is an insult to villagers. This has been used for years for village activities. Residents local to the school suffer considerably from parking problems - blocked	No comment

<p>driveways, churned up grass verges, blocked sight lines and teachers parking in front of cottage windows for up to 9 hours a day, blocking out views and daylight. This happens 5 days per week - term time. Residents are given no consideration whatever regarding parking. EB is also a Rat Run for hundreds of cars cutting through Southview Road morning and teatime each day - this will eventually end up gridlocked - nearly there now!! Even with your proposal to end up with 140 pupils at EB School it will take 8 years before getting back to this number of pupils. In 2013 EB School will have 200 pupils - how on earth EB will cope with this increase in traffic I do not know. Some parking restrictions must be put in place to protect residents from an already miserable situation. PLEASE HELP TO SORT OUT THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM FOR RESIDENTS IN SOUTHVIEW ROAD AND HUNSWORTH LANE BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH YOUR PROPOSALS. Very careful consideration needs to be given as to where the temporary classrooms will be placed until the school is reduced back to 140 pupils. Residents should be given full consideration regarding the placements of such buildings and also regarding the extra teachers and parent parking. Parents will not walk more than a few yards to school, they will park ANYWHERE rather than walk the extra yard. Residents in EB are totally unaware of the changes being made to the school as we are not given any information. Only parents receive updates on what is happening - most of whom do not live in East Bierley and therefore are not concerned about the impact increasing the size of the school will have on the village. What the school and parents tend to forget is that EAST BIERLEY IS A VILLAGE AS WELL AS A SCHOOL. EB School slogan was Save our School, Save our Village - surely then they should be satisfied that the school has apparently been saved - WHY would they want to increase the size of the school when EB families are more than adequately provided for with the 140 places offered in your proposal. BRADFORD, Birkenshaw, Gomersal and Hunsworth families I am sure have perfectly good schools within their own areas. East Bierley School should not need to cater for them - it is too small a village to cope. We support the option to reduce the number of pupils each year to 20 but sincerely hope our concerns are dealt with.</p>	
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**15 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village. 14 made the following comments**

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
This will take the heart out of the village.	No comment
I think East Bierley School is perfect the way it is run. My son attended school there and came out well. We don't need change.	When pupils reach 11 years old Birkenshaw is ideal for them to continue as at present. Please don't change.
This is a much loved school that delivers good teaching & is well regarded in the community. Many children from outside the village have benefited from this school - everyone knows its size before their children go to it & therefore believe 30 intake should continue rather than driving children to poorer schools.	No comment
Develop what you have & invest in future - seems a short term solution for short term plan - closure.	No comment
This would be better staying at 30 pupils then there will be no mixed teaching classes, which can only be detrimental to the less advanced kids. Kids could get left behind during lessons (no good).	Yes - leave it as it is.
No comment	Don't make the school an 'all through primary' - why can't it just be left alone?
Feel it is important to retain 30 places within our village community to ensure all residents' children are accommodated.	No comment
The size of the school is as it should be.	N/A
It should stay at 30 - as if reduced to 20 mixed teaching will not be good for all the children, those less able could be left behind and not do as well.	Yes - leave as it is.
The village school is the heart of East Bierley.	No comment
I believe East Bierley First School should remain with an intake of 30 because:- * To intake only 20 from the village would be very limiting and restrict social diversity. * To have 20, would mean split age classes, I believe a lot of parents given the choice would then choose Birkenshaw 1st instead with single age group classes. * If we can accommodate children temporarily during the 'bulge' while the last 30 intake works through then we can do it on a more permanent basis.	Yes if Birkenshaw Middle had closed in 2012 along with the other middle schools, my year 5 child would have been retained at East Bierley this year as in the very original proposal docs sent out.
East Bierley is an oversubscribed primary school. It seem madness to reduce the numbers, where would all the extra children go?? Takes choice away from local parents on where to send their children.	No comment
Supporting our neighbours and their children.	No comment
I live directly opposite the school and the parking is atrocious now. When we go out we lose our space and can't park again until school ends.	Would it not be better for all cars to park a distance away from the school it would be safer for the children. This would also show a degree of empathy for the long suffering residents.

**2 responses from “local residents”**

2 responses disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made no comments

**1 response from a Batley resident**

1 response stated 'don't know' about the proposal to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made no comment

**2 responses from BD19 residents**

1 response agrees with the proposals to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made no comment

1 response disagrees with the proposals to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made the following comment

Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Community requires a school for local children - people like to live where full services provided.	Pupils will have to travel to school a greater distance - safety of children.

**1 response from a Cleckheaton resident**

1 response disagrees with the proposals to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and makes no comment

**1 response from a Tong resident**

1 response agrees with the proposals to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and makes no comment

**12 Response sheets were received from other interested parties who answered this section**

6 responses agree with the proposals to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village.

Stakeholder	Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at East Bierley CE(VC) First School?
Company Secretary – Tong High School Trust	No comment	No comment
Grandparent Birkenshaw	School should not be disrupted.	No comment

F&N		
Grandparent - BMS	It may be necessary to make sure children from East Bierley have priority over children outside the village.	As it will be several years until the pupils are affected, I should think it will have no significant effect on the children.
Grandparent - BMS	If this is what is needed to ensure East Bierley First School remains viable, then it should be promoted.	The children at this school are less likely to be affected in the foreseeable future as will not be transferring to BMS for several years.
Grandparent to pupil	<p>Agree because East Bierley could not possibly cope with ANY increase in traffic to the village. Increasing the school to 180 pupils as the headmaster would like is definitely not an option. There is no land for the modular buildings as the land is common land and very much used by East Bierley residents and visitors. The land the school is looking at in EB to build a new school on is greenbelt, again not an option. Residents at the side of this land bought extra small plots to increase their gardens and were not allowed to use them as gardens as they were told it was greenbelt. Surely then it cannot be used to build on. Also, the option the school are looking at to take over the village hall above the Chapel as a classroom should definitely not be considered. Turfing residents out of the hall (art classes, coffee mornings, senior citizen meetings, brownies, operatic society rehearsals, etc) is an insult to villagers. This has been used for years for village activities.</p> <p>Residents local to the school suffer considerably from parking problems - blocked driveways, churned up grass verges, blocked sight lines and teachers parking in front of cottage windows for up to 9 hours a day, blocking out views and daylight. This happens 5 days per week - term time. Residents are given no consideration whatever regarding parking. EB is also a Rat Run for hundreds of cars cutting through Southview Road morning and teatime each day - this will eventually end up gridlocked - nearly there now!!</p> <p>Even with your proposal to end up with 140 pupils at EB School it will take 8 years before getting back to this number of pupils. In 2013 EB School will have 200 pupils - how on earth EB will cope with this increase in traffic I do not know. Some parking restrictions must be put in place to protect residents from an already miserable situation.</p>	No comment

	<p>PLEASE HELP TO SORT OUT THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM FOR RESIDENTS IN SOUTHVIEW ROAD AND HUNSWORTH LANE BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH YOUR PROPOSALS.</p> <p>Very careful consideration needs to be given as to where the temporary classrooms will be placed until the school is reduced back to 140 pupils. Residents should be given full consideration regarding the placements of such buildings and also regarding the extra teachers and parent parking. Parents will not walk more than a few yards to school; they will park ANYWHERE rather than walk the extra yard.</p> <p>Residents in EB are totally unaware of the changes being made to the school as we are not given any information. Only parents receive updates on what is happening - most of whom do not live in East Bierley and therefore are not concerned about the impact increasing the size of the school will have on the village. What the school and parents tend to forget is that EAST BIERLEY IS A VILLAGE AS WELL AS A SCHOOL.</p> <p>EB School slogan was Save our School, Save our Village - surely then they should be satisfied that the school has apparently been saved - WHY would they want to increase the size of the school when EB families are more than adequately provided for with the 140 places offered in your proposal. BRADFORD, Birkenshaw, Gomersal and Hunsworth families I am sure have perfectly good schools within their own areas. East Bierley School should not need to cater for them - it is too small a village to cope.</p> <p>We support the option to reduce the number of pupils each year to 20 but sincerely hope our concerns are dealt with.</p>	
Headteacher - Tong High School	No comment	No comment

**5 responses disagree with the proposals to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village.**

Stakeholder	Why have you decided that is your view?	Comments you wish to make about proposed transition arrangements for Pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School?
Grandparent	This would be better staying at 30	Yes - leave it as it is.

	pupils then there will be no mixed teaching classes, which can only be detrimental to the less advanced kids. Kids could get left behind during lessons (no good).	
Grandparent	It should stay at 30 - as if reduced to 20 mixed teaching will not be good for all the children, those less able could be left behind and not do as well.	Yes - leave as it is.
Grandparent – BMS and East Bierley	30 places to 20 - no way. 12 months later there would be an excuse to close it.	No Comment
Grandparent East Bierley	No Comment	No Comment
Not specified	No Comment	No Comment

**1 response from a Grandparent stated ‘don’t know’ about the proposals to change the Published Admission Number from 30 places to 20 places and retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building in East Bierley village and made no comment**

<b>Emails and letters addressing the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley CE(VC) First School</b>	
14 emails and letters comment on the proposal in whole or in part. 4 emails / letters support the proposal 8 emails / letters oppose the proposal 2 emails / letters ask the LA to consider alternative proposals	
<b>Respondent</b>	<b>4 emails / letters support the proposal</b>
164 Parent/carer Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School email	I agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of East Bierley First School if this is the only way of keeping the village school and moving to the two tier system, given the school's small site. I have no comment to make regarding the transitional arrangements for pupils currently on roll at East Bierley First School.
288 Parent/Carer Birkenshaw Middle School email	Regarding East Bierley first school, I believe it is paramount to keep this school open for the benefit of the community. I understand funding and space is limited. Ideally, of course, I would prefer you maintain an intake of 30 expanding the school for years 5-6. However, if you believe this is impossible financially then it is much more preferential to reduce intake to c20 rather than close the school.
12 Resident East Bierley email	The fact does remain, however, that unless you have a child or grandchild in EB School you are in total ignorance as to what is happening. Over the next six to seven years there is going to be a considerable increase in the number of pupils attending the school - this means teacher and parent parking will impact greatly on residents who already suffer considerably from inconsiderate parking over eight to nine hour periods, five days per week. I know for a fact that residents in the direct location of the school are unaware of the impact the changes to the school will have on the village. Information should be distributed to residents whenever it is distributed to parents - most of whom do not live in the village.

<p>105 Resident East Bierley email</p>	<p>Agree because East Bierley could not possibly cope with ANY increase in traffic to the village. Increasing the school to 180 pupils as the headmaster would like is definitely not an option. There is no land for the modular buildings as the land is common land and very much used by East Bierley residents and visitors. The land the school is looking at in EB to build a new school on is greenbelt, again not an option. Residents at the side of this land bought extra small plots to increase their gardens and were not allowed to use them as gardens as they were told it was greenbelt. Surely then it cannot be used to build on.</p> <p>Also, the option the school are looking at to take over the village hall above the Chapel as a classroom should definitely not be considered. Turfing residents out of the hall (art classes, coffee mornings, senior citizen meetings, brownies, operatic society rehearsals, etc) is an insult to villagers. This has been used for years for village activities.</p> <p>Residents local to the school suffer considerably from parking problems - blocked driveways, churned up grass verges, blocked sight lines and teachers parking in front of cottage windows for up to 9 hours a day, blocking out views and daylight. This happens 5 days per week - term time. Residents are given no consideration whatever regarding parking. EB is also a Rat Run for hundreds of cars cutting through Southview Road morning and teatime each day - this will eventually end up gridlocked - nearly there now!!</p> <p>Even with your proposal to end up with 140 pupils at EB School it will take 8 years before getting back to this number of pupils. In 2013 EB School will have 200 pupils - how on earth EB will cope with this increase in traffic I do not know. Some parking restrictions must be put in place to protect residents from an already miserable situation.</p> <p>PLEASE HELP TO SORT OUT THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM FOR RESIDENTS IN SOUTHVIEW ROAD AND HUNSWORTH LANE BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH YOUR PROPOSALS.</p> <p>Very careful consideration needs to be given as to where the temporary classrooms will be placed until the school is reduced back to 140 pupils. Residents should be given full consideration regarding the placements of such buildings and also regarding the extra teachers and parent parking. Parents will not walk more than a few yards to school; they will park ANYWHERE rather than walk the extra yard.</p> <p>Residents in EB are totally unaware of the changes being made to the school as we are not given any information. Only parents receive updates on what is happening - most of whom do not live in East Bierley and therefore are not concerned about the impact increasing the size of the school will have on the village. What the school and parents tend to forget is that EAST BIERLEY IS A VILLAGE AS WELL AS A SCHOOL.</p> <p>EB School slogan was Save our School, Save our Village - surely then they should be satisfied that the school has apparently been saved - WHY would they want to increase the size of the school when EB families are more than adequately provided for with the 140 places offered in your proposal. BRADFORD, Birkenshaw, Gomersal and Hunsworth families I am sure have perfectly good schools within their own areas. East Bierley School should not need to cater for them - it is too small a village to cope.</p> <p>We support the option to reduce the number of pupils each year to 20 but sincerely hope our concerns are dealt with.</p>
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<b>Respondent</b>	<b>8 emails / letters oppose the proposal</b>
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291 Parent/carer school in the BD19 area email	Re: East Bierley mixed classes do not lend themselves to meeting all childrens needs. The community wanted to be part of the Birkenshaw Schools overhaul until the revised plans were suggested.
154 Parent/Carer East Bierley CE(VC) First School email	I do not agree with the proposal to change the Admission at East Bierley from 30 students to 20 students. Small classes would lead to mixed group teaching and feel that this line of education would not be beneficial. Mixed ability classes could have potential problems such as language learning ability, language knowledge, cultural background, learning style, attitude, intelligence, world knowledge, learning experience, knowledge of other languages, age, gender, personality, confidence, motivation, interests and/or educational level. A class of 30 students would keep teaching consistent leaving the group of students with the same peers at the end of the education cycle.
287 Parent/Carer East Bierley CE(VC) First School Governor Birkenshaw Middle School Resident East Bierley email	Proposal to change the admission number at East Bierley First School in its current building I disagree with this proposal because reducing the PAN to 20 will limit the scope and complexity of the pupils accepted by the school and limit the exposure of pupils to the wide variety of cultures and beliefs in the surrounding area therefore impacting the social cohesion and achievement of the school.
165 Governor East Bierley CE (VC) First School  Staff East Bierley CE (VC) First School	I disagree with the proposal to change the Published Admission Number to 20 at East Bierley First School, both from September 2012 & at all in the future. I have taught in the Reception Class here for over 21 years & I know that every year there are around 40 families on the waiting list to get their child into our school. Almost every year there are appeals & the statistic quoted that, on average only 16 of every year group are children from within the village itself, might be true, but the larger numbers bring a diversity of social backgrounds, both to the school & to the church, as many families also get involved with the church, having been introduced to it through school. Without this diversity the children from East Bierley would end up existing in unreal circumstances & would not then be able to transfer to any high school without some social problems. Also, having only 20 children per intake would have wider ranging effects on both teaching & learning. There would ultimately have to be mixed year groups, which would give rise to planning & lesson delivery problems .Even though the teaching staff are very experienced & obviously contributed to the school achieving "Outstanding" at our last OFSTED inspection, the problems of teaching mixed year groups would ultimately lead to staff moving on for their own satisfaction or career advancement, & similarly parents deciding to not bring their children to us, because they don't want their children working in mixed year groups. For these reasons we do not want the ethos of the school to change & because families have opted to choose E.B. First School for their children starting in September 2012, based on this ethos, you cannot possibly change the admission numbers before then! Obviously retaining admission numbers of 30 per year group would impact in a big way on the current site & building. Yes the building is old & small, with small rooms, but if the council had followed up leads when BSF funding was available, then we would not be in this situation now. As I understand it there are still offers on the table for alternative land to be used for EB school, or to compensate for loss of Common Land if some is needed to accommodate the extra pupils, as we

	<p>develop into a full Primary School.</p> <p>The easy short term solution would be to use 2 mobile classrooms adjacent to the existing hall, with access both to the main building &amp; to the outside, thus having their own entrances too. With this option, it could be set up over the summer break ready for September 2012, the classrooms could be clad in order to fit in with the aesthetics of the main building, thus keeping the locals happy &amp; the whole thing would be a cheap option, easily implemented, in this initial stage. This alone is obviously not enough but it would give us 5 years – the term of a temporary planning facility for the 2 rooms – to organize something more permanent &amp; maybe even have access to more money!</p> <p>Ultimately the added age groups would mean that the school would not only need 2 extra classrooms, but also extra toilets, cloakrooms, changing facilities, playground space, office space, extra staff facilities including parking spaces etc. At the moment there are sporting venues that can be accessed &amp; we would be able to build up long term agreements with those, but everything else will take time – which we do not have any more!</p> <p>I see no point in rushing with developments that have not been thoroughly thought out. You have to agree that East Bierley as a community deserves a better deal? The community have been very vocal &amp; supportive in keeping the school open, so now let the council be seen to be doing what's right!</p> <p>Don't rush – think things through &amp; use the 5 years of a temporary planning agreement, to sort things out correctly. It has been very unfair that the rest of our pyramid has had a lot of money spent on them &amp; now there is none left for us! – Well that's what it feels like!</p>
<p>22 Parent/carer East Bierley CE (VC) First School letter</p>	<p>As a parent who lives out of the catchment area, I am strongly opposed to going down to a 20 child intake. I have a child all ready at East Bierley in Class 1 and a child coming through the pre-school (due to start in Sept 2013). The proposed reduced intake number would mean that my youngest son could not follow his older brother and would have to attend a different school, both of which I would be expected to be at for 9.00am. This is very upsetting and disappointing as East Bierley is an outstanding school, the school that I chose for both my children, even before they were born.</p>
<p>277 Birkenshaw ward councillors</p>	<p>Statutory consultation about proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and non-statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE© First &amp; Nursery and East Bierley CE(VC) School</p> <p>We are writing to you in response to the above named consultation. We agree with the many comments that have been submitted by the governors of Birkenshaw First and East Bierley First schools regarding their schools and by the BBG Academy Trust regarding Birkenshaw Middle School.</p> <p>To summarise our views: East Bierley First School</p> <p>We oppose the council's proposals to reduce the intake from 30 pupils per year to 20 per year and believe that the council should work with the governors to deliver the governors plans to expand the physical capacity of the school. Failure to adopt the governors plans we believe would have a serious detrimental impact on the social cohesion of both the school and longer term the village of East Bierley - a view we know is shared by the local church and the governors</p>
<p>278 Governing Body East Bierley CE (VC) First School</p>	<p>Re proposal by Kirklees Council to reduce intake number of pupils from 30 to 20 per year group</p> <p>In response to the council's consultation The Governing Body of East Bierley CE (VC) First School would like to submit the following points as our official response on behalf of the school to the council's consultation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As Governors we have considered the implications for the school of the Councils proposal to reduce our intake to 20 per year group and the implications for remaining at an intake of 30 per year Group both whilst increasing the age range from 4-9 to 4-11.</li> <li>2. We have consulted parents and the community on both options holding a public</li> </ol>

meeting attended by 60 people and by sending information to parents.

3. We balloted attendees at the meeting and parents the results were as follows: In favour of retaining 30 pupil intake - 95%. In favour of the Council's proposal to reduce the intake of pupils to 20 - 5%.

4. We have considered the Council's proposal and our view is that whilst it would be possible to implement such a change, the implications on social cohesion and long term school achievement as such that we consider this to be the worst possible option for the school.

5. We are therefore challenging the council's proposal to affect the school's PAN.

6. We have looked at a number of new options to expand the capacity of the school and our conclusions are as follows:

OPTION A - erect two Modular Classrooms alongside the gable end wall of the school hall. This is achievable within the Council's suggested resource allocation under its proposal (these would be needed to manage the bulge in pupil numbers on a temporary basis until 2018). We note this would require planning permission and the land they would be sited on is common land. Should the use of common land become an issue for this option a land swap is available which has precedence in the village for a previous housing development. With access to the school from both the hall and the rear walkway we consider this to be a viable option.

OPTION B - use external teaching space. We have looked at options including space at St Luke's Church which we don't consider would be either available or of the right size and The Methodist Chapel which we do consider could be available and could be made to work for one year Group. However given this is offsite all be it next door we consider this could only be for a temporary period.

OPTION C - reconfigure the present Hall and erect a modular two story construction with a slightly lower height Hall on the ground floor and 2 Classrooms on the first floor within the existing Hall footprint. (This we believe is achievable slightly above the financial resource envelope proposed for the Council's options).

OPTION D - demolish the Hall erect a new permanent light frame structure on the same footprint to provide a hall with two classrooms and toilet & cloakroom facilities on the second floor.

#### Conclusions

1. We consider that option C2 is the best option for both the Council the school and the community as for a modest extra investment the Council could deliver a permanent solution for the school.

2. We calculate that a considerable sum of money is needed to support the school through the transition period if we are to reduce the PAL to 20. Post 2018, models will need to be explored which ensure continuity of current staffing levels and support staff with only 140 pupils at maximum. Ideally 150 pupils will support 5 staff and support staff.

3. Whilst we acknowledge we have parking and drop off issues at the school which concern our community we do not consider that the enlargement of the school will be hugely detrimental to this situation which is much better than at many Kirklees schools.

4. We are committed to work with the community, the Council and our local Councillors to provide improvements to traffic and parking in the village and the impact the school has on this.

5. No proposal will change the fact our school has limited hard play areas for the children which is restrictive. However we are no worse than many urban schools and we believe with careful management of our break and dinner times we can overcome these difficulties. Work is in progress with local sports clubs to host weekly PE and Games lessons from September 2012.

6. Practically we recognise it would be difficult to achieve option C2 in time for September 2012 and therefore we would need to consider short term use of the Methodist Chapel or another temporary option whilst construction is completed.

	Please contact us if you wish to discuss these options in more detail.
286 Wakefield Diocesan Board Of Education letter	<p>WAKEFIELD DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION RESPONSE TO THE KIRKLEES LOCAL AUTHORITY NON STATUTORY CONSULTATION ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS FOR BIRKENSHAW CE(VC) FIRST AND NURSERY SCHOOL &amp; EAST BIERLEY CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL</p> <p>The Directors of the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education met on 13 October 2011.</p> <p>After consideration of Kirklees LA proposals as set out in the document for the non statutory consultation affecting the above named schools, and a subsequent visit by members of the Board of Education to the schools, the following decisions have been recorded:</p> <p>B) East Bierley CE(VC) First School</p> <p>The Board supports the Governing Body's commitment to retaining a PAN of 30. The Board also supports the Governing Body's proposal to demolish the hall, erect a new permanent light frame structure on the same footprint to provide a hall with two classrooms and toilet and cloakroom facilities on the second floor. The Board further supports the Governing Body's option of securing temporary short term accommodation whilst construction is completed.</p> <p>In 2009/2010 the Board of Education registered its support for the LA proposal to change both Birkenshaw CE(VC) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First School into an all through Primary Schools for pupils aged 5 - 11 years. The Board of Education expressed its frustration, together with the LA, governors, families and local community, when the Primary Capital Programme was cancelled with the inevitable consequence that the planned refurbishment of the schools would not proceed.</p> <p>The LA's current proposal to reduce the PAN from 30 to 20 per year group raises many issues for the Board of Education in particular members believe that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* the richness of the diversity of the current school community would be diluted</li> <li>* the weight of the parent voice expressed during the consultation cannot be ignored</li> <li>* the Governing Body has provided an alternative feasible plan for internal alterations which would accommodate the new Primary School. Members would hope that this plan is considered along with the options proposed</li> <li>* the Governors have appropriately highlighted the need to provide for 150 pupils to ensure continuity of staffing levels and support staff.</li> </ul> <p>The members of the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education kept their discussion focussed on the issues of the two schools as they exist at the present time. It was felt that, despite the possibility of further developments in the north of Kirklees, the members of the Board would not let this distract them from responding specifically to the consultation document.</p>

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>2 emails / letters ask the LA to consider alternative proposals</b>
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<p>72 Resident Birkenshaw email</p>	<p>As a resident of Birkenshaw for over 40 years. I am very disappointed at the very limited choice of options that are shown as available. Starting last Monday 24 Oct I conducted a survey of south of the Whitehall Road, (near Birkenshaw Middle School) and believe that their views are being under -represented. Following the personal survey several of the parents have been helping me collect a petition (copy enclosed) . The petition will be submitted with my response before 18th Nov 2011. From this petition I have evidence of the desire of many parents south of the Whitehall Road that there is a desire and a need for two primary schools in Birkenshaw. It is with some reluctance that many people in E Bierley think that their school will close, is it fair that the 53 children and parents resident in E Bierley have stronger representation than the majority of parents and children below Whitehall Road? I understand that there is not enough children for 3 schools, but there are enough for 2, it is the location that needs to be reconsidered. Gomersal and Cleckheaton have the choice of C of E or non-denominational schools why not Birkenshaw? By the most direct route E Bierley C of E school and Birkenshaw C of E School are under a mile apart. Some parents and children from E Bierley would have to walk a shorter distance to Birkenshaw C of E school than those in south Birkenshaw, this seems to be grossly unfair. Some of the footpaths on Birkenshaw lane are very difficult and barely possible with a pushchair and this is on a bus route with parked cars at the side of the road, very difficult when there is snow and ice.</p> <p>E Bierley school is very well run and successful school would it be such a big ask for them and their head to amalgamate the 2 C of E schools and have a non denominational primary on the middle school site? This would increase choice, competition and would make more long term economical and social sense than 2 primary schools at the extreme edge of Kirklees. Most children would then have no more than 1 mile to walk to school. You do not need to reminding by me that capital is difficult to come by and likely to get even worse,. It must be a lower capital cost to adapt two smaller schools than make a large primary on the Birkenshaw C of E site. It is responsible and right that the Cabinet should inform the public of these capital costs. Please identify the costs of 2 primary schools located on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The current Birkenshaw C of E school site</li> <li>2. And the current Birkenshaw middle school site.</li> </ol> <p>I look forward to hearing from you.</p>
<p>302 Resident Birkenshaw letter</p>	<p>Re - Birkenshaw E.Bierley Primary Schools reorganisation</p> <p>My response is primarily as a resident of Birkenshaw for over 40 years, living south of the Whitehall road, and secondly as a Foundation Governor of Whitcliffe Mount B &amp; E College.</p> <p>From your information there is a desire/need for, 420 places at Birkenshaw C of E school and 210 places at E. Bierley 630 places in total for Birkenshaw and E. Bierley</p> <p>In your report there is sufficient children for 2 primary schools but not for 3. Would it be better to consider Birkenshaw and Gomersal together, giving more flexibility, choice and cost saving?</p> <p>As there are quite a number of children going to Gomersal 1st school who live along and off Bradford Road, south of the Birkenshaw roundabout and north of the bridge over the M62 motorway, with a Gomersal post code but considered to be Birkenshaw. It could be beneficial to both Birkenshaw and Gomersal to move Gomersal 1st to Birkenshaw Middle school site, then both villages would benefit from the choice of a non denominational school. If St Mary's at Gomersal was also moved to Gomersal Middle School site it would be approx 1 mile along Oxford road and Bradford Road to Birkenshaw Middle school then 1 mile to Birkenshaw C of E school. More children able to walk to school and far less traffic congestion than currently along Oxford road when Gomersal 1st and Gomersal middle enter or leave the schools.</p> <p>A Non-denominational Primary south of Whitehall road on the Birkenshaw Middle school site. There is desirability for a non denominational school shown in the petition I</p>

have collected and enclosed. There seems a large number of children from Birkenshaw currently going to Gomersal First school; would it be better to relocate Gomersal First to Birkenshaw middle school site, it has a Gomersal post code? The non-denominational education would be available for both villages. It is important to have good primary schools which are easily accessible to the most number of children. Environmental and social considerations. As there are more primary aged children living in Birkenshaw south of the Whitehall road, some with a Bradford postcode and some with a Wakefield postcode it seems more logical for a primary school to be located the point of most need, on the Birkenshaw Middle school site south of Whitehall road. The school has access from the west on Bradford road and from the east from Kingsley Drive, and would mean that very few children under 11 years would have to walk more than 1 mile to school, this dual access reduces the possibility of accidents on the very busy Bradford Road.

Birkenshaw Middle school is located almost 1 mile north of the current Gomersal Middle school site. From Birkenshaw Middle School north to Birkenshaw C of E school is about 1 mile and only a little further to the Kirklees/Bradford boundary at Tong. From the Birkenshaw roundabout along Whitehall Road East to the Kirklees/Leeds boundary is also about a mile. Therefore BMS is the best location for a large majority of primary aged children.

Many parents living north of Whitehall road want the C of E school to stay on the Southcroft/Station Lane site, if possible they should have that choice. Is it so much to ask the children of E Bierley to walk under one mile from E. Bierley C of E to Birkenshaw C of E school going along South View Road, down a short distance down Bradford Road, then left along Moorlands Road to a short footpath leading directly onto Southcroft Gate, a short walk down the hill, then up Southcroft Drive and turn right along Southcroft Avenue to Birkenshaw C of E 1st School. These children would have to walk far less distance than many more are asked to walk south of the Whitehall road to Birkenshaw C of E school.

I have asked parents signing the petition to detail their personal comments direct to Kirklees, as my petition only gives a broad brush impression.

Summary

In my humble opinion it could be far less social and economic cost for Gomersal, Birkenshaw and E.Bierley reorganisation to be considered together. Would the cost of having 3 primary schools approx 1 mile apart be lower? It would give more choice to families:

- a. St Mary's C of E school on the Gomersal Middle school site,
- b. Gomersal primary (non-denominational) on the Birkenshaw Middle school site and
- c. Birkenshaw C of E on Station Lane/Southcroft site, this would give a choice to many families of C of E and non-denominational education within a 1 mile radius of their homes.

1. Three good schools in three good locations for possibly a lower capital cost and revenue costs, and be a long term answer rather than a short term solution.

Temporary classrooms in a playground, in very limited space at E.Bierley is far from ideal.

2. Three good heads could compete for pupils and support each other.

3. Gomersal and Birkenshaw would have the choice of both C of E and a non denominational.

4. This would give the most educational stability locally.

5. Most children would have the least distance to walk to a primary school of their choice.

## 1 Petition was received in response to the proposals

A local resident collected signatures in support of an alternative proposal to relocate Gomersal Primary School to the Birkenshaw Middle School site.

**50 signatures**

'We the undersigned request that Kirklees Metropolitan Authority plan a non-denominational Primary School on the Birkenshaw Middle School site.'

## STAFF AND GOVERNING BODY CONSULTATION MEETING NOTES

### Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School

#### Statutory Consultation about the proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and Non Statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First school

Staff meeting at Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

#### Present

20 staff members  
4 LA representatives

Head teacher introduced the LA representatives. The LA representative asked staff if seen the consultation document.

The LA representative gave an outline of the consultation. Within the document there are three proposals which are:

Proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle. Displaced pupils will be offered a place at Whitcliffe Mount specialist Business and Enterprise College.

Relocation of Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School to Birkenshaw Middle site.

To reduce the PAN at East Bierley CE (VC) First School and retain its current building.

East Bierley and Birkenshaw First & Nursery School will retain Year 5 and later Year 6, the LA is looking at ways to plan for this long term.

Previous plans under BSF/PCP funding was to have a new building, due to the loss of funding and lack of funds available other alternatives are being looked at. The consultation period is to ask the views of staff, community and school about the proposals.

The members of cabinet are interested in the views and opinions of staff, community and the school. The LA looks at plans that are long term and cost effective.

In the short term modular accommodation would be used to provide additional accommodation for Year 5 but this is not a long term solution.

If staff feel that the site is the best for the child then they need to make their views known. All the responses will be included in the report.

Q) The middle school site has one entrance and if going to have early years needs another separate entrance. Also on the plans there are no toilets for younger children?

These plans are indicative which look at the footprint of the building and feasibility of the work that could be carried out.

Q) If going to make a good case for the school to stay at current site then there needs to be a focus on what is good about the present site and not focus on the building at the middle school site.

Councillors have been to look at the schools; they will make the decision therefore need to explain why you don't want to move, what makes the site here so special.

Q) The plus side of having two buildings is that one building can be used if there is a problem at the other eg if the building is flooded so there is flexibility.

This is a valid point. Please include that in your response.

Q) There is more traffic at the middle school site as it is a main road. This is not safe for younger children. There will be a long walk for parents and drop off and parking will be an issue.

The middle school site does have a back route. There have been some plans that show how the middle school entrance can be changed. These will need to be looked at with PRP. Physically there is space on the grounds to have additional parking and have a pick up and drop off area.

Q) Even if you put in an area of pick up and drop off at the BSM site it will still be difficult

This needs to be put in the response sheets.

Q) There is a memorial garden which is special to the school. If the school was to move what would happen to the memorial?

The LA representatives assured staff that this would be dealt with sensitively and gave an example of a similar case.

Q) If you are going to put in more toilets at the Birkenshaw Middle site this will increase the cost.

This is included in the costing. The detail work has been done as the LA uses examples of where similar work has been carried out elsewhere. The process of designing the school will be done with the school and PRP. The LA need to look at the long term solution.

Q) In 2009 the building was deemed unfit.

In the context of BSF it would have been cheaper to create a new school. Due to current climate and after commissioning up to date surveys, it is value for money to do the work on the building.

Q) Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School is a good site - can't recreate this at another school.

These are the views that need to be put on response sheet.

Q) The children enjoy the outside learning and this brings respect for the environment.

Q) The outdoor site is used to deliver cross curriculum education.

There is potential to develop land space at BMS.

Q) The staff have created an environment and that take time. It has evolved over many years.

The BMS site will be different. Some money has been set aside to provide a comparable external environment.

Q) There are no comparisons with other schools that are relocating in the area; Birkenshaw F & N School has green space. Other schools were on smaller sites.

The LA representative assured staff that the BMS will have space available.

Q) There is a beautiful tree that the children like...this wouldn't be able to move to a different site this makes staff sad.

Q) Staff take children for a walk to the village and the church. To do this at the BMS site would mean having to cross a very busy road and need to look at health and safety.

These need to be put in the response sheets.

Q) There are issues with safeguarding due to the traffic?

The LA representative assured staff that safeguarding is a priority – which will not be compromised.

Q) What would be the best way to get our views through?

To respond either using the forms or sending letters or emails as individuals or as a group.

Q) Will the minutes to the meeting be put in the report?

Yes.

Q) When will we know the outcome?

It is anticipated that there will be more certainty around Christmas.

Q) Will the outcome report be the end?

The outcome report will help the councillors to make a decision.

Q) Can we appeal the decision?

This is unknown. As the school will be retaining year 5 and 6 then need to look at long term solutions as to how this will be managed.

Q) What would happen to staff?

The relocation should not have any impact on staffing or structures.

Meeting closed

**Statutory Consultation About the Proposal to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and Non Statutory Consultation About the Implementation of Proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School**

**Birkenshaw CE(C) F & N School  
Governing Body Consultation Meeting  
Tuesday 8 November 2011, 19:00**

Present:

4 LA officers,  
12 Governors

The Chair of Governors welcomed the LA representatives.

The LA representative gave an overview of the consultation: one is statutory consultation regarding the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School. The previous proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle school in 2013 was linked to the establishment of the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough this would have been the school that received displaced pupils from Birkenshaw. Due to the BSF programme stopping and Batley Girls' High School converting to an Academy the E-ACT Academy cannot be implemented so the LA needs to legally revoke the original proposals. The rationale for the current proposal is the same, to support the change from a 3 to a 2 tier system: the proposed school that would be the receiving school for displaced pupils is Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College.

The two other consultations are non statutory and are regarding the implementation of the first schools that are converting into primary schools. There is no change in that both East Bierley CE(VC) First School and Birkenshaw CE(C) F & N School will retain their year 5 pupils in September 2012, and their year 6 in September 2013. The proposals are around how this is achieved.

Governors were encouraged to respond to the consultation either individually or collectively.

Governors were invited to ask questions.

Questions:

*Q. Is it correct that modular buildings would be on site regardless of the decision?*

Yes, this would be necessary to provide enough accommodation for pupils at the school when Year 5 pupils are retained in September 2012.

*Q. There seems to be an obsession for playing fields. How many primary schools have playing fields in Kirklees? Is there not space for a playing field at the current site?*

The proposal compares the potential at each of the two sites. There is just enough space here to provide a pitch, but it would require significant levelling.

*Comment. Concern was expressed that there is no breakdown of costings and that the plans did not show enough detail for example in relation to toilets, external access to the site, access to the classrooms from outside and car parking etc which makes it difficult to know what is included. It is difficult for the Governing Body to make a 'like for like' decision when there is no breakdown.*

It was explained that the plans drawn up are indicative. If either school site was pursued, then detailed plans would be developed and this would involve input from the Head and governors.

*Q. How much money are we looking at spending at the school?*

There is no money 'on the table' at present. There would need to be capital allocated. The Council will decide where this proposal sits in the order of priority in relation to its other commitments. The minimum option will provide the same standard on both sites, as will the maximum. The architects will do their best with the funds available to provide suitable toileting and other facilities.

*Q. There is a worry that this is being proposed just because the other middle school sites are being used in this way. Some middle school sites are having fantastic new renovation work carried out with the money the Council had; it does not have this money now. Birkenshaw Middle School is a terrible building. Access has not yet been mentioned. For less money it is possible to provide all that is needed here; it might be in more than one building, but Governors question the educational advantage of being in one building.*

To make a fair comparison costs need to be based on equal provision. One building would make the best use of time, safeguarding. If the LA started from scratch, it would not consider creating a school that is fragmented.

*Q. There is a known site here, compared to an aspirational one. Officers cannot guarantee the Council will have the money, can they?*

There is no money on the table right now, but when the decision is made monies would be made available. The question being asked is what is the best that can be done with the money.

Governors are expressing how they would want the money to be spent. There is capital for school buildings.

*Q. Can Officers please check the capital plan when they return to their office, as there is nothing in there to state monies will be used for this school? If money is to be spent it must go through a process. There is no longer a Primary Capital Programme, so money would need to be put into the capital plan. The LA has just applied for some capital. It was mentioned earlier tonight about needing a new school in Huddersfield. It is a little unfair to mention this, given the Council has applied for funding to address this.*

There is a Priority School Building Programme for which the LA has applied. This particularly addresses condition issues, but also gives an opportunity to look at sufficiency of places. Mount Pleasant, Lockwood – to do with condition. Also requires an increase in PAN from 70 to 90.

New provision required in the Crosland Moor area.

Batley Grammar – need for co-educational places.

Whitcliffe Mount – condition issues.

All Saints Catholic High School – condition issues.

*Q. For good playing fields, we need the grounds levelled and good drainage; can Governors receive a costing for this work?*

The LA will liaise with colleagues in Physical Resources & Procurement about this.

*Q. In a cabinet report in 2009 it stated Birkenshaw Middle School's building was unfit for use in general.*

That statement was made in a particular context. At the time, there were millions of pounds to spend, and so it was not deemed appropriate to spend on the BMS building. These are different times. More work and up to date surveys have been carried out on how the existing building could be used.

*Q. We want the LA to look at this site on its own – not in comparison with other schools. There are 2 buildings here – what can be done with it; what are the educational benefits of one building? Do children learn better in one building?*

If there was a choice, then a school would not be built on a split site. That suggests there are benefits of a single building. Regarding the ethos of this school, there has been some feedback from parents to say they like the fact their children start in one building, then 'move up' to the next building. That is the type of thing the LA wants to capture for Members to make a balanced decision. The LA thinks it is the right time for Councillors to look at the situation and see whether anything needs to change.

*Q. If the school moves location, it will be incredibly disruptive. The free school situation adds to the uncertainty for the pupils*

There is a common goal of doing right by the pupils, and the authority would work with the school to manage any capital works throughout.

*Q. The pupils have not been mentioned until now. The middle school site is between 2 main roads. Governors have been promised plans of how parking would be addressed (by Cllr Khan at Dewsbury Town Hall) – where are they? Residents around the middle school site have not been informed of the proposals. Governors want to see what is planned for the driving/traffic/parking situation.*

This issue is a key one. Parents need to be able to park and walk their children into school. If the decision was made the LA would then have to look at impact on traffic etc. The LA will look into the plans you were promised and try to source these.

Traffic impact would also need to be assessed at the current site, as there would be 120 extra youngsters on site, which is also an unknown factor. All the children from the middle school area would have to travel up to this site, which isn't any different to pupils travelling from here down to that site.

*Q. This school provides a very good education and ethos at this site. The number of buildings does not affect the standard of education. There are things that can be done to expand. Children love this school, as do parents. It might also be good at the middle school site, but it will be totally different. Some Governors want to maintain the school in Kirklees. Some would probably wish to apply for academy status. There are too many unknowns for the Governing Body to make a decision. Without knowing the money available Governors just don't know where they will be. The effect of uprooting and moving cannot be predicted.*

*The document implies there is something wrong with the hall, dining and kitchen facilities. Surveys have been carried out that state the facilities are more than adequate for a 420 place school. The document also says no highways work is required.*

To clarify, the document refers to offsite highways work.

*Q. There were cabinet meetings in July. It is now November and responses are required by next week and Governors do not have the information they require.*

It is a view that is being requested on the merits of the 2 sites. It is a process. If it was decided for the school to move, then the planning processes would begin. It may be helpful for Governors to talk to fellow Governors involved in the Whitechapel Church of England Primary School implementation. Potentially, if there are significant concerns raised regarding, for example, traffic, then Members can say that they wish to delay a decision for further work to be done to gather more information first. If the decision is made to keep the school at the current site, then the issue over traffic at the middle school site would be academic.

*Q. Housing/pupil density is also an issue.*

If the distances that pupils travel to each site are totalled, they would travel less to the middle school site. All these factors that Governors are raising are for Members to weigh in the balance.

*Q. Governors don't think they can carry the ethos from one building to another. Can't simply 'lift' a school from one place to another. The school has happy children and staff. regarding the Priority School Building Programme mentioned earlier – would either of these sites benefit?*

Sadly not. The programme is targeted at the schools that are in the worst condition. In PSBP terms, these schools aren't in such a condition.

*Q. Are there any HR issues for Governors to be aware of?*

Nothing major. At St Luke's CE(VC)/Moorend CE(VC) First Schools the schools closed, so there was a process to transfer staff over. Here, it would simply be a move of location. There is nothing

to suggest there would be a change in staff structure, and so there are likely to be no real issues – other than the ones already raised tonight about the move.

*Q. A Governor advised that no one he had spoken to said they wanted the school to move. The LA's observations have been listened to and as they cannot give any detailed information, then the feeling is the school should stay at the current site.*

*The Governor's have passed a resolution that they want to stay here and will pursue academy status.*

*Concern was also raised that some parents state they were advised by officers at the consultation event that if Birkenshaw CE(C) F & N School became an academy, there could be a second primary school in Birkenshaw – at the middle school site. An officer responded that 'competition is good.'*

The LA apologises if some parents have misunderstood information from the consultation event, but are sure our officers will not have advised that. The proposal is as per the document.

*Q. A Governor of Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College has been around every house in the area asking whether parents would send their children to a second primary school at the middle school site. This all adds to the rumours and uncertainty.*

The LA cannot prevent people's actions. The proposal is as per the document.

The LA thanked the Governing Body for the meeting. Lots of views have been aired, which is what the consultation is all about. The Governors were encouraged to respond collectively and as individuals.

The Chair of Governors thanked the LA and advised that they do appreciate the LA coming out to talk to them, and to observe how passionate they are as a Body.

**Birkenshaw Middle School Staff consultation meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 3.30pm**

**Statutory Consultation about the proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and Non Statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First school**

Present:

11 members of staff  
4 LA representatives

The LA representative for School Organisation and Planning opened the meeting and explained the process. The previous proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School in 2013 was linked to the establishment of the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough. This would have been the school that received displaced pupils from Birkenshaw. Due to the BSF programme stopping and Batley Girls' High School converting to an Academy the E-ACT Academy cannot be implemented so the LA needs to legally revoke the original proposals. The rationale for the current proposal is the same, to support the change from a 3 to a 2 tier system: the proposed school that would be the receiving school for displaced pupils is Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College.

The LA has sent letters to all parents affected to keep them informed of the changes. The LA would ensure that sufficient places are available at Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College to guarantee a place for every pupil from all four middle schools who wish to transfer in September 2012. Some parents of pupils in year 6 and 7 at Birkenshaw Middle School have asked if their child could transfer to a secondary school in September 2012 at the same time as all the other pupils. Similarly, parents of pupils currently in year 6 and 7 who want their child to stay at Birkenshaw Middle School until it is proposed to close in 2013 are able to stay.

Staff were encouraged to respond to the consultation either individually or collectively.

Staff were invited to ask questions.

Q: What happens if all the year 6 and year 7 want to go to Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College? What will happen to the staff?

There are currently no definite numbers of the number of pupils that will be transferring to Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College. The letter sent to parents asked them to express a preference and that they had until 16th December 2011. When parents have made choices the School and the LA will have the opportunity to plan staffing and resources appropriately. The LA would ensure that the Curriculum offer is protected for those children that stay at Birkenshaw Middle School. HR would be continuing to work with the staff as part of the framework.

Q: Staff have already moved into different jobs and it could be difficult to recruit staff to a school that will be closing, has this been looked at?

HR continues to work closely with staff and the school.

Q: Could Birkenshaw Middle School be over staffed to protect the curriculum?

There is an opportunity to look at transitional funding if necessary and this will need to be explored with the LA and School to ensure that the national curriculum will be delivered to the children that remain at Birkenshaw Middle.

Q Will staff that teach each area of the curriculum stay?

The children's education will be protected so all the areas of the national curriculum will be delivered.

Q Will staff have jobs in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid? If so when will the staff know?

The LA is working with all the schools in the pyramid and is working to agree planning numbers for Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College in December. This will inform staffing structures and it is likely that any opportunities will become available early in the New Year. HR is working to place staff both across the pyramid and in schools elsewhere, using the HR Framework.

Meeting closed 4pm

**Statutory Consultation about the proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and Non Statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First school**

**Birkenshaw Middle School Governing Body meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 7:00pm**

Present:

13 Governing Body

4 LA representatives

The LA representative for School Organisation and Planning opened the meeting and explained the process. The previous proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School in 2013 was linked to the establishment of the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough. This would have been the school that received displaced pupils from Birkenshaw. Due to the BSF programme stopping and Batley Girls' High School converting to an Academy the E-ACT Academy cannot be implemented so the LA needs to legally revoke the original proposals. The rationale for the current proposal is the same, to support the change from a 3 to a 2 tier system: the proposed school that would be the receiving school for displaced pupils is Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College.

The LA has sent letters to all parents affected to keep them informed of the changes. The LA would ensure that sufficient places are available at Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College to guarantee a place for every pupil from all four middle schools who wish to transfer in September 2012. Some parents of pupils in year 6 and 7 at Birkenshaw Middle School have asked if their child could transfer to a secondary school in September 2012 at the same time as all the other pupils. Similarly, parents of pupils currently in year 6 and 7 who want their child to stay at Birkenshaw Middle School until it is proposed to close in 2013 are able to stay.

Governors were encouraged to respond to the consultation either individually or collectively.

Governors were invited to ask questions

Comment: Regardless of the consultation Birkenshaw Middle School will close as all the schools in the area are converting to a 2 tier, so we will make comments but we understand the school needs to close.

Governors' comments are important and so please do feedback to the consultation.

Q What is the running capacity of Whitcliffe Mount - Specialist and Enterprise College?

The net capacity of the school is currently under review given that previously the capacity was assessed as a school for 13-18 year olds. The LA is working closely with the school to look at capacity and ensuring appropriate accommodation is in place.

Q At present the school does not have the capacity?

The LA is working with the school on capacity as always was the intention given that there would be additional pupils in the school following the closure of the Middle Schools.

Q What other arrangements are being put in place for the children that move to Whitcliffe Mount - Business and Enterprise College for example has transport being looked at?

This is very helpful feedback. The LA and school would look at this jointly at travel and transport as part of the project team approach that is in place to support the school's transformation.

Q The statutory consultation also affects Cleckheaton so why have they not been informed?

Documents were sent to all the schools in the Whitcliffe Pyramid for information and we have been working with head teachers to make information available for anyone who wishes to contribute to the consultation. Following feedback from pyramid heads a bespoke newsletter is being produced and will be sent to all the schools in the Pyramid to distribute to families. Documents are available online or upon request from School Organisation and Planning and we want to encourage responses from any interested party.

Q When will the new staffing structure be available to look at?

Around December time we would hope to work with the school on new staffing structures. These would need to be agreed with the Governing Body and it is anticipated that these would be available in the New Year.

Q Why are staff being matched up to jobs that are not appropriate, or short term?

HR are working to match staff to jobs. A panel meeting takes place every week to ensure that people are matched to appropriate jobs then a discussion takes place with head teacher who then should discuss with staff.

Q The HR framework has put a lot of staff in a limbo and due to the uncertainty some staff have left. What support will the Governing Body be given to support staff in the transition?

If a child wants to remain at Birkenshaw Middle School this should not affect his/her education. There is already protection in place with the school's budget and there may be the opportunity to look at appropriate transitional funding to ensure that the curriculum will be delivered.

**Statutory Consultation about the proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and Non Statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First School**

**Staff meeting at East Bierley CE(VC) First School 3rd November 2011**

Present:

10 members of staff

4 LA representatives

The Head Teacher did introductions.

The LA representative for School Organisation & Planning explained the reason for the revised proposals for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School which are the subject of statutory consultation.

The consultation to reduce the PAN at East Bierley CE(VC) First School is non-statutory. East Bierley CE(VC) First School is agreed to become an all through school so will retain years 5 and 6. In order to keep the school within the village the proposal is to reduce the PAN to 20 so that the building in time will hold 7 years of 20 pupils (140) rather than 5 years of 30 pupils (150).

The LA has met with the Governing Body to explore other viable options. As the school will start to become an all through primary school in September 2012 when Year 5 pupils are retained, the short term option would be to have modular accommodation.

Q) Are these plans to close the school?

It is not about closing the school but looking at how the school can accommodate the extra number of pupils. There is a need to look at long term solutions as modular accommodation is short term.

Q) Why can't the modular accommodation be used permanently?

Modular accommodation is a short term solution. There are issues with the common land and planning permission. If planning agrees to have modular accommodation it would only be for 5 years then a new application would need to be submitted. The LA needs to look at long term solutions.

Q) The Governing Body is looking at long term plans? Have these been considered by the LA?

The LA has met with the Governing Body and was presented with the options that the Governing Body would like to explore further. These ideas need to be submitted to the Physical Resources and Procurement officers for evaluation.

Q) If the PAN was reduced to 20 how would you decide where the staff would go?

HR would work closely with the head teacher to manage the change.

Q) Why have staff be recruited in post when they will be leaving?

The posts were created before the current review of plans as there is a need to provide for the immediate increase in pupil numbers as Years 5 and 6 are retained at the school.

Q) If the intake goes to 20 this will have an impact on staffing numbers?

Currently the number on roll at East Bierley is 150 this could eventually reduce to approx 140. The staffing numbers would end up about the same in the long term.

Q) When will staff know for definite?

Year 5 will remain in the school, and the following year then will have to retain year 6. One of the solutions is to have a PAN of 20 and this is the subject of the consultation till the end of term. The LA is working with the school to find solutions and is still looking at the feasibility of maintaining a PAN of 30.

Q) If the PAN goes to 20 then there is more chance to close the school later?

There are no plans for this. Kirklees has schools with different sizes. The LA looks at the demand in the area for school places and at present there is a demand in East Bierley.

Q) There has been lots of consultations is this not another way to close the school ?

The LA does not have a hidden agenda to close the school.

Q) East Bierley is on the boundary for Bradford. There are new homes being built in Bradford that will bring more young children to the school?

The LA works with housing and planning to look at the effects of new housing on schools in the local area. Bradford will have the same procedures therefore Bradford will need to accommodate the extra pupils in Bradford. Kirklees SOAP team works with the Bradford school organisation team.

Q) If the PAN went down to 20 could the PAN increase later?

The LA looks at birth rates and population trends. The changes in the distribution of pupils are taken into account when reviewing the PAN. The PAN can be increased in the future.

Q) Due to East Bierley being an outstanding school this attracts a lot of parents.

The LA has the duty to ensure that there are enough places for pupils that live in Kirklees.

**Statutory Consultation about the proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and Non Statutory consultation about the implementation of proposals for Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First school**

**East Bierley CE (VC) First School Governing Body meeting 31st October 2011 6.30pm**

Present:

9 Governing Body members

4 LA representatives

The Head teacher opened the meeting with introductions.

The LA representative for School Organisation and Planning gave an outline of the consultation which includes three proposals which are set out in the consultation document:

to close Birkenshaw Middle

to relocate Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School

to reduce the PAN at East Bierley CE (VC) First School to retain its current building.

The reason for proposing the reduction of the PAN from 30 to 20 is to accommodate the change of East Bierley CE (VC) First School into an all through primary school within its current building on the village green. This would deliver the village school within the current capital constraints and remain on the restricted site in the village with the surrounding common land and the village green.

There would need to be accommodation for managing the "bulge" in numbers as a reduced admission number worked through the school over time.

The consultation process includes meetings with parents/community, staff and Governing Bodies at the three schools and Whitcliffe Mount BEC. The consultation ends on the 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Governors were encouraged to respond to the consultation either individually or collectively.

Governors were invited to ask questions.

Comment: The Governing Body would like to keep the PAN at 30. They have consulted with the parents, community and 90% have said that they want to keep to the PAN at 30.

The main reason is to keep the social cohesion of the school. 50% of the children that come to the school are from the village and the rest come from Leeds and Bradford. This brings in children from other cultures and diverse background. If the PAN was reduced to 20 then this would make the village children feel very insular and limit opportunities to meet people from different communities until they went to high school.

Comment: The Governing Body would like to look at other options

**Modular Accommodation. Double or single storey at the gable end next to the Hall.**

LA said that this will bring up issues about common land and planning permission. The only way to find out if this is viable is to submit a planning application form and officers are working on this.

**Use Community Space eg Church Halls**

This may be possible on a temporary basis and was being explored.

**Reconfigure the Hall area with 2 modular class rooms above the hall.** The Governing Body have been given advice from an architect and builders that this can be achieved.

**To demolish the hall and build a new 2-storey building which could be achieved at a reasonable cost.**

The last option would be the preferred option by the Governing Body. Officers asked that any ideas or plans should be passed to the Physical Resources & Procurement team to investigate.

Comment: With all solutions that maintain a PAN of 30 pupils, the additional 60 pupils would bring additional pressures to the site. The Governing Body accepted there will be congestion with parking and drop off. The play area would also be another issue this is being looked at with the staff. The Governing Body would like to work with the Council to find solutions to these issues.

LA Query : If the work was carried out where would the school relocate to?

Comment: The Governing Body would like to work to be carried out over the summer holiday to cause less disruption to the children.

The LA said that the modular accommodation would be an alternative if the work was carried out but planning decisions are a key factor in timing.

Comment: Governing Body acknowledges that these plans are subject to other departments within the council.

The LA acknowledges that in September 2012 when Year 5 pupils are retained there will be 30 additional children in the school. There needs to be physical space to accommodate the children. The PAN for September 2012 is set at 30 unless application is made to the Schools Adjudicator to agree a reduced PAN. Possibly the Governing Body could agree to reduce the PAN.

Comment: The Governing Body is concerned about the time frame as the school will become an all through primary school this does not leave the Governing Body with a lot of time.

The LA agreed to give the school dates that they can work towards.

Q: The Governing Body asked why the consultation had not taken place last year.

The change in circumstances was a result of decisions by the national government and the withdrawal of capital funding, the implications of which were not clear last year.

Q: Governing Body asked what about the long term implications for staff

HR have worked closely with the school to recruit the additional teachers for the extra years and will support the school with the long term management issues of any change in plans.

Q: The Governing Body would like concrete details and dates that they can work with - at present these plans seem too vague.

This was the first time the LA had knowledge of these plans

Q: The Governing Body asked if the middle school does not progress to a high school what will happen to the building?

The LA at this stage doesn't know. The proposal is to move Birkenshaw CE(C) First School to the Birkenshaw Middle site. This would mean there will be a vacant site at Birkenshaw First School.

Comment: The Governing Body said that there is a need to cut the carbon footprint so why are children from different areas being bussed to school. There should be a school close to home.

Reviewing the carbon foot print means investigating a range of ways of reducing CO2 such as reducing emissions from buildings as well as efficient travel.

Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College  
Governors Meeting  
Monday 17 October 2011, 18:45

**Statutory Consultation About the Proposal to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and Non Statutory Consultation About the Implementation of Proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School**

Present:

approx 16 Governors  
5 LA representatives

The LA representatives introduced themselves, one of whom began by giving an overview of the proposals.

Birkenshaw Middle School is on a longer timescale for closure than the other middle schools. It was linked to a new academy to be opened on the Howden Clough site. That is now not going ahead due to removal of BSF funding and due to Batley Girls' High School – Visual Arts College becoming an academy. The only change to the proposal to close Birkenshaw Middle School is that the receiving school would become Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College. The other two parts of the consultation are non statutory, around Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School converting to all through primary schools. It was impressed upon the governing body that a submission from them as a whole is encouraged, for council to make the decision. They can make joint or individual responses. Governors were also advised that as well as Year 8's transferring into Year 9 in September 2012, parents of pupils in current Years 6 and 7 at Birkenshaw Middle School are also being given the opportunity to transfer to Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College.

Q. Is there a minimum number of pupils that can be left in Birkenshaw Middle School before it becomes unviable?

There is no figure set out in writing, but there will at least be a full Year 6 group for the academic year 2012/13. The number who will remain at Birkenshaw Middle in Years 7 and 8 is not yet known, but the education of the pupils will be protected.

Q. Which year groups would have guaranteed places at the school?

All pupils that are counted as 'displaced' pupils in the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School would be guaranteed a place at Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College. This applies to all pupils currently on roll at Birkenshaw Middle School (although those in current Year 8 will apply as normal for a year 9 place in September 2012).

Q. Will Whitcliffe Mount be ready for the additional pupils? Concern was raised over disagreements with contractors over work being completed in time. The school has had these issues with work carried out in the past.

The head teacher assured the governors that there are fortnightly meetings between the school and various departments of the LA where the progression of works is discussed, and issues are discussed and resolved, thus minimising the situation described.

Q. Concern was raised over some ambiguity in the consultation document about the proposals in relation to pupil admissions.

The LA has written to all affected parents regarding the processes, explaining what options are available to their children, and also pointing them in the direction of the Choice Advice service. As an example it was noted that when it became apparent that there was some confusion about admission processes for current Year 8 parents, when the LA was advised of this a letter was sent out within the week. The LA has tried to be as explicit as possible for parents – but feedback is welcomed.

Q. When will it be clear how many pupils will be coming to Whitcliffe Mount in September 2012?

It is hoped to have an indication by the end of term, but it is difficult to be precise. There are factors outside LA control. Parents have been asked to complete a form by 16 December. The LA is hoping to agree the figure in December for planning purposes.

The Chair of Governors thanked the LA for attending, and reiterated the importance of responding collectively as a Governing Body, and also individually.

**Whitcliffe Mount – Business and Enterprise College  
Staff Consultation Meeting  
Tuesday 1 November 2011, 3:00pm**

**Statutory Consultation About the Proposal to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School  
and Non Statutory Consultation About the Implementation of Proposals for Birkenshaw  
CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School**

Present:

3 LA officers  
Approx 8 members of staff

The LA gave an overview of the three consultations - statutory for Birkenshaw Middle School, which affects Whitcliffe Mount - BEC; and the two non-statutory consultations for Birkenshaw CE(C) F & N School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School.

The decision was made to close Birkenshaw Middle School, a year behind the other middle schools as it was linked to the new academy at Howden Clough. However, the cancellation of BSF and Batley Girls' becoming an academy means this is not possible, so therefore it is proposed to revoke that decision, and we are re-consulting on the closure, with the receiving school being Whitcliffe Mount.

It was explained that places would be guaranteed at Whitcliffe Mount for all middle school pupils, and that years 7 and 8 at Birkenshaw Middle are being given the option of transferring in September 2012. We don't have any concrete information on the free school.

The long term plan is for Whitcliffe Mount to be a 1500 place school. There could be a potential bulge of 1700+ initially. We can't predict numbers, however.

Numbers in north Kirklees are fairly buoyant, and are expected to be stable. Colleagues in PR&P are working on ensuring that the physical space is appropriate to house additional numbers.

Questions:

Q. What impact will Batley Grammar School have on their numbers?

It has a capacity of 84 in its secondary phase. Next year it is understood that this may potentially be able to increase to 112. It is complicated, as it has primary provision and these pupils are all

guaranteed a place in the secondary phase if they wish. Their admission policy at present is fair banding. The LA is encouraging them to be the co-ed establishment of choice for the Batley area, and so they are being asked to review their policy to take in the Birstall and north Batley areas. It is not anticipated that the school would impact on Cleckheaton.

Q. If the first school moves to the middle school site, what will happen to the first school site?

First of all, the LA would look at whether the site could be used for education purposes. If not, it would likely be disposed of. So it could be sold, but there are all kinds of planning issues in terms of how it could be used.

Q. When parents fill in the admission forms, why do they have to list three preferences? Confusing for parents.

The Admission Code says that parents are able to make at least three preferences. It is a complicated process as parents in some year groups in this area have many options to choose from. The LA has written to parents to clarify.

Q. Not much has been said about how the building will be addressed - parents are voicing concerns over some of the facilities at the school. The building lets us down.

Ofsted have confirmed the quality of education here. As pupils come and learn here and take their experiences home, this will break down perceptions.

The LA concluded by reminding staff of the closing date and encouraging them to respond. Councillors need to see all comments. It was reiterated that 1700 places does not amount to a large school by national standards, and this school has the strength of already managing large year group sizes.

The LA thanked the staff for attending, and the Head teacher thanked the LA for the meeting.