

**CABINET:** 4 April 2017

**Title of report:** Bringing together Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School- decision report

**1. Summary:** Final proposals to discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School and to establish a new, all through Church of England voluntary controlled Primary School for children aged 3 to 11 years with Nursery provision. To advise members on the outcome of the statutory processes for the related statutory proposals:

- The Diocesan Board Of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds
  - To establish a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school from 1st May 2017
- By Kirklees LA
  - To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017
  - To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

To advise members of the conclusions and recommendations of the School Organisation Advisory Group (SOAG) regarding the proposals. To advise that Members approve the related statutory proposals.

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</a>?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Date signed off by Director &amp; name</b>	Gill Ellis, (Jo-Anne Sanders) Director for Children's Services 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
<b>Is it also signed off by the Assistant Director for Financial Management, IT, Risk and Performance?</b>	Debbie Hogg (Philip Deighton) Assistant Director Resources – Financial, Risk, IT and Performance, 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2017
<b>Is it also signed off by the Assistant Director - Legal Governance and Monitoring?</b>	Julie Muscroft (John Chapman) – Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring -
<b>Cabinet member portfolio</b>	<b>Cllr Masood Ahmed Community Cohesion and Schools</b>

**Electoral wards affected:** Holme Valley North  
**Ward councillors consulted:** Yes

**Public or private:** Public

---

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

### **2.1 Background**

The establishment of all-through 4-11 primary schools is intended to improve the educational standards attained by children through better and more flexible management of learning, without a change of school at age 7. Single all-through institutions can establish longer term relationships with pupils and families, provide more opportunities for staff development and better manage resources to support learning.

### **2.2 The current pattern of primary schools in Honley**

- Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School provides education for 3 to 7 year olds (including 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years) with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 66 pupils per year group. Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School provides education for 7 to 11 year olds with a PAN of 68 pupils per year group.
- The schools are approximately a 4 minute walk away from one another.
- Both schools share the same Priority Admission Area (PAA) and serve the same community.

### **2.3 The proposal to develop an all-through primary school**

On 18th October 2016 Cabinet received a report which detailed proposals by the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees LA to create a new 'all-through' Church of England voluntary controlled primary school by bringing together Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School.

The new primary school would be in the existing buildings of Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School and cater for the same number of children as the current schools. The new all-through primary school would cater for pupils aged 4 to 11, with a PAN of 66 in KS1 and 68 in KS2, retaining the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4. There would be no automatic transfer from Nursery to the Reception class, parents/ carers would still need to complete an application form at the appropriate time.

'Bringing together' means the joining of two or more schools into one, with a single governing body and headteacher. The most equitable statutory route to achieve this outcome would be through the technical "closure" of both Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School and to immediately open a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school.

All the pupils who would be attending Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School would automatically become part of the primary school when the proposals were implemented.

Section 11 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 was amended by the Education Act 2011 and now permits proposals for Infant/Junior amalgamations or a new school

resulting from the reorganisation of existing faith schools in an area to be outside a competition process and Academy presumption.

Kirklees LA is working closely with the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds regarding the proposal affecting Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School and the proposal for a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school.

## 2.4 The statutory process regarding the related statutory proposals

School organisation decisions for Local Authority maintained schools have to follow a process set out by law. Kirklees Local Authority has had due regard to legislation and followed the 5-stage statutory process in respect of these proposals.

The five stages are:

- Consultation
- Publication
- Representation
- Decision
- Implementation

This report reviews the performance of the first three stages of the statutory process to confirm that they have been carried out in full compliance with the law and relevant DfE guidance.

The report then analyses the representations from interested parties submitted during the representation period using the main sections of the DfE Decision Makers Guidance.

The proposals and representations are presented for the consideration of decision makers so that they can then determine the linked proposals.

The Cabinet, as decision maker considering the proposals has to have regard to certain guidance issued by the DfE and this is appended to this report.

## 2.5 Consultation

Following the Cabinet decision on 18 October 2016, a 6 week (term time) statutory consultation about the linked proposals took place in collaboration with the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds, between 31st October 2016 and 9th December 2016 to seek the views of parents/carers, school staff, professionals, governors, pupils, the local community and other stakeholders. (See Appendix 1 for Consultation Document).

**On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 the Cabinet received the report of the outcomes of the consultation and agreed** in collaboration with the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds to proceed with the next stage of the statutory process, the publication of the related statutory proposals:

- To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School
- To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School
- To establish a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school

## 2.6 Publication and Representations

On 25th January 2017 the statutory notices were published in Huddersfield Examiner and copies of the notices were posted at the main entrance to the schools and in St Mary's Honley, Parochial Church Council. Appendix 2

From the publication date of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017, copies of the complete statutory proposals were available upon request from Kirklees School Organisation and Planning, Kirklees Council, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY. The statutory proposals are attached in Appendix 3

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 the representation period ended.

## **2.7 Decision: The role of the Kirklees School Organisation Advisory Group (SOAG)**

The Local Authority is the primary decision maker for school re-organisation proposals and under Kirklees arrangements, the Cabinet of Kirklees Council is the decision making body. Under School Organisation Regulations, if the Cabinet of Kirklees Council is unable to make a decision within 2 months of the end of the statutory representation period, then the decision passes to the Schools Adjudicator.

The Kirklees School Organisation Advisory Group (SOAG) was established by Cabinet on 12th September 2007 to advise the Cabinet on school organisation decision-making matters. The constitution and purpose of SOAG is attached at Appendix 4. SOAG exists to provide advice to Cabinet, but Cabinet is the Decision Maker

## **2.8 Review of the statutory process in relation to the related Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds and LA statutory proposals to establish a new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school and to discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School.**

Kirklees SOAG met on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to consider the statutory process and representations for the proposals and to formulate advice for the cabinet as decision makers. The notes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 4.

## **2.9 Representations received regarding the statutory process**

No representations have been received regarding the statutory process

## **2.10 Statutory Process Check**

The details relating to the statutory processes for the related statutory proposals are set out in the check sheets (see Appendix 5). The processes that were followed in relation to the proposals were checked with appropriate evidence that each point had been completed.

## **2.11 SOAG Conclusions:** The statutory notices, related statutory proposals and statutory processes are valid and within time limits

- The published notices comply with statutory requirements
- The statutory consultation has been carried out
- The Diocesan and LA proposals are related to each other but not related to any other proposals for any other school and are not related to any proposals published by the EFA. The proposals are valid and can be decided by the LA.
- The statutory 4 week period has been allowed for representation. No representations have been received during this period up to the publication of this report.

The decisions have been brought to the cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 within 2 months after the end of the statutory 4 week representation period on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

**SOAG advice:** Kirklees Council Cabinet are able to take a decision about the statutory proposals to establish a new Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and to discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School

## **2.12 SOAG review of the related proposals and representations using the DfE statutory guidance for decision makers**

### **Factors to be considered in making the decisions about the related statutory proposals.**

In order to support decision making by Cabinet, a range of factors have been considered. These factors are derived from the guidance issued by the Department for Education. School Organisation Maintained Schools. Annex B: Guidance for Decision Makers January 2014. Factors can vary depending upon the nature and type of proposals. The full list of factors is presented in Appendix 6, accompanied by responses to the relevant factors for these proposals. The relevant factors for these proposals are:

- a) Consideration of Consultation and Representation Period
- b) Education Standards and Diversity of Provision
- c) Demand
- d) School Size
- e) Proposed Admission Arrangements (Including Post 16 Provision)
- f) National Curriculum
- g) Equal Opportunity Issues
- h) Community Cohesion
- i) Travel and Accessibility
- j) Capital
- k) School Premises and Playing Fields
- l) Suitability
- m) Competition (Under Section 7 EIA 2006)
- n) Closure Proposals (Under S15 EIA 2006)
- o) Early Years Provision
- p) Balance of Denominational Provision
- q) Community Services

On 27th February 2017, SOAG examined the rationale for the proposals against each of the above factors. SOAG reviewed a statement of the rationale for the proposals for each section of the guidance.

#### **a) Consideration of Consultation and Representation Period- No representations received.**

Kirklees Local Authority has had due regard to legislation and followed the statutory process in respect of these proposals. New School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 came into force on 28 January 2014. The Council carried out a six week statutory consultation to ensure the maximum opportunity was available to all key stakeholders to understand and comment upon the statutory proposals, prior to their publication. On the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Kirklees Council's Cabinet (decision making authority) received the outcomes report of the statutory consultation and it was agreed to continue with the statutory process and commence with the publication of the related statutory notice and proposals.

The publication of the statutory notice, statutory proposals and representation period commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and ended on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 therefore lasting for a period of four weeks and meeting the requirements of School Organisation Regulations.

**b) Education Standards and Diversity of Provision- No representations received**

The proposal is for a technical closure of Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School to enable a new all-through primary school with nursery provision. There are strong collaborative partnerships between Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School, both schools working to provide the highest standard of learning experience to meet the needs of the pupils and the families of the local communities they serve.

The schools are approximately a 4 minute walk away from one another. Both schools share the same Priority Admission Area (PAA) and serve the same community. The vast majority of pupils usually transfer from the Infant and Nursery School to the Junior School and currently, at the end of Key Stage 1, have to apply for a place for their Key Stage 2 education.

This proposal has been developed in partnership with the governing bodies and senior leadership teams of Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior school.

Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School was inspected by Ofsted in March 2009 and the overall effectiveness was Outstanding. Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School was inspected by Ofsted in April 2014 and the overall effectiveness was Good.

The proposed establishment of an all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school, for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision in Honley, is intended to improve the educational standards attained by children. This is achieved through better and more flexible management of learning, without a change of school at age 7.

- Uninterrupted progress and continuity from early years to age 11. (Although it must be noted that transition from the nursery to reception is not automatic and a statutory school place must be applied for through the normal admissions process)
- A wider range of learning resources can be shared and the greater curriculum flexibility makes it easier to tailor learning experiences to meet individual needs - this is particularly important for children with Special Educational Needs.
- A wider age range of pupils can give more opportunities for social development which can raise self-esteem and help to promote responsible behaviour.
- Longer term relationships between the school, parents, carers and outside agencies to support pupils effectively from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Year 6.
- Staff have longer to get to know the children and the consistency of staffing and provision for children gives greater security for parents and carers.
- Children can attend the same school as older or younger siblings for longer. A single leadership team and governing body gives:

- consistency in terms of policies, practice, standards and expectations;
- clear improvement priorities;
- common approaches to curriculum planning, assessment and target setting;
- staff working within a larger team have more opportunities to take on responsibilities and undertake professional development;
- more effective use of the accommodation, facilities and resources - reduced duplication and economies of scale.

It is possible to amalgamate Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School, resulting in a new voluntary controlled Church of England primary school as there is a reorganisation of Church of England voluntary controlled places as well as bringing together separate Junior and Infant and Nursery schools.

**c) Demand – no representation received**

The places in the Infant and Junior Schools would be replaced directly with places in the proposed new school, so that there would be no displacement of pupils. There is a clear need for places in the area. The proposed closure is not intended to change the number of places available but to enable the direct replacement of places in closing the school with places in the proposed new school.

**d) School Size- no representations received**

The new primary school would be in the existing buildings of Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School and cater for the same number of children as the current schools with an admission number of 66 places in Key Stage 1 and 68 places in Key Stage 2, preserving 470 primary school places, with 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years.

**e) Proposed Admission Arrangements (Including Post 16 Provision) – No representations received**

The proposed new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school would have a published admission number of 66 places in Key Stage 1 and 68 places in Key Stage 2, preserving 470 primary school places, with 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years. The admissions policy for the proposed new school would be fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code.

The Council would consider all admissions applications, including any received from other Local Authorities. If there are fewer applicants than there are places available, everyone who applies would be offered a place. When there are more applicants than there are places available there has to be a way of deciding which children are offered places. This is done by having admission criteria, also known as oversubscription criteria, which are considered in order.

For children of statutory school age, Kirklees admission (over subscription criteria) criteria for voluntary controlled schools are: 1. Children in public care (looked after children) or a child who was previously looked after; 2. Children who live in the school's Priority Admission Area (PAA) who have a brother or sister attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule); 3. Children who live in the school's PAA; 4. Children who live outside the school's PAA who have a brother or sister attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule); 5. Children who live outside the school's PAA.

For nursery children the school control their own admission policy. Schools will admit children with statements of special educational needs where the statement names the school. It is not proposed to give priority for admissions to pupils on any religious grounds.

The proposed new all-through voluntary controlled primary school with nursery provision would retain the same level and scope of early year's provision to that which is currently provided by Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School. This means that the proposed new all-through voluntary controlled Primary School with nursery provision would provide the following level of early year's provision: Provide 48 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years). The length of sessions would be the same as offered now by Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School. The provision would be fully inclusive, but there is no proposed specialised provision reserved for children with special educational needs.

**f) National Curriculum – no representations received**

The proposed all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school, for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision, would meet the general requirements of the National Curriculum including the Early Years Foundation Stage.

**g) Equal Opportunity Issues – no representations received**

A full equalities impact assessment (EIA) has been completed and can be found here: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/youkmc/deliveringServices/impactAssessments/impactassessments.aspprior>

The EIA demonstrates that due regard has been taken and that the proposals would have little, if any adverse impact from an equalities perspective.

The ethnicity profile of the pupil cohorts that would attend the proposed all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school, for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision, is expected to be very similar to the existing cohorts at Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School. This is because children attending the schools currently would automatically become part of the proposed all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school. The school would provide co-educational places and be all inclusive. The proposal would have no adverse impact on sexual orientation given the new school is proposed to be co-educational. There would be no adverse impact on any children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) as any such children attending one of the schools now would automatically become part of the proposed new school. In addition, any new children with SEN would be considered for admission in to the proposed new school in the normal way. Therefore it is considered the proposal is not discriminatory and does support the advancement of equality of opportunity.

**h) Community Cohesion – no representations received**

The proposals are intended to have a positive impact on the community; the all-through primary school would have an important role in the local community, as do the existing two schools at present. The proposals aim to build on the existing strengths of the schools. The all-through school would ensure that there are sufficient places for children from the local community. The school would continue to be a focal point for the community and be integral in ensuring local educational provision works effectively with local organisations and groups. As the work to



develop Community Hubs continues there may be opportunities in the future to provide services in different ways.

**i) Travel and Accessibility – no representations received**

The current buildings on School Street and Jaggar Lane would continue to be used therefore travel arrangements are not affected

**j) Capital– no representations received**

There are no capital implications arising from this proposal

**k) School Premises and Playing Fields – no representations received**

The proposed all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school, for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision, would continue to use the existing sites therefore use the same school premises and playing fields. There is no proposed encroachment on to any existing playing field given that there is no requirement for any physical expansion as a result of implementation of these proposals. Pupils attending the proposed new school would continue to have access to a mix of hard standing and playing field provision that currently exists across the two schools.

**l) Suitability– no representations received**

The new school would preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The school would aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. It would encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. The Diocesan Board Of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council are committed to the newly created school being distinctive and inclusive in supporting all children and their families in learning and development.

**m) Competition (Under Section 7 Eia 2006) – no representations received**

The proposal is to establish a new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision

Section 11

Any persons ('proposer') e.g. LA or diocese may publish a proposal, at any time, for a new school outside of the free school presumption and competitions process under section 11 of Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The Secretary of State's consent is not required in the case of proposals for:

- a new community or foundation primary school to replace a maintained infant and a maintained junior school;
- a new voluntary-aided school in order to meet demand for a specific type of place e.g. places to meet demand from those of a particular faith;
- a new foundation or voluntary school resulting from the reorganisation of existing faith schools in an area, including an existing faith school losing or changing its religious designation;
- a new foundation or community school, where there were no suitable free school proposals and a competition has been held but did not identify a suitable provider;
- a former independent school wishing to join the maintained sector; and
- a new LA maintained nursery school.

(Department for Education Guidance: 2016)

Department for Education Guidance explains that there are two ways to 'merge' or 'amalgamate' two or more existing maintained schools:

*The LA or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close two (or more) schools and the LA or a proposer other than the LA (e.g. diocese, faith or parent group, Trust) depending on category, can publish a proposal to open a new school. This results in a new school number being issued.*

*The LA and/or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close one school (or more) and enlarge/change the age range/transfer site (following a statutory process as/when necessary) of an existing school, to accommodate the displaced pupils. The remaining school would retain its original school number, as it is not a new school, even if its phase has changed.*  
(Department for Education Guidance: 2016)

The most equitable way to amalgamate Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School would be to establish a new replacement school. Therefore, the linked statutory proposals that would be required to bring the schools together are:

*The Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds would propose a new replacement all-through Church of England primary school. The new school would continue in the existing buildings and on the same sites.*

*The LA would propose the technical 'closure' of Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School.*

**n) Closure Proposals (Under S15 Eia 2006) – no representations received**

There would be no displaced pupils should the proposals be approved for implementation. All the pupils attending Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School would automatically become part of the proposed new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school with nursery provision on the 1st May 2017. Pupils at Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School would remain in the same buildings as they are currently.

This proposal does not intend to add more capacity in the area but retain the same number of places.

The new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school will cater for pupils aged 3 to 11, with a PAN of 66 for Key Stage 1, a PAN of 68 for Key Stage 2 and retaining the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years.

**o) Early Years Provision– no representations received**

The proposed new all-through voluntary controlled primary school with nursery provision would retain the same level and scope of early year's provision to that which is currently provided by Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School. This means that the proposed new all-through voluntary controlled Primary School, with nursery provision would provide the

following level of early year's provision:

Provide 48 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years). The length of sessions would be the same as offered now by Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School. The provision would be fully inclusive, but there is no proposed specialised provision reserved for children with special educational needs.

The proposed new all-through voluntary controlled Primary School with nursery provision, would build on the existing strengths and the strong working relationship between Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School to successfully integrate early year's provision within an all-through setting and form a closer, more effective working relationship until the end of Key Stage 2.

There is demand for early year's places in the area as can be evidenced via the take up of existing places at Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School. There is a requirement in the area for additional places to meet the future demand associated with "30 hours free childcare" as per the evidence presented in the Kirklees Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016.

As the proposal is for a technical closure linked to the establishment of identical replacement early years provision the impact on children and families is considered to be minimal. The impact on other local providers both in and outside of the school sector is also considered to be minimal. Given the nature of the proposal detailed assessments of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools, and in settings outside of the maintained school sector which deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within three miles of the school has not been considered beyond that which is contained in the Kirklees Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016.

Outside the scope of these proposals a number of options are being explored about how best to meet the evidence of future demand for early years and childcare places in the area.

**p) Balance of Denominational Provision– no representations received**

The number of denominational places would remain the same as the Infant School and Junior School are both Church of England Schools. The schools are well supported by local families. Numbers of pupils on roll have remained stable at or near capacity and are projected to stay at this level in the immediate future. Almost all pupils transfer directly from the infant school to the junior school at the start of Year 3 and so there should be no direct impact on parental choice. No comments were received in consultation referring to any concerns about the denominational nature of the proposed new school.

It is proposed that the closure of Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery school and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School would be linked to the establishment of the proposed new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school, with nursery provision. Early years and key stage one would remain on the same site. Denominational provision for infant and junior school age pupils in the area would be maintained and there should be no impact on parental choice. The new school would preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish

and Diocesan level. The school would aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. It would encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Church of England Diocese of Leeds Board of Education and Kirklees Council are committed to the newly created school being distinctive and inclusive in supporting all children and their families in learning and development. It would ensure equality of opportunity and work to remove any barrier to success. Leeds Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council believe that combining the ethos and values of the school and the other schools that are subject to this proposal, to form the ethos and values of the new school would impact positively on teaching and learning, provide a firm foundation for culture of continuous, sustained improvement, and to offer an exciting and innovative opportunity for the whole school community.

**q) Community Services– no representations received**

The proposed new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision would continue to be a focal point for the community and be integral in ensuring local educational provisions work effectively both with each other as well as with local organisations and groups. As the work to develop Community Hubs continues there may be opportunities in the future to provide services in different ways.

## **2.13 SOAG conclusions for decision makers**

The decision maker can make one of four types of decision for the statutory proposals:

- reject the proposals;
- approve the proposals without modification;
- approve the proposals with a modification, having consulted the LA and/or governing body of both schools (as appropriate);or
- approve the proposals with or without modification subject to certain prescribed events (such as the granting of planning permission) being met.

## **2.14 SOAG agreed that:**

The statutory process had enabled a detailed presentation of the statutory proposals :

- To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School
- To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School
- To establish a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school

The rationale for the proposals had been clearly articulated against the factors in the decision maker's guidance. Issues raised in the statutory consultation had been presented for consideration against the decision maker's guidance. (see Appendix 4 - Notes of SOAG meeting held on the 27th February 2017)

## **3. Implications for the Council**

### **3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)**

Both schools are already working with the schools as community hubs programme to support people to live the lives they want, with support from the council only when needed. This helps people in the most appropriate way with the money available. Ensuring every child has the best start in life promotes social mobility.

### **3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)**

We want Kirklees to be a place where local people have the chance to develop skills and where communities have good employment opportunities and wages. Schools and early learning provision are where children start their lifelong learning journey and the services they provide enable parents to work. In line with this we are committed to ensuring there are enough high quality school and early learning places in the areas where communities and families need them. These proposals help secure the future for high quality school and early learning places in the Honley area.

### **3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children**

Bringing together schools has a number of contributing factors related to outcomes for children:

- Strongly supporting the continued improvement in educational standards for children, consolidating existing strengths and reducing a transition point between KS1 and KS2
- The reduction in transition point and greater consistency can be particularly beneficial for children with SEN
- A larger more financially resilient organisation can use economies of scale to direct more resources toward learning activities and improving outcomes for children

### **3.4 Reducing demand for services**

Supporting families early decreases the need for costly interventions. The school's continued work with the schools as community hubs programme will contribute towards this. Having one larger school to work with rather than two will have a positive impact on the demand for council services.

## **4. Consultees and their opinions**

A statutory consultation was carried out in partnership by the Kirklees LA and Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds, between 31st October 2016 and 9th December 2016. On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 the Cabinet received the report of the outcomes of the consultation and the views expressed by stakeholders during this consultation are described in detail in that Cabinet report. The Cabinet, in collaboration with the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds, agreed to proceed with the statutory processes for the proposals to

- To establish a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school
- To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School
- To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School

During the 4 week representation period, no representations were received.

## 5. Next steps

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Cabinet Report seeking permission to begin consultation as part of the statutory processes	18th October 2016
6 week statutory consultation collaboration with the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds	31st October - 9th December 2016
Outcome report to cabinet and approval to next stage*	17th January 2017
Publication of notices and 4 week representation period*	25 <sup>th</sup> January – 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017
Final decision by Cabinet*	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Implementation*	From 1st May 2017

## 6. Officer recommendations and reasons

### **It is recommended that Members:-**

- A. Note the advice of Kirklees SOAG that the related proposals to establish a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school to discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and to discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School are valid and that the required statutory processes have been carried out.
- B. Agree that in their role as decision makers, they will take the decision regarding the proposals within the statutory time period.
- C. Acknowledge the outcomes and recommendations of the Kirklees SOAG meeting from 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and the associated officer recommendations for the proposals.
- D. Note the HR and financial implications of approving the proposals.
- E. Confirm that in meeting the obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty 2011 full regard has been given to the Equalities Impact Assessment throughout the statutory process for the proposal including the decision regarding approval.

### **It is recommended that Members approve without modification or condition the related statutory proposals**

By Kirklees LA to:

- i. To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- ii. To discontinue Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

By Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds:

- iii. To establish a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school to cater for pupils aged 4 to 11, with a PAN of 66 for Key Stage 1 and a PAN of 68 for Key Stage 2. Retain the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years on 1 May 2017

The related proposals should be approved for the following reasons:

- To improve the provision for all children and recognise the value and popularity of the schools with parents and the community;
- To strongly support the continued improvement in standards for children at the schools and to consolidate and extend the existing strengths of the schools to reduce transitional stage between KS1 to KS2;
- To assure and maintain places for local children in the proposed new school and maintain the existing services for the local community;
- To assure places for all children in the all through primary school without any displacement of pupils and to meet the continuing need for places in the area;
- To assure and maintain places for local children in the all through primary school and to maintain the existing services for the community;
- To have no effect on car usage as the same two locations for the all through primary school will be used and allow the current school travel plan to continue and to maintain and enhance access to opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area, while ensuring that such opportunities are open to all;
- To continue and enhance the provision currently available at the two schools;
- To meet the criteria of the DfE SEN improvement test. The proposed primary school will result in reducing the number of transition points, which is likely to improve the outcomes for all pupils with SEN;
- To support the efficient and effective use of revenue funding and existing school site and premises in meeting the needs of pupils;
- To provide opportunities for improving consistency and transition and allow both schools and staff to progress and develop.

It is recommended that Members request officers to support and work proactively with the Governing Bodies of Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School, and the Governing Body of Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School to finalise arrangements for pupils, parents, staff and other stakeholders in order to sensitively manage changes to implement the proposals from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

## **7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation**

We are committed to improve the quality of education in our primary schools to give every child the best possible start. Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School are geographically very close together, serving the same community, which already have close working relationships and could be easily developed into an all-through primary school to cater for pupils aged 4 to 11, with a PAN of 66 for Key Stage 1 and a PAN of 68 for Key Stage 2 and retain the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years.

The feedback received during the statutory process confirmed that there is support from local stakeholders and we are pleased to be collaborating with the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds as part of these proposals. We are keen that the highest quality provision is available fairly to all children to ensure that they have the very best educational experience.

The proposals to bring together Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School into one organisation are intended to make sure that families would gain the advantages of having a single school which would build on the strengths that currently exist.

For these reasons we support the officer recommendations to approve the proposals and would want to ensure that collectively the Council, school leaders, governing bodies and the Diocese work with local families to prepare for the amalgamation to be implemented.

**8. Contact officer**

Martin Wilby

Acting Deputy Assistant Directory - Learning & Skills – LA Statutory Duties  
Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY  
01484 221000

[martin.wilby@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:martin.wilby@kirklees.gov.uk)

**9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Cabinet report:

[18 October 2016](#) - The report requests approval to carry out a Statutory consultation on proposals to bring together Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School to form a single Church of England voluntary controlled primary school for pupils aged 3 -11 years

Cabinet report:

[17 January 2017](#)- Report on the outcomes of the statutory consultation on proposals to bring together Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England voluntary controlled Junior School to form a single Church of England voluntary controlled primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years

**10. Assistant Director responsible**

Jo-Anne Sanders

Acting Assistant Director-Learning & Skills  
Civic Centre 3, Market Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2EY  
01484 221000

[jo-anne.sanders@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:jo-anne.sanders@kirklees.gov.uk)



Statutory consultation on:

**Proposals to bring together Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School and Honley CE (VC) Junior School to form a single Church of England voluntary controlled primary school for pupils aged 3 -11 years**

Please tell us your views on our proposals.

This consultation document tells you the reason for our proposal and how the decision making process works.

Please take time to read it and let us know your views. Comments can be made on the response form at the back of this booklet.

The closing date for responses is  
**9 December 2016**

## Welcoming your views

We want to know your views about the proposal to develop an all-through Church of England primary school by bringing together Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School and Honley CE (VC) Junior School:

- to cater for pupils aged 3 to 11
- with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 66 for 4-7 year olds and 68 for 7-11 year olds, retaining 470 primary school places
- retaining the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years

'Bringing together' means joining both schools into one, with a single governing body and headteacher. Technically, the proposal involves closing Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School and Honley CE (VC) Junior School and replacing them with a single Church of England primary school proposed by Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds. If the two schools become one, they would continue to operate in their existing buildings.

## What would happen to current pupils at the schools?

All the pupils attending Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School and Honley CE (VC) Junior School would automatically become part of the primary school if the proposals were implemented. Separate admissions applications at age seven will not be necessary and any uncertainty about transfer between the schools would be removed. There would be no automatic transfer from Nursery to the Reception class, parents/ carers would still need to complete an application form at the appropriate time.

## Leeds Diocesan Board of Education

The members of the Leeds Diocesan Board of Education are pleased to propose a new 3-11 years Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary school in Honley, to continue and enhance its provision of an effective, distinctive education for the children and families of the local community.

The Board of Education welcomes and supports the collaborative way in which the proposals have been developed between Honley CE VC Infant & Nursery and Honley CE VC Junior schools, Kirklees Council and the Diocese. Members look forward to continuing to contribute to this partnership, building upon the strengths of both current schools, in order to secure the best progress and outcomes for our children as pupils of the new all through 3-11 Primary School.

## What would the Admissions Policy be for the all-through school?

As a voluntary controlled school, the primary school would continue to operate admissions in line with the Kirklees Council policy and the existing Priority Admission Area (PAA) would stay the same as it is now.

## What would happen to staff and governors?

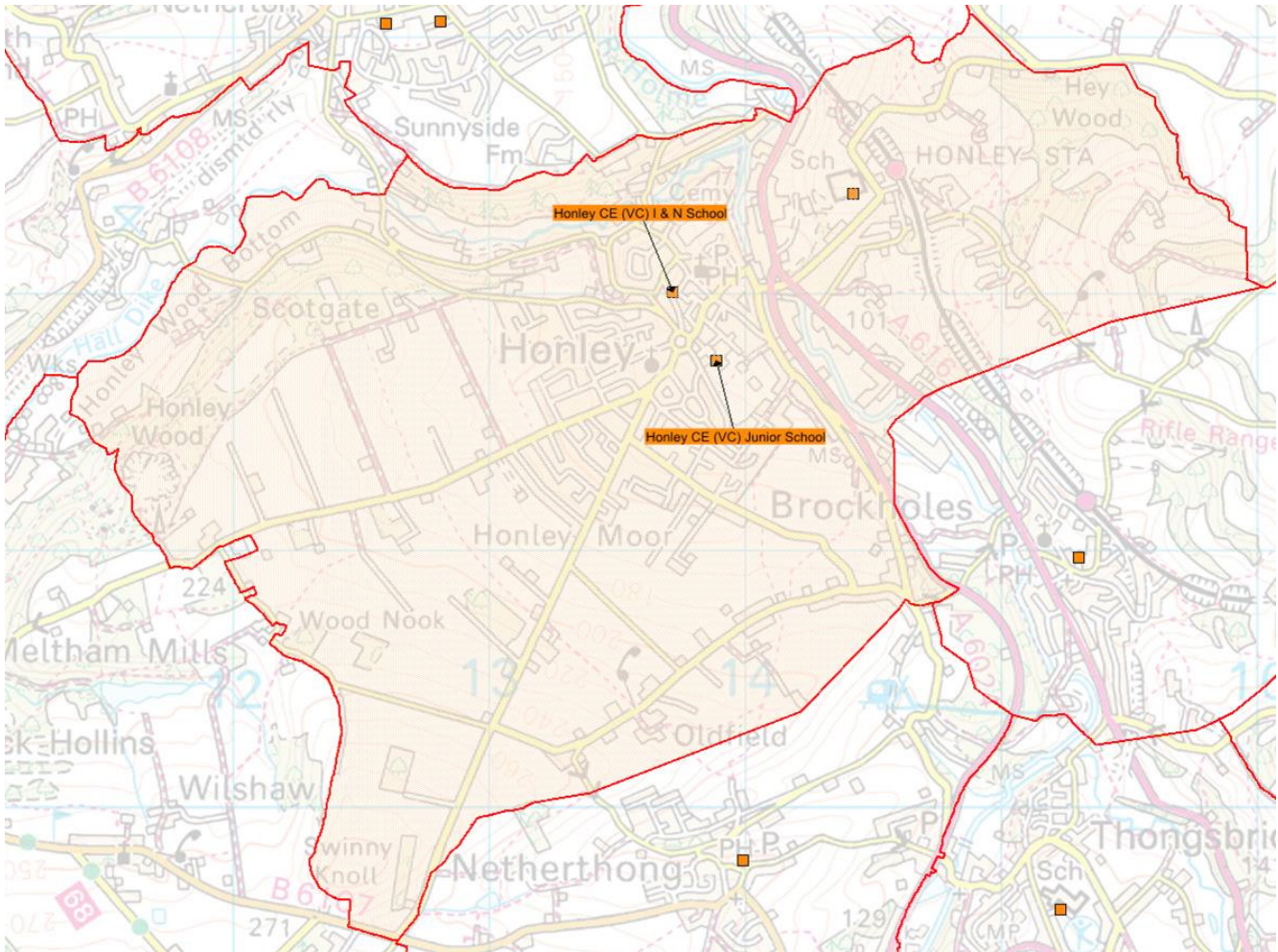
Staff would be organised within the new school to support the needs of the children and the community. Any future changes to the staffing structure would be fully consulted on and approved by the governing body of the new school.

If the decision is made to go ahead with the proposals, the existing governing bodies will continue to govern their separate schools until the implementation date, as well as working jointly towards the all-through school by setting up a temporary governing body. The temporary governing body would be made up from members of the governing bodies of each of the existing schools. It would be responsible for working on the staffing structure and the preparations for a smooth transition to ensure that the all through primary school makes a good start.

## Why create an all-through primary school?

It is generally accepted that all-through primary schools offer advantages when compared with separate infant and junior schools. The benefits include:

- uninterrupted progress and continuity from early years to age 11
- a wider range of learning resources can be shared and the greater curriculum flexibility makes it easier to tailor learning experiences to meet individual needs - this is particularly important for children with Special Educational Needs
- a wider age range of pupils can give more opportunities for social development which can raise self-esteem and help to promote responsible behaviour
- longer term relationships between the school, parents, carers and outside agencies to support pupils effectively from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Year 6
- staff have longer to get to know the children and the consistency of staffing and provision for children gives greater security for parents and carers
- children can attend the same school as older or younger brothers and sisters for longer
- a single leadership team and governing body gives:
  - consistency in terms of policies, practice, standards and expectations
  - clear improvement priorities
  - common approaches to curriculum planning, assessment and target setting
  - staff working within a larger team have more opportunities to take on responsibilities and undertake professional development
  - more effective use of the accommodation, facilities and resources - reduced duplication and economies of scale



## What happens next?

The consultation is open from 31 October until 9 December 2016. You have until 9 December to express your views. Once the consultation has finished, all feedback received will be reported to, and considered by the Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council's Cabinet (the council's main decision making body). They will then decide whether to move to the next stage. This would mean the publication of legal notices and a further opportunity to view the proposals and comment on them. The table shows the next steps involved in the process.

Activity	Date
Report to Cabinet to approve statutory consultation	18 October 2016
Consultation and engagement	31 October until 9 December 2016
Outcome report to Cabinet and Diocese for approval to next stage*	Early January 2017
Publication of legal notices and representation period*	January till February 2017
Decision by Cabinet (within 2 months)*	April 2017
Implementation*	1 May 2017

*\*These dates are subject to Cabinet approval and may change.*

## Consultation events

The following informal 'drop in' events are open to everybody: families of pupils attending the schools, members of the community and anyone who would like to hear more and discuss the proposals. Please come along and see us anytime between the times below.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>17 November 2016</b>	<b>Honley CE (VC) I and N School</b>	<b>6pm – 7pm</b>
<b>18 November 2016</b>	<b>Honley CE (VC) Junior School</b>	<b>2pm – 3pm</b>

In addition to these events there will be opportunities for consultation with staff and governors. Officers will be present to answer questions and hear your views. Kirklees Council wants to know what you think.

You can take part in the consultation on our website at

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

Alternatively, you can complete the response form at the back of this document.

## Response Form

Please return this form or a letter:

**By post:** FREEPOST, Kirklees Council, RTBS-CYHU-LSEC,  
School Organisation and Planning Team.  
(Postage is free; you do not need a stamp)

**In person:** At one of the consultation drop-in sessions or hand it in to the school.

**Online:** You can also take part in the consultation on our website:  
**[www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation)**

**Email:** Please note that you can contact us via email should you have any queries regarding this proposal. Please send your emails to  
**[school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk)**

Please make sure you respond by **9 December 2016** to ensure that your views are heard.



# Proposal

**Q) Do you support or oppose the proposals to bring together Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School and Honley CE (VC) Junior School to form a single Church of England voluntary controlled primary school for pupils aged 3 to 11?**

Please ✓ tick one of these boxes.

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

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

# About you

This section asks you for some information that will help us to analyse the results of the survey and to see who has taken part. You will not be identified by any of the information that you provide.

I am a: (please tick ✓ and complete all those that apply to you)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent/carer	Your child's/children's school/s:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil	Your school:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Governor	Your school:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of staff	Your school:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local resident	Please tell us:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Please tell us:

Please write in your postcode:

(We will not use this information to contact you)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--





**Linked proposal to establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years and to close Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School.**

**1) Linked proposal to establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years.**

Notice is given that the Church of England, Diocese of Leeds, Church House, 17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX intends to establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school under section 11 (2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

- To establish a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school to cater for pupils aged 4 to 11, with a PAN of 66 for Key Stage 1 and a PAN of 68 for Key Stage 2; to retain the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years.
- To establish a new “all-through” primary school using the existing buildings on School Street and Jaggar Lane.
- To remove transition for children at age 7 from an Infant School to a Junior School

It is proposed that the new school will open on 1 May 2017. The proposed school would bring together and replace Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School. The school would serve the Honley community as defined by the current Priority Admission Area for the existing schools.

The proposed school would have a Church of England religious character and it is confirmed that, as Proposer, the Church of England Leeds Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds intends to ask the Secretary of State for Education to designate the school as a school with religious character.

There is no proposal for the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school to have specific provision reserved for pupils with specific special educational needs.

Kirklees admission criteria for Voluntary Controlled schools are: **1.** Children in public care (looked after children) or a child who was previously looked after; **2.** Children who live in the school's Priority Admission Area (PAA) who have a brother or sister attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule); **3.** Children who live in the school's PAA; **4.** Children who live outside the school's PAA who have a brother or sister attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule); **5.** Children who live outside the school's PAA. It is not proposed to give priority for admissions to pupils on religious grounds.

There would be no change to the travel arrangements for existing or future pupils as the new school will occupy the same premises as the existing two schools.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Dr Richard Noake, Diocesan Director of Education, Church House, 17-19 York Place, Leeds, S1 2EX or Kirklees Council School Organisation and Planning Team, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY

**2) Linked proposal to close Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School** Notice is given in accordance with Section 15 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kirklees Council, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY intends to discontinue Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School, School Street, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6AU a Voluntary Controlled school, on 30 April 2017.

This proposal is related to proposal (1) above to establish a new Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school in the same premises and proposal (3) below, to discontinue Honley CE (VC) Junior School

All pupils would be transferred onto the roll of the new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school on 1 May 2017. The proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school would use the same premises as the existing buildings, therefore there are no travel implications arising from this proposal.

There is no specialised provision reserved for pupils with special educational needs at this school. Statutory consultation requirements relating to this proposal have been complied with.

### **3) Linked proposal to close Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School**

Notice is given in accordance with Section 15 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kirklees Council, Kirkgate Buildings; Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY intends to discontinue Honley CE (VC) Junior School, Jaggar Lane, Honley, Holmfirth, Huddersfield, HD9 6BT, a voluntary controlled, on 30 April 2017.

This proposal is related to proposal (1) above to establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school in the same premises and proposal (2) above, to discontinue Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School

All pupils would be transferred onto the roll of the new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school on 1 May 2017. The proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school would use the same premises as the existing buildings, therefore there are no travel implications arising from this proposal.

There is no specialised provision reserved for pupils with special educational needs at this school. Statutory consultation requirements relating to this proposal have been complied with.

All applicable statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with. The proposals within this notice are related and are reliant upon each other, therefore they have been considered together during the statutory consultation period. This notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: Kirklees Council, School Organisation and Planning Team, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY. Tel: 01484 221000. Copies of the full proposals are available on the Kirklees Council website [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals i.e. 22/02/2017 any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to, Director for Director for Children's Services, c/o Kirklees Council, School Organisation and Planning Team, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY, or via Council email at: [school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk)

**Signed: Richard Noake, Diocesan Director of Education**

**Signed: Director for Children's Services, Kirklees Council**

**Publication Date: 25/01/2017**

## **PART 1: Proposal to discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School on 30th April 2017**

Information specified in Schedule 2 of The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013.

### **Contact Details**

1. The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the proposals and the name, address and category of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Kirklees Council, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY intends to discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School, School Street, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6AU. A Voluntary Controlled School

### **Implementation**

2. The date on which it is proposed to close the school, or where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.

It is proposed to discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### **Reason for Closure**

3. A statement explaining the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.

The proposal is for a technical closure of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School to enable a new all-through primary school with nursery provision to be established as described in Part 3 of this proposal. There are strong collaborative partnerships between Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School, both schools working to provide the highest standard of learning experience to meet the needs of the pupils and the families of the local communities they serve. This proposal has been developed in partnership with the governing bodies and senior leadership teams of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior school.

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School was inspected by Ofsted in March 2009 and the overall effectiveness was Outstanding.

*“Achievement is outstanding. Children's attainment on entry to the Nursery class is typical of that age. Good progress is made in both the Nursery and Reception classes, so by the time children enter Year 1 they are working at levels above those expected. The rate of progress picks up pace further in Key Stage 1 for all, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. By the end of Year 2, children are working at levels well above those expected nationally in reading, writing and mathematics. In addition, children's performance in other subjects is well above that expected. Children make outstanding progress because of first-rate teaching and an excellent curriculum, which considerably furthers their personal development as well as their academic achievement. Teaching is imaginative and links between subjects enable children to transfer and practise their skills. Although teachers encourage children to assess what they do well and how to improve in most subjects, this does not happen often enough in their written work.”*

*“Outstanding leadership and management are at the heart of this dynamic school. It is*

*visionary, committed leadership and a determination to be the best that makes it so successful. The school is the hub of the village and church community.”*  
(Ofsted 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009)

The council has a policy to explore opportunities for reducing transition points, and has worked with school leadership, the governing bodies. The Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds is working in partnership with the Local Authority. The Church of England Diocese of Leeds would act as the proposer of the new all-through primary school that would effectively reduce transition points between key stages of education.

The educational benefits of all-through Primary Schools:

- Uninterrupted progress and continuity from early years to age 11. (Although it must be noted that transition from the nursery to reception is not automatic and a statutory school place must be applied for through the normal admissions process)
- A wider range of learning resources can be shared and the greater curriculum flexibility makes it easier to tailor learning experiences to meet individual needs - this is particularly important for children with Special Educational Needs.
- A wider age range of pupils can give more opportunities for social development which can raise self-esteem and help to promote responsible behaviour.
- Longer term relationships between the school, parents, carers and outside agencies to support pupils effectively from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Year 6.
- Staff have longer to get to know the children and the consistency of staffing and provision for children gives greater security for parents and carers.
- Children can attend the same school as older or younger siblings for longer.
- A single leadership team and governing body gives:
  - consistency in terms of policies, practice, standards and expectations;
  - clear improvement priorities;
  - common approaches to curriculum planning, assessment and target setting;
  - staff working within a larger team have more opportunities to take on responsibilities and undertake professional development;
  - more effective use of the accommodation, facilities and resources - reduced duplication and economies of scale.

#### **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

4. The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.

For the October 2016 school census number on roll for 3-7 year old at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School was 217 (118 boys and 99 girls). The provision at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School is inclusive but does not include specialist services for children with a disability. There are no boarding pupils at the school.

#### **Displaced Pupils**

5. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

There would be no displaced pupils should the proposals be approved for implementation. All the pupils attending Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery

School would automatically become part of the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school with nursery provision on the 1st May 2017. Pupils at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School would remain in the same building as they are in currently.

This proposal does not intend to add more capacity in the area but retain the same number of places.

The new Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school will cater for pupils aged 3 to 11, with a PAN of 66 for Key Stage 1, a PAN of 68 for Key Stage 2 and retaining the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years

6. Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including:
- (a) any interim arrangements;
  - (b) the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and
  - (c) in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school.

All the pupils who attend Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017 would automatically become part of the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school with nursery provision. Pupils would be entitled to a place at the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school with nursery provision up to the age of 11.

This does not affect the right of parents or carers to seek admission to other schools which have places available.

There is no specialised provision reserved for pupils with special educational needs at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School is not a special school.

7. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

With reference to item 5 and 6 above there would be no net loss of places in Honley. The number of places would remain the same.

### **Impact on the Community**

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The proposals are intended to have a positive impact on the community; the all-through primary school would have an important role in the local community, as do the existing two schools now. The proposals aim to build on the existing strengths of the schools. The all-through school would ensure that there are sufficient places for children from the local community. The school would continue to be a focal point for the community and be integral in ensuring local educational provision works effectively with local organisations and groups. As the work to develop Community Hubs continues there may be

opportunities in the future to provide services in different ways.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

9. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be considered section 15(4).

Under The Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) 2014 Order, Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School is not designated a Rural School.

### **Balance of Denominational Provision**

10. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

It is proposed that the closure of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School would be linked to the establishment of the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school, with nursery provision. Early years and key stage one would remain on the same site. Denominational provision for infant school age pupils in the area would be maintained and there should be no impact on parental choice. The new school would preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The school would aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. It would encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. The Diocesan Board Of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council are committed to the newly created school being distinctive and inclusive in supporting all children and their families in learning and development. There is a common agreement that the school would be welcoming and accessible to the wider community. It would ensure equality of opportunity and work to remove any barrier to success. The Diocesan Board Of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council consider that combining the ethos and values of the school and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School, to form the ethos and values of the new school would impact positively on teaching and learning, provide a firm foundation for culture of continuous, sustained improvement, and to offer an exciting and innovative opportunity for the whole school community.

### **Maintained Nursery Schools**

11. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:
- (a) the local authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
  - (b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School is not a maintained nursery school.

### **Sixth Form Provision**

12. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, the effect for 16 to 19 year olds in the area that the closure will have in respect of :
- (a) their educational or training achievements;
  - (b) their participation in education or training; and
  - (c) the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School do not have sixth form provision.

### Special Educational Provision

13. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School has no specialised provision reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

### Travel

14. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision

The current building on School Street would continue to be used and therefore travel arrangements are not affected.

15. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

With reference to item 14 above – not applicable.

### Consultation

16. Decision-makers will need to be assured that consultation has taken place, and that the statutory process has been adhered to. Therefore proposals should include evidence that the period of statutory consultation took place, and the results of that consultation.

A six week statutory consultation took place between 31 October 2016 and 9 December 2016. Consultation documents were written and produced with due regard to The School Organisation (Opening and closing maintained schools) (England) Regulations 2016. Consultation documents were made widely available. Consultation documents were sent to the families of pupils, governors and staff at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School, and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School. Copies of the consultation document were also sent to elected members, Trade Union representatives, neighbouring local authorities, local community groups and to interested officers from across the Council. The consultation document was also made available on the Council's website. The Council held two 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). 900 consultation documents were distributed, 45 responses were received from parents and carers, governors, staff and other stakeholders. In addition, meetings have been held with staff and governors of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School.

The conclusion to be drawn from the statutory consultation is that there is a good level of support from the large majority of respondents for bringing together the two schools and establishing an all-through primary school for 3-11 year olds in order to remove the



transition at age 7 and bring greater continuity. The schools serve the same families in the community and almost all children at the infant school move to the junior school. By bringing the schools together there will be greater consistency and sharing of resources across both sites. The relatively low number of respondents indicates that the proposals are not contentious. Concerns raised, such as questions about staffing structures, job security and new uniforms, can be effectively managed during a transition period.

For further information please use the link below to access the report for the consultation that was decided on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017. <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/cabinet>

## **PART 2: Proposal to discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School on 30th April 2017**

Information specified in Schedule 2 of The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013.

### **Contact Details**

1. The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the proposals and the name, address and category of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Kirklees Council, Kirkgate Buildings, Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BY intends to discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School, Jaggarr Lane, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6BT. A Voluntary Controlled School.

### **Implementation**

2. The date on which it is proposed to close the school, or where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.

It is proposed to discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School on the 30th April 2017

### **Reason for Closure**

3. A statement explaining the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.

The proposal is for a technical closure of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School to enable a new all-through primary school with nursery provision to be established as described in Part 3 of this proposal. There are strong collaborative partnerships between Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School, both schools working to provide the highest standard of learning experience to meet the needs of the pupils and the families of the local communities they serve. This proposal has been developed in partnership with the governing bodies and senior leadership teams of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School was Inspected by Ofsted in April 2014 the Overall effectiveness good.

*“Overall, the achievement of pupils is good because the great majority make good progress from a range of different starting points. The standards pupils reach in reading,*

*writing and mathematics by the end of Year 6 are generally above average.”*

*“The quality of teaching is nearly always good, with examples of outstanding practice. As a result, pupils enjoy learning and make good progress, as evidenced by the good quality of work in their books”*

*“Pupils say they feel very safe and well cared for because: ‘School is such a friendly place it is feels like home”*

*“The headteacher’s and senior leaders’ close working partnership with the governing body has brought about significant change at a fast pace. They have raised both the quality of teaching and pupils’ achievement across the school since the previous inspection”  
(Ofsted 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014)*

The council has a policy to explore opportunities for reducing transition points, and has worked with school leadership and governing bodies. The Diocesan Board Of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds is working in partnership with the Local Authority. The Church of England Diocese of Leeds would act as the proposer of the new an all-through primary school that has effectively reduced transition points between key stages of education.

The educational benefits of all-through Primary Schools

- Uninterrupted progress and continuity from early years to age 11. (Although it must be noted that transition from the nursery to reception is not automatic and a statutory school place must be applied for through the normal admissions process)
- A wider range of learning resources can be shared and the greater curriculum flexibility makes it easier to tailor learning experiences to meet individual needs - this is particularly important for children with Special Educational Needs.
- A wider age range of pupils can give more opportunities for social development which can raise self-esteem and help to promote responsible behaviour.
- Longer term relationships between the school, parents, carers and outside agencies to support pupils effectively from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Year 6.
- Staff have longer to get to know the children and the consistency of staffing and provision for children gives greater security for parents and carers.
- Children can attend the same school as older or younger siblings for longer.
- A single leadership team and governing body gives:
  - consistency in terms of policies, practice, standards and expectations;
  - clear improvement priorities;
  - common approaches to curriculum planning, assessment and target
  - staff working within a larger team have more opportunities to take on responsibilities and undertake professional development;
  - more effective use of the accommodation, facilities and resources - reduced duplication and economies of scale.

#### **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

4. The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.

As per the published October 2016 school census, numbers on roll for 7-11 year olds at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School was 256 (130 boys and 126 girls).

The provision is inclusive but does not include specialist services for children with a disability.

There are no boarding pupils at the school

### **Displaced Pupils**

5. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

There would be no displaced pupils should the proposals be approved for implementation. All the pupils attending Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior would automatically become part of the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school with nursery provision on the 1st May 2017. Pupils at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior would remain in the same building.

This proposal does not intend to add more capacity in the area but retain the same number of places.

The new Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school will cater for pupils aged 3 to 11, with a PAN of 66 for Key Stage 1, a PAN of 68 for Key Stage 2 and retaining the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years

6. Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including:
- (a) any interim arrangements;
  - (b) the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and
  - (c) in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school.

All the pupils who attend Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School on 1st May 2017 would automatically become part of the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school, with nursery provision. Pupils would be entitled to a place at the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school up to the age of 11.

This does not affect the right of parents or carers to seek admission to other schools which have places available.

There is no specialised provision reserved for pupils with special educational needs at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School.

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School is not a special school.

7. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

With reference to item 5 and 6 above there would be no net loss of places in Honley, the number of places would remain the same.

### **Impact on the Community**

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of

the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The proposals are intended to have a positive impact on the community; all-through primary school would have an important role in the local community, as do the existing two schools now. The proposals aim to build on the existing strengths of the schools. The all-through school would ensure that there are sufficient places for children from the local community. The school would continue to be a focal point for the community and be integral in ensuring local educational provision works effectively with local organisations and groups. As the work to develop Community Hubs continues there may be opportunities in the future to provide services in different ways.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

9. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be considered section 15(4)).

Under The Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) 2014 Order Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School is not designated a Rural School.

### **Balance of denominational provision**

10. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

It is proposed that the closure of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School would be linked to the establishment of the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school, with nursery provision. Early years and key stage one would remain on the same site. Denominational provision for junior school age pupils in the area would be maintained and there should be no impact on parental choice. The new school would preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The school would aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. It would encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Church of England Diocese of Leeds Board of Education and Kirklees Council are committed to the newly created school being distinctive and inclusive in supporting all children and their families in learning and development. There is a common agreement that the school would be welcoming and accessible to the wider community. It would ensure equality of opportunity and work to remove any barrier to success. Leeds Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council believe that combining the ethos and values of the school and the other schools that are subject to this proposal, to form the ethos and values of the new school would impact positively on teaching and learning, provide a firm foundation for culture of continuous, sustained improvement, and to offer an exciting and innovative opportunity for the whole school community.

### **Maintained Nursery Schools**

11. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:
- (a) the local authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
  - (b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School has no nursery provision.

### Sixth Form Provision

12. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, the effect for 16 to 19 year olds in the area that the closure will have in respect of:
- (a) their educational or training achievements;
  - (b) their participation in education or training; and
  - (c) the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School does not have a sixth form provision.

### Special Educational Provision

13. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School is not a school that is reserved for children with special educational needs.

### Travel

14. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision

The current building on Jaggar Lane would continue to be used and therefore travel arrangements are not affected.

15. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

Not applicable

### Consultation

16. Decision-makers will need to be assured that consultation has taken place, and that the statutory process has been adhered to. Therefore proposals should include evidence that the period of statutory consultation took place, and the results of that consultation.

A six week statutory consultation took place between 31 October 2016 and 9 December 2016. Consultation documents were written and produced with due regard to "The School Organisation (Opening and closing maintained schools) (England) Regulations 2016". Consultation documents were made widely available. Consultation documents were sent to the families of pupils, governors and staff at, Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. Copies of the consultation document were also sent to elected members, trade union representatives, neighbouring local authorities, local community groups and to interested officers from across the Council. The consultation document was also made available on the Council's website. The Council held two 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). 900 consultation documents were distributed, 45 responses were received from parents and carers, governors, staff and other stakeholders. In addition, meetings have been held with staff and governors of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior.

The conclusion to be drawn from the statutory consultation is that there is a good level of support from the large majority of respondents for bringing together the two schools and establishing an all-through primary school for 3-11 year olds in order to remove the transition at age 7 and bring greater continuity. The schools serve the same families in the community and almost all children at the infant school move to the junior school. By bringing the schools together there will be greater consistency and sharing of resources across both sites. The relatively low number of respondents indicates that the proposals are not contentious. Concerns raised, such as questions about staffing structures, job security and new uniforms, can be effectively managed during a transition period.

For further information please use the link below to access the report for the consultation that was decided on the 17th January 2017. <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/cabinet>

### **Part 3 - Complete Proposal to establish a Church of England Voluntary Controlled 3-11 primary**

Proposals published under section 11 (2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

#### **Contact details**

1. The name and contact address of the local authority or the proposers (as the case may be).

Church of England Diocese of Leeds, Church House, 17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX

#### **Implementation**

2. The date on which it is proposed that the school be opened or, where it is proposed that the opening be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.

The proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school would open on 1st May 2017, subject to approval.

3. Where the proposals are to establish a voluntary, foundation or foundation special school, a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local authority or by the proposers, and if the proposals are to be implemented by both:
  - a) a statement as to the extent that they are to be implemented by each body, and
  - b) a statement as to the extent to which the capital costs of implementation are to be met by each body.

The proposal to establish a new all-through Voluntary Controlled primary school, with nursery provision is to be implemented by the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds, and Kirklees Council. Officers from the Council will develop detailed plans to ensure a successful implementation in partnership with Diocesan officers and school leadership, should the proposal be approved for implementation.

There are no capital costs associated with the implementation of this proposal as the proposal aims to utilise existing school buildings and sites for which there is already sufficient and suitable physical capacity that is required to establish the proposed all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

#### **Reason for the New School**

4. A statement explaining the reason why the new school is considered necessary and

whether it is to replace an existing school or schools.

The proposal is intended to bring together and replace Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School to establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school, both schools are Church of England schools

The council has a policy to explore opportunities for reducing transition points, and has worked with school leaders, governing bodies and The Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds on proposal to establish an all-through primary school. The establishment of all-through primary schools is intended to improve the educational standards attained by children through better and more flexible management of learning, without a change of school at age 7. Single all-through institutions can establish longer term relationships with pupils and families, provide more opportunities for staff development and better manage resources to support learning and smooth transition to each stage of learning. In addition, all-through primary schools have the following benefits:

- A wider range of learning resources can be shared and the greater curriculum flexibility makes it easier to tailor learning experiences to meet individual needs.
- A wider age range of pupils can give more opportunities for social development which can raise self-esteem and help to promote responsible behaviour.
- Longer term relationships between the school, parents, carers and outside agencies to support pupils effectively from early years and through Key Stages 1 and 2.
- Staff would have longer to get to know the children and the consistency of staffing and provision for vulnerable children gives greater security for parents and carers.
- Children can attend the same school as older or younger brothers and sisters for longer.
- More effective use of the accommodation, facilities and resources.

### Category

5. The category of school that it is proposed be established (a foundation or foundation special school and, if so, whether it is to have a foundation, a voluntary school, a community or community special school, or a local authority maintained nursery school) and, if required by section 10, a statement that the Secretary of State's consent has been obtained to publish the proposals.

It is possible to bring together Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School, resulting in a new voluntary controlled Church of England primary school as this is a reorganisation of existing Church of England voluntary controlled schools.

### **Section 11 proposals**

Any persons ('proposer') e.g. LA or diocese may publish a proposal, at any time, for a new school outside of the free school presumption and competitions process under section 11 of Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The Secretary of State's consent is not required in the case of proposals for:

- a new community or foundation primary school to replace a maintained infant and a maintained junior school;
- a new voluntary-aided school in order to meet demand for a specific type of place e.g. places to meet demand from those of a particular faith;
- a new foundation or voluntary school resulting from the reorganisation of existing faith schools in an area, including an existing faith school losing or changing its religious designation;

- a new foundation or community school, where there were no suitable free school proposals and a competition has been held but did not identify a suitable provider;
- a former independent school wishing to join the maintained sector; and
- a new LA maintained nursery school.

*(Department for Education Guidance: 2016)*

Department for Education Guidance explains that there are two ways to 'merge' or 'amalgamate' two or more existing maintained schools:

- *The LA or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close two (or more) schools and the LA or a proposer other than the LA (e.g. diocese, faith or parent group, Trust) depending on category, can publish a proposal to open a new school. This results in a new school number being issued.*
- *The LA and/or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close one school (or more) and enlarge/change the age range/transfer site (following a statutory process as/when necessary) of an existing school, to accommodate the displaced pupils. The remaining school would retain its original school number, as it is not a new school, even if its phase has changed.*

*(Department for Education Guidance: 2016)*

The linked statutory proposals that would be required to bring the schools together are:

- The Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds would propose a new replacement all-through Church of England primary school. The new school would continue in the existing buildings and on the same sites.
- The LA would propose the technical 'closure' of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School.

### **Ethos and Religious Character**

6. A short statement setting out the proposed ethos of the school, including details of any educational philosophy, which it is proposed that the school will adhere to.
7. If it is proposed that the school is to have a religious character, confirmation of the religion or religious denomination in accordance with whose tenets religious education will, or may be required to be provided at the school; and a statement that the proposers intend to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character.
8. Where it is proposed that the school:
  - a) has a religious character, evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion; or.
  - b) adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with that philosophy that is not already met in other maintained schools or Academies in the area.

Reorganising Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School to create a new all-through Church of England primary school would preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church and Parish at diocesan level. The proposed new school would maintain Church of England presence with the school system in Honley.

The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled primary school, with nursery provision would aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the



context of Christian beliefs and practice. It would encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. The Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council are committed to the newly created school being distinctive and inclusive in supporting all children and their families in learning and development. There is a common agreement that the school would be welcoming and accessible to the wider community. It would ensure equality of opportunity and work to remove any barrier to success. The Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council have confidence that in combining the ethos and values of the two schools that are identified in Parts 1-2 of this statutory proposal, to form the ethos and values of the new school would impact positively on teaching and learning, provide a firm foundation for cultural, continuous and sustained improvement to offer exciting and innovative opportunities for the whole school and local community.

The proposed school would have a Church of England religious character and it is confirmed that as Proposer, The Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds intends to ask the Secretary of State for Education to designate the school as a school with religious character.

### **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

9. The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is to be made at the school.

The new Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school will cater for pupils aged 3 to 11, with a PAN of 66 for Key Stage, a PAN of 68 for Key Stage 2 and retaining the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years. Opportunities to further develop early learning and childcare services to meet future demand, including that presented by the introduction of 30 hours free childcare, and two year olds eligible to free early education, are not precluded by these proposals

There is no proposal for the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school, with nursery provision to have specific provision reserved for pupils with specific special educational needs, or have any boarding provision.

### **Admission Arrangements**

10. Except in relation to proposals for special schools, the proposed admission arrangements and over-subscription criteria for the new school including, where the school is proposed to be a foundation or voluntary school which is to have a religious character—
- a) the extent to which priority for places is proposed to be given to children of the school's religion or religious denomination; and
  - b) the extent, if any, to which priority is to be given to children of other religions or religious denominations or to children having no religion or religious denomination.

If there are fewer applicants than there are places available, everyone who applies will be offered a place. When there are more applicants than there are places available there has to be a way of deciding which children are offered places. This is done by having admission criteria, also known as oversubscription criteria, which are considered in order.

For children of statutory school age, Kirklees admission (over subscription criteria) criteria for Voluntary Controlled schools are: 1. Children in public care (looked after children) or a child who was previously looked after; 2. Children who live in the school's Priority Admission Area (PAA) who have a brother or sister attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule); 3. Children who live in the school's PAA; 4.

Children who live outside the school's PAA who have a brother or sister attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule); 5. Children who live outside the school's PAA.

For nursery children the school control their own admission policy.

Schools will admit children with statements of special educational needs where the statement names the school.

It is not proposed to give priority for admissions to pupils on any religious grounds.

### **Early Years Provision**

11. Where the proposals are to include provision for pupils aged two to five:
- a) details of how the early years provision will be organised, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number of places, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered; .
  - b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services, and how the proposals for the establishment of the school are consistent with the integration of early years provision with childcare;
  - c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early year's provision;
  - d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools, and in settings outside of the maintained school sector which deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within three miles of the school; and
  - e) the reasons why schools and settings outside the maintained school sector which deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within three miles of the school and which have spare capacity, cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the numbers of such children.

The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled primary school with nursery provision would retain the same level and scope of early year's provision to that which is currently provided by Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. This means that the proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled Primary School, with nursery provision would provide the following level of early year's provision:

Provide 48 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years)

The length of sessions would be the same as offered now by Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. The provision would be fully inclusive, but there is no proposed specialised provision reserved for children with special educational needs.

The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled Primary School, with nursery provision would build on the existing strengths and the strong working relationship between Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School to successfully integrate early year's provision within an all-through setting and form closer, effective working relationship until the end of Key Stage 2.

There is demand for early years places in the area as can be evidenced via the take up of existing places at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. There is a requirement in the area for additional places to meet the future demand associated with "30 hours free childcare" as per the evidence presented in the [Kirklees Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016](#).

As the proposal is for a technical closure linked to the establishment of identical

replacement early years provision the impact on children and families is considered to be minimal. The impact on other local providers both in and outside of the school sector is also considered to be minimal. Given the nature of the proposal detailed assessments of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools, and in settings outside of the maintained school sector which deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within three miles of the school has not been considered beyond that which is contained in the Kirklees Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016.

Outside the scope of these proposals a number of options are being explored about how best to meet the evidence of future demand for early years and childcare places in the area.

### **Sixth Form Provision**

12. Where it is proposed that the school will provide sixth form education, how for 16 to 19 year olds in the area the proposals will:
- improve the educational or training achievements;
  - increase participation in education or training; and
  - expand the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.

The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled primary school will not include a sixth form provision.

### **Special Educational Needs Provision**

13. Whether the school will have provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs and, if so, the nature of such provision.
14. Details of the proposed policy of the school relating to the education of pupils with special educational needs.
15. Where the school will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs:
- a statement on how the proposer believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and range of educational provision for these children; .
  - details of the improvements that the proposals will bring in respect of:
    - access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local authority's Accessibility Strategy;
    - access to specialist staff, both education and other professionals, including any external support or outreach services;
    - access to suitable accommodation; and
    - supply of suitable places.

The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled primary school will have no specialised provision reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

### **Single Sex School**

16. Where the school is to admit pupils of a single sex:
- evidence of local demand for single sex education and how this will be met if the proposals are approved; and
  - a statement giving details of the likely effect the new school will have on the balance of provision of single sex education in the area.

The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled primary school will be a school that caters for both boys and girls.

## Curriculum

17. Confirmation that the school will meet the general requirements in relation to the curriculum contained in section 78 of EA 2002(1) and an outline of any provision that will be in addition to the basic curriculum required by section 80 of EA 2002(2), in particular any 14-19 vocational education.

The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled primary school will meet the general requirements of the National Curriculum [and Religious Education](#).

## Relevant Experience of Proposers

18. Evidence of any relevant experience in education held by the proposers including details of any involvement in the improvement of standards in education.

The Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds have been closely involved in education provision for very many years. The council has already worked closely with Diocese officers to successfully establish another all-through primary school in the borough. The Council has a policy to explore opportunities for reducing transition points, and has worked with school leaders, governing bodies and the Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds to successfully establish an all-through primary school. The establishment of all-through primary schools is intended to improve the educational standards attained by children through better and more flexible management of learning, without a change of school at age 7. Single all-through institutions can establish longer term relationships with pupils and families, provide more opportunities for staff development and better manage resources to support learning and smooth transition to each stage of learning.

## Effects on Standards and Contributions to School Improvement

19. Information and supporting evidence on:
- how the school will contribute to enhancing the diversity and quality of education in the area; and
  - how the school will contribute to school improvement.

Currently both schools work closely:

- The schools currently work together to ensure a smooth transition for pupils from KS1 to KS2. Brining the schools together into a single organisation would deepen the quality of transition at each Key Stage and enable increased opportunities for older pupils to support the younger children throughout their time within the primary setting.
- At present the Junior School staff is involved in the assessment of year 2 writing at the end of Key Stage 1. Moderation activities take place across year groups during the course of the year. The SENCOs work together throughout the year within the Honley partnership to assess the needs of SEN children and to share good practice and develop programmes for individual children.
- The schools work in partnership to support vulnerable families through multi agency meetings. Safeguarding leads work closely together on a day-to-day basis to ensure the safety and well-being of all children

The proposed establishment of an all-through primary school Honley is intended to formalise and improve the educational standards attained by children. This is achieved through better and more flexible management of learning, without a change of school at age 7.

There is the benefit of more continuity. For example, a single school would have common

approaches to curriculum planning, assessment, record keeping and target setting. Staff have longer to get to know the children. Most importantly, the school would have a shared understanding of standards and expectations.

There is the benefit of more flexibility and more opportunities to meet individual needs by tailoring learning experiences. For example, Year 3 children who require further experience of the Key Stage 1 curriculum and more able Year 2 children requiring the challenge of the Key Stage 2 programmes can be catered for. It means a wider range of resources can be shared and common themes developed across the school. This curriculum flexibility can be particularly important for children with Special Educational Needs.

There are more opportunities for social development. For example, older children can have some appropriate pastoral responsibility for younger children, which can impact positively on whole school behaviour and children's self-esteem. Vulnerable children and their parents and carers have greater security from a consistency of staff and provision.

There is more consistency in terms of policies and practice. The school improvement agenda is led by a single leadership team and governing body.

There is closer contact for parents and carers with school staff over a longer period of time. A more continuous relationship between the school, parents, carers and outside agencies can ensure that all pupils, but particularly those with special needs, are supported effectively from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Year 6.

There is more opportunity for children to attend the same school as older or younger brothers and sisters.

There are more opportunities for staff to work with a larger team, thus supporting professional development and providing further opportunities to take on new responsibilities

## **Location and Costs**

**20.** A statement about:

- a) the area or particular community or communities which the new school is expected to serve;
- b) the location of the site or sites including, where appropriate, the postal address or addresses;
- c) the current ownership and tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease;
- d) whether the site is currently used for the purposes of another school and if so why the site will no longer be required by the other school;
- e) the estimated capital costs of providing the site and how those costs will be met (including the extent to which the costs are to be met by the proposers and the local authority) and how the proposers intend to fund their share of the costs of implementing the proposals (if any);
- f) whether planning permission is needed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and when it is anticipated that it will be obtained;
- g) confirmation from the Secretary of State or local authority (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

The proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school would occupy the same premises as Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School. The proposed new school would continue to serve the Honley community as defined in the current Priority Admission Area for the existing schools. There are no anticipated capital costs or other costs for site acquisition in establishing the new school. The implementation

of this proposal is not subject to any planning permission being granted.

### **Travel**

21. The proposed arrangements for travel of pupils to the school.

The new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school would occupy the same premises as the existing two separate schools and there would be no change to the travel arrangements for existing or future pupils.

### **Federation**

22. Details of any proposals for the school to be established as a federated school.

It is proposed the new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school with nursery provision will have a single leadership team and governing body. Therefore federation does not form any aspect of these proposals.

### **Voluntary Aided Schools**

23. Where the school is to be a voluntary aided school—

- a) details of the trusts on which the site is to be held; and
- b) confirmation that the governing body will be able and willing to carry out their obligations under Schedule 3 to SSFA 1998(3)

The proposed new all-through Church of England primary school, with nursery provision is to have Voluntary Controlled status. There is no change to the current status of either school

### **Foundation Schools**

24. Where the school is to be a foundation or foundation special school, confirmation as to—

- a) whether it will have a foundation and if so, the name or proposed name of the foundation;
- b) the rationale for the foundation and the particular ethos that it will bring to the school;
- c) the details of membership of the foundation, including the names of the members;
- d) the proposed constitution of the governing body; and
- e) details of the foundation's charitable objects.

With reference to item 23 the proposed new school is to be a Church of England Voluntary controlled all-through primary school, with nursery provision.

### **Independent Schools entering the Maintained Sector**

25. Where a school is an independent school entering the maintained sector—

- a) a statement that the requirements of section 11(3) are met;
- b) a statement as to whether the premises will meet the requirements of the School Premises (England) Regulations 2012(4) and, if not:
  - (i) details of how the premises are deficient; and
  - (ii) details of how it is intended to remedy the deficiency.

With reference to items 23 and 24 above this question is not applicable.

### **26. Consultation**

Decision-makers will need to be assured that consultation has taken place, and that the statutory process has been adhered to. Therefore proposals should include evidence that the period of statutory consultation took place, and the results of that consultation.

A six week statutory consultation took place between 31 October 2016 and 9 December 2016. Consultation documents were written and produced with due regard to “The School Organisation (Opening and closing maintained schools) (England) Regulations 2016”. Consultation documents were made widely available. Consultation documents were sent to the families of pupils, governors and staff at, Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. Copies of the consultation document were also sent to elected members, Trade Union representatives, neighbouring local authorities, local community groups and interested officers from across the Council. The consultation document was also made available on the Council’s website. The Council held two 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). 900 consultation documents were distributed, 45 responses were received from parents and carers, governors, staff and other stakeholders. In addition, meetings have been held with staff and governors of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant & Nursery School

The conclusion to be drawn from the statutory consultation is that there is a good level of support from the large majority of respondents for bringing together the two schools and establishing an all-through primary school for 3-11 year olds in order to remove the transition at age 7 and bring greater continuity. The schools serve the same families in the community and almost all children at the infant school move to the junior school. By bringing the schools together there will be greater consistency and sharing of resources across both sites. The relatively low number of respondents indicates that the proposals are not contentious. Concerns raised, such as questions about staffing structures, job security and new uniforms, can be effectively managed during a transition period.

For further information please use the link below to access the report for the consultation that was decided on the 17th January 2017 <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/cabinet>

## Notes of School Organisation Advisory Group – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### 1. Introductions and membership apologies

**Present:** Councillor Masood Ahmed (chair)

**Officers in support:**

Jo-Anne Sanders – Interim Assistant Director for Learning and Skills  
Martin Wilby – Acting Deputy Assistant Director for Learning and Skills  
Shahzia Ashraf -School Place Planning Officer-Learning and Skills

**Apologies:**

Councillor Pinnock  
Councillor Lisa Holmes  
Councillor Erin Hill  
Councillor Marielle O'Neill  
Councillor Michelle Grainger-Mead  
Diocese of Leeds - Church of England  
Diocese of Leeds  
Jane Acklam Executive Principle of Moor End Academy

#### 1) Purpose of SOAG

To review the statutory processes for the related statutory proposals:  
by Kirklees LA

- To discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School
- To discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School.

By the Church of England Leeds Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds

- To establish a new Church of England voluntary controlled primary school to cater for pupils aged 4 to 11, with a PAN of 66 for Key Stage 1 and a PAN of 68 for Key Stage 2; to retain the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years.

#### 2) Process checklist

The prescribed details for each of the statutory processes are set out in the checklists in **Appendix 4**.

- (a) The checklists were reviewed and the evidence that each point had been completed was noted
- (b) It was noted that 0 representations had been received during the statutory 4 week period for the proposals

#### 2.1 SOAG Conclusion:

The statutory notices and statutory proposals are valid and within time limits.

#### 2.2 SOAG Advice:



The LA can decide the proposals under EIA 2006

### **3) Review of factors from DfE guidance to be considered in making the decisions.**

These factors are derived from the guidance issued by the Department for Education. School Organisation Maintained Schools. Annex B: Guidance for Decision Makers January 2014. Factors can vary depending upon the nature and type of proposals. The full list of factors is presented in Appendix 7, accompanied by responses to the relevant factors for these proposals. The relevant factors for these proposals are:

- Consideration of Consultation and Representation Period
- Education Standards and Diversity of Provision
- Demand
- School Size
- Proposed Admission Arrangements (Including Post 16 Provision)
- National Curriculum
- Equal Opportunity Issues
- Community Cohesion
- Travel and Accessibility
- Capital
- School Premises and Playing Fields
- Suitability
- Competition (Under Section 7 Eia 2006)
- Closure Proposals (Under S15 Eia 2006)
- Early Years Provision
- Balance of Denominational Provision
- Community Services
- The rationale for the proposals was examined against each of the above factors and associated guidance.
- The factors, guidance and rationale for the proposals are set out in Appendix 7.

#### Comments

##### LA proposal

- This proposal enables the legal closure of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School.

##### The Church of England Leeds Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds

- to establish a Church of England Voluntary Controlled 3-11 primary school with nursery provision

### **4) Guidance note: Type of decision**

The decision maker can make one of four types of decision for each proposal:

- Reject the proposals
- Approve the proposals
- Approve the proposals with a modification (e.g. the implementation date)
- Approve the proposals subject to them meeting one or more specific conditions

## **5) SOAG conclusions for decision makers**

SOAG agreed that:

- The statutory process had enabled a full and detailed presentation of the proposals to interested parties and that views and comments had been fully considered
- The rationale for the proposals had been clearly articulated against the decision makers guidance
- Issues raised in statutory consultation had been fully considered against the decision makers guidance
- The documentation presented to SOAG would allow Cabinet to reach a decision regarding the proposals



**Check List 1: Statutory process.**

Schools	Statutory Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School</li> <li>Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School</li> </ul>	Proposal to discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School on the 30th April 2017

1. CONSULTATION		Y,N,N/A	NOTES/EVIDENCE
1.1 Has formal consultation taken place?		Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report : 17.01.17
1.2 Consultation process	a. Has adequate time been allowed for the consultation process?	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report : 17.01.17  A six week statutory consultation took place between the 31.10. 2016 and 9.12.2016
	b. Do the consultation documents provide sufficient information to those who are being consulted?	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17
	c. Do the consultation materials make it clear how interested parties can make their views known?	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17
	d. Does the report that summarises the outcome of the consultation demonstrate how the views expressed during the consultation have been taken into account in reaching any subsequent decision as to the publication of proposals?	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17
1.3 New Option	a. Did a new option emerge during consultation?	N	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17
	b. If so did a further consultation take place?	N/A	N/A
1.4 Evidence that interested parties have been consulted.  To Include	a. the governing body of any school which is the subject of proposals (if the LA are publishing proposals);	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17  The report provides details of the distribution of consultation material to key stakeholder groups as well as formal engagement consultation events that were held during the consultation period.  The LA/ School Governors and Leadership team have been working in collaboration with the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds
	b. the LA that maintains the school (if the governing body is publishing the proposals);	N/A	
	c. families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the schools	Y	
	d. any LA likely to be affected by the proposals, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils;	Y	
	e. the governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected;	Y	
	f. families of any pupils at any other school who may be affected by the proposals including where appropriate families of pupils at feeder primary schools;	Y	
	g. any trade unions who represent staff at the school; and representatives of any trade union of any other staff at schools who may be affected by the proposals;	Y	
	h. (if proposals involve, or are likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character) the appropriate diocesan authorities or the relevant faith group in relation to the school;	Y	
	i. the trustees of the school (if any)	N/A	
	j. (if the proposals affect the provision of full-time 14-19 education) the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA);	N/A	
	k. MPs whose constituencies include the schools that are the subject of the proposals or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposals;	Y	
	l. the local district or parish council where the school that is the subject of the proposals is situated;	Y	
	m. any other interested party, for example, the Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership (or any local partnership that exists in place of an EYDCP) where proposals affect early years provision, or those who benefit from a contractual arrangement giving them the use of the	Y	

	premises; and		
	n. such other persons as appear to the proposers to be appropriate.	Y	
1.5 Pupils	Have pupils been formally consulted?	N	

2. PUBLICATION		Y,N,N/A	NOTES/EVIDENCE
2.1	Have formal proposals been published by the appropriate body (i.e. LA/GB etc) and explain how copies can be obtained, how anybody can object to or comment on the proposals, the date by which comments should be received and the address to which comments should be submitted?	Y	See statutory proposal
2.2	a. Does the complete proposal contain all the specified information?	Y	See statutory proposal
	b. Has proposal been published within 12 months of the consultation end	Y	Statutory consultation period ended 22.02.17 and statutory proposals published 25.01.17
2.3 Statutory notice	a. Has a statutory notice been prepared?	Y	See Statutory Notice
	b. Has the statutory notice been published in a local newspaper?	Y	The statutory notice was published in Huddersfield Examiner on 25.01.17
	c. Has the statutory notice been posted at the main entrance of the school (or all entrances if there are more than one)?	Y	Posted at the entrances of the schools on the 25.01.17 (see photo's in the pack for further information)
	d. Has the statutory notice/proposal been posted in other conspicuous areas in the area served by the school (eg local library, community centre, post office etc.)?	Y	St Mary's Honley, Parochial Church Council
2.4 Related proposals	a. Is this proposal interdependent on another proposal?	Y	The proposal to establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school
	b. If so, is the related proposal included on the same Statutory Notice?	Y	Statutory Notice
	c. If so, is this clearly identified in the Statutory Notice?	Y	Statutory Notice
	d. If so, is it clear who is proposing what on the Statutory Notice?	Y	Statutory Notice
2.5 Implementation date	a. Is the implementation date for the proposal specified on the statutory notice?	Y	Statutory Notice
	c. Is the time scale for implementation reasonable (proposals should be implemented within 3 years of their publication with the possible exception of Authority wide re-organisations.)?	Y	Proposals published 25.01.17 for implementation on 01.05.2017
2.6 Explanatory note	a. Is the full effect of the proposals clear to the general public?	Y	Statutory Notice
	b. If not, has an explanatory note been included alongside the Statutory Notice?	N	
2.7	Has the council's legal team advised on the validity of the Statutory Notice? <i>* If a published notice has not been properly formulated in accordance with regulations, the notice may be judged invalid and therefore ineligible to be determined by the LA or the schools adjudicator. Should this be the case a revised notice must be published clearly stating that it is a replacement notice.*</i>	Y	Council's legal officer has reviewed the Statutory Notice in conjunction with the School Organisation and Planning Team
2.8 Have the proposers distributed the complete proposal and notice to all relevant parties?	a. <b>On date of publication</b> (closure) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to governing body of school proposed for closure - LA publishes proposals</li> <li>to LA that maintains the school- where governing body publishes the proposals.</li> </ul>	Y	On date of publication 25.01.17 emailed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School</li> <li>Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School</li> </ul>
	<b>Within a week of publication</b>		
	b. any other LA likely to be affected by the proposals;	N	N/A
	c. the Diocesan Board of Education for any diocese of the Church of England which is comprised in the area of the LA;	Y	Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds
	d. the bishop of a diocese of the Roman Catholic Church which is comprised	N	N/A

	in the area of the LA;		
	e. the Education Funding Agency for England if the school provides 14-16 education or sixth form education;	N/A	N/A
	f. where the school is a voluntary or foundation - the trustees or foundation body	N/A	N/A
	g. any person who requests a copy.	Y	*NB no copies have been requested
	h. Department for Education	N	Submitted to the DfE.

3. REPRESENTATION		Y,N,N/A	NOTES/EVIDENCE
3.1	Has an appropriate period been allowed for representation?	Y	4 weeks – 25.01.17 – 22.02.17
3.2	Have any representations been received during this period?	N	

4. DECISION – A decision must be made within 2 months (by the LA, or this must be referred to the schools adjudicator).		Y,N, N/A	NOTES/EVIDENCE
4.1	Is this a decision to be made by the LA or the schools adjudicator?	LA	Representation period ended <b>22.02.17</b> and decision-making cabinet is scheduled for <b>4<sup>th</sup> April 2017</b> Recommendation made by SOAG and reported to cabinet for approval within a 2 month time frame.
4.3	<b>Closure</b> - Is this a decision determined under Paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 to EIA 2006? <i>Where proposals are published by the LA and there are no objections and the proposals are not "related" to other proposals, the proposals must be determined by the LA under Paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 to EIA 2006. The proposals should then be decided within 2 months (and if not, the proposals must be referred to the schools adjudicator) and there is no provision for an appeal against the LA's decision. A conditional approval cannot be given where proposals are decided under this paragraph.</i>	N	This proposal is related to a proposal to establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school.
4.4	<b>Closure</b> - Is this a decision decided under Paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to EIA 2006? <i>If there are objections to the proposals, or there are no objections but the proposals are "related" to other proposals, the proposals must be decided under Paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to EIA 2006.</i>	Y	This must be a decision under paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 because these are related proposals.

## Check List 2: Statutory process.

Statutory Proposal to establish a new Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school for pupils aged between 3-11 with Nursery provision in Honley on 1<sup>ST</sup> May 2017

1. CONSULTATION		Y,N,N/A	NOTES/EVIDENCE
1.1	Has formal consultation taken place?	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report :17.01.17
1.2 Consultation process	e. Has adequate time been allowed for the consultation process?	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report :17.01.17  A six week statutory consultation took place between the 31.10.2016 and 09.12. 2016
	f. Do the consultation documents provide sufficient information to those who are being consulted?	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17
	g. Do the consultation materials make it clear how interested parties can make their views known?	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17
	h. Does the report that summarises the outcome of the consultation demonstrate how the views expressed during the consultation have been taken into account in reaching any subsequent decision as to the	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17

	publication of proposals?		
1.3 New Option	c. Did a new option emerge during consultation?	N	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17
	d. If so did a further consultation take place?	N/A	N/A
1.4 Evidence that interested parties have been consulted.	o. the governing body of any school which is the subject of proposals (if the LA are publishing proposals);	Y	Statutory Consultation Outcome report 17.01.17 The report provides details of the distribution of consultation material to key stakeholder groups as well as formal engagement consultation events that were held during the consultation period.  The LA/ School Governors and Leadership team have been working in collaboration with the Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds.
To Include	p. the LA that maintains the school (if the governing body is publishing the proposals);	N/A	
	q. families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the schools	Y	
	r. any LA likely to be affected by the proposals, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils;	Y	
	s. the governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected;	Y	
	t. families of any pupils at any other school who may be affected by the proposals including where appropriate families of pupils at feeder primary schools;	Y	
	u. any trade unions who represent staff at the school; and representatives of any trade union of any other staff at schools who may be affected by the proposals;	Y	
	v. (if proposals involve, or are likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character) the appropriate diocesan authorities or the relevant faith group in relation to the school;	Y	
	w. the trustees of the school (if any)	N/A	
	x. (if the proposals affect the provision of full-time 14-19 education) the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA);	N/A	
	y. MPs whose constituencies include the schools that are the subject of the proposals or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposals;	Y	
	z. the local district or parish council where the school that is the subject of the proposals is situated;	Y	
	aa. any other interested party, for example, the Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership (or any local partnership that exists in place of an EYDCP) where proposals affect early years provision, or those who benefit from a contractual arrangement giving them the use of the premises; and	Y	
	bb. such other persons as appear to the proposers to be appropriate.	Y	
1.5 Pupils	Have pupils been formally consulted?	N	

2. PUBLICATION		Y,N,N/A	NOTES/EVIDENCE
2.1	Have formal proposals been published by the appropriate body (i.e. LA/GB etc) and explain how copies can be obtained, how anybody can object to or comment on the proposals, the date by which comments should be received and the address to which comments should be submitted?	Y	Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds
2.2	d. Does the complete proposal contain all the specified information?	Y	See statutory proposal
	e. Has proposal been published within 12 months of the consultation end	Y	Statutory consultation period ended 25.01.17 and statutory proposals published 22.02.17
2.3 Statutory notice	e. Has a statutory notice been prepared?	Y	See Statutory Notice
	f. Has the statutory notice been published in a local newspaper?	Y	The statutory notice was published in Huddersfield Examiner on 25.01.2017
	g. Has the statutory notice been posted at the main entrance of the school (or all entrances if there are more than one)?	Y	Posted at the entrances of the schools on the 25.01.17(see photo's in the pack for further information)
	h. Has the statutory notice/proposal been posted in other conspicuous areas in the area served by the school (eg local library, community centre, post office etc.)?	Y	St Mary's Honley, Parochial Church Council
2.4 Related	e. Is this proposal interdependent on another proposal?	Y	The proposal to establish a new all-through Church of

proposals			England Voluntary Controlled primary school – see check sheet 2
	f. If so, is the related proposal included on the same Statutory Notice?	Y	Statutory Notice
	g. If so, is this clearly identified in the Statutory Notice?	Y	Statutory Notice
	h. If so, is it clear who is proposing what on the Statutory Notice?	Y	Statutory Notice
2.5 Implementation date	b. Is the implementation date for the proposal specified on the statutory notice?	Y	Statutory Notice
	f. Is the time scale for implementation reasonable (proposals should be implemented within 3 years of their publication with the possible exception of Authority wide re-organisations.)?	Y	Proposals published 25.01.17 for implementation on 22.02.17
2.6 Explanatory note	c. Is the full effect of the proposals clear to the general public?	Y	Statutory Notice
	d. If not, has an explanatory note been included alongside the Statutory Notice?	N	
2.7	Has the council's legal team advised on the validity of the Statutory Notice? <i>* If a published notice has not been properly formulated in accordance with regulations, the notice may be judged invalid and therefore ineligible to be determined by the LA or the schools adjudicator. Should this be the case a revised notice must be published clearly stating that it is a replacement notice.*</i>	Y	Council's legal officer has reviewed the Statutory Notice in conjunction with the School Organisation and Planning Team
2.8 Have the proposers distributed the complete proposal and notice to all relevant parties?	i. <b>On date of publication</b> (closure) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to governing body of school proposed for closure - LA publishes proposals</li> <li>to governing body of school proposed for closure - LA publishes proposals</li> <li>to LA that maintains the school- where governing body publishes the proposals.</li> <li>Within a week of publication (new school)</li> <li>to LA where Diocese proposes new school</li> </ul>	Y	On date of publication 25.01.17 emailed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School</li> <li>Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School</li> </ul>
	<b>Within a week of publication</b>		
	j. any other LA likely to be affected by the proposals;	N	N/A
	k. the Diocesan Board of Education for any diocese of the Church of England which is comprised in the area of the LA;	Y	Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds
	l. the bishop of a diocese of the Roman Catholic Church which is comprised in the area of the LA;	N	N/A
	m. the Education Funding Agency for England if the school provides 14-16 education or sixth form education;	N/A	N/A
	n. where the school is a voluntary or foundation - the trustees or foundation body	N/A	N/A
	o. any person who requests a copy.	Y	*NB no copies have been requested
	p. Department for Education	N	Submitted to the DfE.

3. REPRESENTATION		Y,N,N/A	NOTES/EVIDENCE
3.1	Has an appropriate period been allowed for representation?	Y	25.01.17 – 22.02.17
3.2	Have any representations been received during this period?	N	

4. DECISION – A decision must be made within 2 months (by the LA, or this must be referred to the schools adjudicator).		Y,N, N/A	NOTES/EVIDENCE
4.1	Is this a decision to be made by the LA or the schools adjudicator?	LA	Representation period ended <b>22.02.17</b> and decision-making cabinet is scheduled for <b>4th April 2017</b> Recommendation made by SOAG and reported to cabinet for approval within a 2 month time frame.
4.2	Is this a decision take under Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006?  Note regarding Special Cases ( section 11 of the EIA 2006) <i>The consent of the secretary of state is no longer required to publish maintained school</i>	Y	We have confirmed this with the Council's legal team. The proposal to establish a new Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary



<p><i>proposals in certain circumstances. Section 11 EIA 2006, as amended by the EA 2011 provides for the following:</i></p> <p><i>Proposals for a new school resulting from the re-organisation of existing faith schools in an area, including an existing faith school.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals for a new community or foundation primary school that is to replace a maintained infant and maintained junior school.</i></p> <p><i>In each case a statutory process, as set out in Schedule 2 to EIA 2006 and the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations, must be undertaken. The Schools Adjudicator will decide local authority proposals, and local authorities will decide proposals from other proposers (except foundation school proposals where the local authority is involved as a member of the foundation (Trust), in which case the Adjudicator will be the decision maker).</i></p>	<p>school has been considered with and is related to the proposed discontinuance of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School.</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Checklist 3 : Summary review of statutory processes for Linked proposals to establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years and to discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School

- **Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School**
- **Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School**
- **To establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school for pupils aged 3 -11 year with nursery provision.**

<p><b>Related proposals to discontinue Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School. To establish a new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years with Nursery provision.</b></p>	
<p>Is this a decision to be made by the LA or the Schools Adjudicator?</p>	<p><b>LA</b></p>
<p>Is this a decision determined under Paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 to EIA 2006?</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p>A decision must be made within 2 months (by the LA, or this must be referred to the schools adjudicator).</p>	<p>Cabinet meeting 4th April 2017 within 2 months of 22.02.17</p>
<p>Is there any information missing</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p>Does the published notice comply with statutory requirements? <i>Where a published notice does not comply with statutory requirements it may be judged invalid and the Decision Maker should consider whether they can decide the proposals.</i></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Has the statutory consultation been carried out (ie have all the criteria in the 'consultation' section been met? <i>If the requirements have not been met, the Decision Maker may judge the proposals to be invalid and should consider whether they can decide the proposals.</i></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Are the proposals 'related' to other proposals (if so, the related proposals must be considered at the same time)? <i>Proposals should be regarded as "related" if the notice makes a reference to a link to other proposals.</i></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>If there are related proposals are they compatible with each other?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Are the proposals related to proposals published by the EFA (if so, the Decision Maker should defer taking a decision until the Secretary of State has taken a decision on the EFA proposals)?</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p>Has a 4 week period been allowed for representation?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Have any representations been received during this period?</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>

**SOAG Conclusions: The related Statutory Proposals and Statutory Processes are valid and within time limits.**

- The published notice complies with statutory requirements
- The statutory consultation has been carried out
- The proposals are related, they are compatible with each other but not related to any proposals published by the Education Funding Agency

- The proposals are valid and can be decided by the LA.
- The statutory 4 week period has been allowed for representation and 0 representations has been received during this period.
- The decision will be brought to the cabinet within 2 months after the end of the statutory 4 week period.

**SOAG Advice: The LA can decide the related proposals under Paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to the Education Inspections Act 2006**



## Factors to be considered in decision making

The factors which are being considered are derived from guidance issued by the Department for Education School Organisation Maintained Schools Annex B: Guidance for Decision Makers January 2014, as these proposals have been published after this date.

Paragraph numbers highlighted in **dark grey** relate to factors that are relevant to all types of proposals and these are factors **10-29**. The relevant headings are highlighted in yellow for ease of identification.

Paragraph numbers **highlighted in light grey** relate to additional factors relevant to these proposals. These include some of the additional factors relevant to proposals for new maintained schools (**41-53**) and additional factors relevant to closure proposals (factors **54-65**). The relevant headings are highlighted in yellow for ease of identification.

Factors that are not highlighted are considered not to be relevant to these proposals. These have been identified as; "Not applicable to these proposals" and are highlighted in red; however for clarity these are fully listed.

### **CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION AND REPRESENTATION PERIOD 10**

(10) The decision-maker will need to be satisfied that the appropriate consultation and/or representation period has been carried out and that the proposer has had regard to the responses received.

If the proposer has failed to meet the statutory requirements; a proposal may be deemed invalid and therefore should be rejected.

The decision-maker must consider all the views submitted, including all support for, objections to and comments on the proposal.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

### **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS.**

(10) Kirklees Local Authority has had due regard to legislation and followed the statutory process in respect of these proposals. New School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 came into force on 28 January 2014. The Council carried out a six week statutory consultation to ensure the maximum opportunity was available to all key stakeholders to understand and comment upon the statutory proposals, prior to their publication. On the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Kirklees Council's Cabinet (decision making authority) received the outcomes report of the statutory consultation and it was agreed to continue with the statutory process and commence with the publication of the related statutory notice and proposals.

The publication of the statutory notice, statutory proposals and representation period commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and ended on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 therefore lasting for a period of four weeks and meeting the requirements of School Organisation Regulations.

### **EDUCATION STANDARDS AND DIVERSITY OF PROVISION 11/12**

(11) Decision-makers should consider the quality and diversity of schools in the relevant area and whether the proposal will meet or affect the aspirations of parents; raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.

(12) The decision-maker should also take into account the extent to which the proposal is consistent with the government's policy on academies as set out on the department's website.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(11) The proposal is for a technical closure of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School to enable a new all-through primary school with nursery provision. There are strong collaborative partnerships between Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School, both schools working to provide the highest standard of learning experience to meet the needs of the pupils and the families of the local communities they serve.

The schools are approximately a 4 minute walk away from one another. Both schools share the same Priority Admission Area (PAA) and serve the same community. The vast majority of pupils usually transfer from the Infant and Nursery School to the Junior School and currently, at the end of Key Stage 1, have to apply for a place for their Key Stage 2 education.

This proposal has been developed in partnership with the governing bodies and senior leadership teams of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior school.

Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School was inspected by Ofsted in March 2009 and the overall effectiveness was Outstanding. Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School was Inspected by Ofsted in April 2014 the Overall effectiveness was Good.

The proposed establishment of an all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school, for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision in Honley, is intended to improve the educational standards attained by children. This is achieved through better and more flexible management of learning, without a change of school at age 7.

- Uninterrupted progress and continuity from early years to age 11. (Although it must be noted that transition from the nursery to reception is not automatic and a statutory school place must be applied for through the normal admissions process)
- A wider range of learning resources can be shared and the greater curriculum flexibility makes it easier to tailor learning experiences to meet individual needs - this is particularly important for children with Special Educational Needs.
- A wider age range of pupils can give more opportunities for social development which can raise self-esteem and help to promote responsible behaviour.
- Longer term relationships between the school, parents, carers and outside agencies to support pupils effectively from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Year 6.
- Staff have longer to get to know the children and the consistency of staffing and provision for children gives greater security for parents and carers.
- Children can attend the same school as older or younger siblings for longer. A single leadership team and governing body gives:
  - consistency in terms of policies, practice, standards and expectations;
  - clear improvement priorities;
  - common approaches to curriculum planning, assessment and target setting;
  - staff working within a larger team have more opportunities to take on responsibilities and undertake professional development;
  - more effective use of the accommodation, facilities and resources - reduced duplication and economies of scale.

(12) It is possible to amalgamate Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School and Honley CE (VC) Junior School, resulting in a new voluntary controlled Church of England primary school as there is a reorganisation of Church of England voluntary controlled places as well as bringing together separate Junior and Infant and Nursery schools;

**DEMAND 13/14/15**

(13) In assessing the demand for new school places the decision-maker should consider the evidence presented for any projected increase in pupil population (such as planned housing developments) and any new provision opening in the area (including free schools).

(14) The decision-maker should take into account the quality and popularity of the schools in which spare capacity exists and evidence of parents' aspirations for a new school or for places in a school proposed for expansion. The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring less popular schools should not in itself prevent the addition of new places.

(15) Reducing surplus places is not a priority (unless running at very high levels). For parental choice to work effectively there may be some surplus capacity in the system as a whole. Competition from additional schools and places in the system will lead to pressure on existing schools to improve standards.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(13/14/15 ) The places in the Infant and Junior Schools would be replaced directly with places in the proposed new school, so that there would be no displacement of pupils. There is a clear need for places in the area. The proposed closure is not intended to change the number of places available but to enable the direct replacement of places in closing the school with places in the proposed new school.

**SCHOOL SIZE16**

(16) Decision makers should not make blanket assumptions that schools should be of a certain size to be good schools, although the viability and cost-effectiveness of a proposal is an important factor for consideration. The decision-maker should also consider the impact on the LA's budget of the need to provide additional funding to a small school to compensate for its size.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(16) The new primary school would be in the existing buildings of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School and cater for the same number of children as the current schools with an admission number of 66 places in Key Stage 1 and 68 places in Key Stage 2, preserving 470 primary school places, with 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years.

**PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS (including post 16 provision) 17/18**

(17) In assessing demand the decision-maker should consider all expected admission applications, not only those from the area of the LA in which the school is situated.

(18) Before approving a proposal that is likely to affect admissions to the school the decision-maker should confirm that the admission arrangements of the school are compliant with the School Admissions Code. Although the decision-maker cannot modify proposed admission arrangements, the decision-maker should inform the proposer where arrangements seem unsatisfactory and the admission authority should be given the opportunity to revise them.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(17-18) The proposed new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school would have a published admission number of 66 places in Key Stage 1 and 68 places in Key Stage 2, preserving 470 primary school places, with 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged

3-4 years. The admissions policy for the proposed new school would be fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code.

The Council would consider all admissions applications, including any received from other Local Authorities. If there are fewer applicants than there are places available, everyone who applies would be offered a place. When there are more applicants than there are places available there has to be a way of deciding which children are offered places. This is done by having admission criteria, also known as oversubscription criteria, which are considered in order.

For children of statutory school age, Kirklees admission (over subscription criteria) criteria for Voluntary Controlled schools are: 1. Children in public care (looked after children) or a child who was previously looked after; 2. Children who live in the school's Priority Admission Area (PAA) who have a brother or sister attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule); 3. Children who live in the school's PAA; 4. Children who live outside the school's PAA who have a brother or sister attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule); 5. Children who live outside the school's PAA.

For nursery children the school control their own admission policy.

Schools will admit children with statements of special educational needs where the statement names the school.

It is not proposed to give priority for admissions to pupils on any religious grounds.

The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled primary school with nursery provision would retain the same level and scope of early year's provision to that which is currently provided by Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. This means that the proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled Primary School with nursery provision would provide the following level of early year's provision: Provide 48 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years). The length of sessions would be the same as offered now by Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. The provision would be fully inclusive, but there is no proposed specialised provision reserved for children with special educational needs.

## **NATIONAL CURRICULUM 19**

(19) All maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum unless they have secured an exemption for groups of pupils or the school community. In addition, Kirklees gives a flexible range of provision and support that can respond to the needs of individual pupils and parental preferences, in a safe environment where young people can thrive in buildings and provision tailored to meet their special educational need or disability and which takes full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, within a learning environment where children can be healthy and stay safe.

**REPRESENTATIONS** None

**OFFICER COMMENT** None

## **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(19) The proposed all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school, for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision, would meet the general requirements of the National Curriculum including the Early Years Foundation Stage.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ISSUES 20/21**

(20) The decision-maker must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of LAs/governing

bodies, which requires them to have 'due regard' to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination;
- advance equality of opportunity;
- and foster good relations.

(21) The decision-maker should consider whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed, for example that where there is a proposed change to single sex provision in an area, there is equal access to single sex provision for the other sex to meet parental demand. Similarly there should be a commitment to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area, while ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

### **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(20/21). A full equalities impact assessment (EIA) has been completed and can be found here:

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/youkmc/deliveringServices/impactAssessments/impactassessments.asprior>

The EIA demonstrates that due regard has been taken and that the proposals would have little, if any adverse impact from an equalities perspective.

The ethnicity profile of the pupil cohorts that would attend the proposed all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school, for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision, is expected to be very similar to the existing cohorts at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School. This is because children attending the schools currently would automatically become part of the proposed all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school. The school would provide co-educational places and be all inclusive. The proposal would have no adverse impact on sexual orientation given the new school is proposed to be co-educational. There would be no adverse impact on any children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) as any such children attending one of the schools now would automatically become part of the proposed new school. In addition, any new children with SEN would be considered for admission in to the proposed new school in the normal way. Therefore it is considered the proposal is not discriminatory and does support the advancement of equality of opportunity.

### **COMMUNITY COHESION 22**

(22) Schools have a key part to play in providing opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to learn with, from and about each other; by encouraging, through their teaching, an understanding of, and respect for, other cultures, faiths and communities. When considering a proposal, the decision-maker must consider its impact on community cohesion. This will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking account of the community served by the school and the views of different sections within the community.

**REPRESENTATIONS: None**

**OFFICER COMMENT: None**

### **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(22) The proposals are intended to have a positive impact on the community; The all-through primary school would have an important role in the local community, as do the existing two schools at present. The proposals aim to build on the existing strengths of the schools. The all-through school would ensure that there are sufficient places for children from the local community. The school would continue to be a focal point for the community and be integral in ensuring local educational provision works effectively with local organisations and groups. As the work to develop Community Hubs continues there may be opportunities in the future to provide services in different ways.



**TRAVEL AND ACCESSIBILITY 23/24/25**

(23) Decision-makers should satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.

(24) The decision-maker should bear in mind that a proposal should not unreasonably extend journey times or increase transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable walking or cycling routes.

(25) A proposal should also be considered on the basis of how it will support and contribute to the LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school.

**REPRESENTATIONS: None**

**OFFICER COMMENT: None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(23/ 24/25) The current buildings on School Street and Jaggar Lane would continue to be used therefore travel arrangements are not affected.

**CAPITAL 26/27**

26. The decision-maker should be satisfied that any land, premises or capital required to implement the proposal will be available and that all relevant local parties (e.g. trustees or religious authority) have given their agreement. A proposal cannot be approved conditionally upon funding being made available.

27. Where proposers are relying on the department as the source of capital funding, there can be no assumption that the approval of a proposal will trigger the release of capital funds from the department, unless the department has previously confirmed in writing that such resources will be available; nor can any allocation 'in principle' be increased. In such circumstances the proposal should be rejected, or consideration deferred until it is clear that the capital necessary to implement the proposal will be provided.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(26/27) There are no capital implications arising from this proposal.

**SCHOOL PREMISES AND PLAYING FIELDS 28/29**

(28) Under the School Premises Regulations all schools are required to provide suitable outdoor space in order to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and for pupils to play outside safely.

(29) Setting out suggested areas for pitches and games courts are in place although the department has been clear that these are non-statutory.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(28/29) The proposed all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school, for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision, would continue to use the existing sites therefore use the same school premises and playing fields. There is no proposed encroachment on to any existing playing field given that there is no requirement for any physical expansion as a result of implementation of these proposals. Pupils attending the proposed new school would continue to have access to a mix of hard standing and

playing field provision that currently exists across the two schools.

## FACTORS RELEVANT TO CERTAIN TYPES OF PROPOSALS

### EXPANSION 30. **Not applicable to these proposals**

(30) When deciding on a proposal for an expansion on an additional site (a 'satellite school'), decision-makers will need to consider whether the new provision is genuinely a change to an existing school or is in effect a new school (which would trigger the academy presumption in circumstances where there is a need for a new school in the area). Decisions will need to be taken on a case-by-case basis, but decision-makers will need to consider the following non-exhaustive list of factors which are intended to expose the extent to which the new site is integrated with the existing site, and to ensure that it will serve the same community as the existing site:

- The reasons for the expansion
- What is the rationale for this approach and this particular site?
- Admission and curriculum arrangements
- How will the new site be used (e.g. which age groups/pupils will it serve)?
- What will the admission arrangements be?
- Will there be movement of pupils between sites?
- Governance and administration
- How will whole school activities be managed?
- Will staff be employed on contracts to work on both sites? How frequently will they do so?
- What governance, leadership and management arrangements will be put in place to oversee the new site (e.g. will the new site be governed by the same governing body and the same school leadership team)?
- Physical characteristics of the school
- How will facilities across the two sites be used (e.g. sharing of the facilities and resources available at the two sites, such as playing fields)?
- Is the new site in an area that is easily accessible to the community that the current school serves?

**REPRESENTATIONS** None

**OFFICER COMMENT** None

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS** **Not applicable to these proposals**

### EXPANSION OF EXISTING GRAMMAR SCHOOLS 31 **Not applicable to these proposals**

(31) Legislation prohibits the establishment of new grammar schools<sup>7</sup>. Expansion of any existing grammar school onto a satellite site can only happen if it is a genuine continuance of the same school. Decision-makers must consider the factors listed in paragraph 30 on 'expansions' when deciding if an expansion is a legitimate enlargement of an existing school.

**REPRESENTATIONS** None

<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b> None
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>

<b>CHANGES TO BOARDING PROVISION 32</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>
(32) In making a decision on a proposal to close a school that has boarding provision, or to remove boarding provision from a school that is not closing, the decision-maker should consider whether there is a state maintained boarding school within reasonable distance from the school. The decision-maker should consider whether there are satisfactory alternative boarding arrangements for those currently in the school and those who may need boarding places in the foreseeable future, including the children of service families.
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b> None
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>

<b>ADDITION OF POST 16 PROVISION 33/34/35/36/37</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>
(33) In assessing a proposal to add post-16 provision, decision-makers should look for evidence that the proposal will improve, extend the range, and increase participation in high quality educational or training opportunities for post-16 pupils within the LA or local area.
(34) The decision-maker should also look for evidence on how new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area and that schools have collaborated with other local providers in drawing up a proposal.
(35) The decision-maker may turn down a proposal to add post-16 provision if there is compelling and objective evidence that the expansion would undermine the viability, given the lagged funding arrangements, of an existing high quality post-16 provider.
(36) Decision-makers should consider the viability of a proposal bearing in mind the formulaic approach to funding; that the school will have to bear any potential diseconomies of scale; and the impact of future demographic trends.
(37) A proposal should take account of the timeline for agreeing 16-19 funding which will be available in the most recent guidance on the department's website. Decision-makers should note that post-16 funding runs on an August – July academic year cycle
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>

<b>CHANGES OF CATEGORY TO VOLUNTARY AIDED 38</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>
(38) For a proposal to change the category of a school to voluntary-aided, the decision-maker must be satisfied that the governing body and/or the Foundation are able and willing to meet their financial responsibilities for building work. The decision-maker may wish to consider whether the governing body has access to sufficient funds to enable it to meet 10% of its capital expenditure for at least five years from the date of implementation, taking into account anticipated building projects.
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b> None

<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b> None
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> Not applicable to these proposals

<p><b>CHANGES TO SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION THE SEN IMPROVEMENT TEST 39/40</b> Not applicable to these proposals</p> <p>(39) In planning and commissioning SEN provision or considering a proposal for change, LAs should aim for a flexible range of provision and support that can respond to the needs of individual pupils and parental preferences. This is favourable to establishing broad categories of provision according to special educational need or disability. Decision-makers should ensure that proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take account of parental preferences for particular styles of provision or education settings;</li> <li>• take account of any relevant local offer for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and the views expressed on it;</li> <li>• offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children and young people, taking account of collaborative arrangements (including between special and mainstream), extended school and Children’s Centre provision; regional centres (of expertise) and regional and sub-regional provision; out of LA day and residential special provision;</li> <li>• take full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, within a learning environment where children can be healthy and stay safe;</li> <li>• support the LA’s strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and their scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people;</li> <li>• provide access to appropriately trained staff and access to specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils can have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community;</li> <li>• ensure appropriate provision for 14-19 year-olds; and</li> <li>• ensure that appropriate full-time education will be available to all displaced pupils. Their statements of special educational needs must be amended and all parental rights must be ensured. Other interested partners, such as the Health Authority should be involved. Pupils should not be placed long-term or permanently in a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) if a special school place is what they need.</li> </ul> <p>(40). When considering any reorganisation of provision that the LA considers to be reserved for pupils with special educational needs, including that which might lead to children being displaced, proposers will need to demonstrate how the proposed alternative arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for those children. Decision-makers should make clear how they are satisfied that this SEN improvement test has been met, including how they have taken account of parental or independent representations which question the proposer’s assessment.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b> None
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b> None
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> Not applicable to these proposals

**ADDITIONAL FACTORS RELEVANT TO PROPOSALS FOR NEW MAINTAINED SCHOOLS**

<p><b>SUITABILITY 41</b></p> <p>(41)When considering a proposal for a new maintained school, the decision-maker should consider each proposal on its merits, and take into account all matters relevant to the proposal. Any proposals put forward by organisations which advocate violence or other illegal activity must be rejected. In order to be approved, a proposal should demonstrate that they would support UK democratic values including respect for the basis on which UK laws are made and applied; respect for democracy; support for individual liberties within the law; and mutual tolerance and respect.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>REPRESENTATIONS None</b>
<b>OFFICER COMMENT None</b>
<p><b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b></p> <p>(41) The new school would preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The school would aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. It would encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. The Diocesan Board Of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council are committed to the newly created school being distinctive and inclusive in supporting all children and their families in learning and development.</p>

<p><b>COMPETITION (under section 7 EIA 2006) 42/43/44/45</b></p> <p>(42). Where a LA considers that there is a need for a new school in its area it must first seek proposals to establish an academy/free school under section 6A of EIA 2006 (though proposals may also be made under section 10 and 11 of the EIA 2006). In such cases the Secretary of State is the decision-maker. However, in exceptional circumstances where no academy/free school proposals are received (or are received but are deemed unsuitable) a statutory competition under section 7 of the EIA 2006 may be held. Where there is demand for faith places the LA may seek to establish a new faith VA school (see paragraphs 47-51).</p> <p>(43). Where two or more proposals are complementary, and together meet the requirements for the new school, the decision-maker may approve all the proposals.</p> <p>(44). The specification for the new school is only the minimum requirement; a proposal may go beyond this. Where a proposal is not in line with the specification, the decision-maker must consider the potential impact of the difference to the specification.</p> <p>(45). Where additional provision is proposed (e.g. early years or a sixth-form) the decision-maker should first judge the merits of the main proposal against the others. If the proposal is judged to be superior, the decision-maker should consider the additional elements and whether they should be approved. If the decision-maker considers they cannot be approved, they may consider a modification to the proposal, but will need to first consult the proposers and - if the proposal includes provision for 14-19 year olds - the Education Funding Agency (EFA).</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>REPRESENTATIONS None</b>
<b>OFFICER COMMENT None</b>
<p><b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b></p> <p>(42/43/44/45)The proposal is to establish a new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision</p> <p><b>Section 11</b> Any persons ('proposer') e.g. LA or diocese may publish a proposal, at any time, for a new school outside of the free school presumption and competitions process under section 11 of Education and Inspections Act 2006. The Secretary of State's consent is not required in the case of proposals for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a new community or foundation primary school to replace a maintained infant and a maintained junior school;</li> <li>• a new voluntary-aided school in order to meet demand for a specific type of place e.g. places to meet demand from those of a particular faith;</li> <li>• a new foundation or voluntary school resulting from the reorganisation of existing faith schools in an area, including an existing faith school losing or changing its religious designation;</li> <li>• a new foundation or community school, where there were no suitable free school proposals and a competition has been held but did not identify a suitable provider;</li> </ul>

- a former independent school wishing to join the maintained sector; and
- a new LA maintained nursery school.

(Department for Education Guidance: 2016)

Department for Education Guidance explains that there are two ways to 'merge' or 'amalgamate' two or more existing maintained schools:

*The LA or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close two (or more) schools and the LA or a proposer other than the LA (e.g. diocese, faith or parent group, Trust) depending on category, can publish a proposal to open a new school. This results in a new school number being issued.*

*The LA and/or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close one school (or more) and enlarge/change the age range/transfer site (following a statutory process as/when necessary) of an existing school, to accommodate the displaced pupils. The remaining school would retain its original school number, as it is not a new school, even if its phase has changed.*

(Department for Education Guidance: 2016)

The most equitable way to amalgamate Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School and Honley CE (VC) Junior School would be to establish a new replacement school. Therefore, the linked statutory proposals that would be required to bring the schools together are:

*The Diocesan Board of Education within the Diocese of Leeds would propose a new replacement all-through Church of England primary school. The new school would continue in the existing buildings and on the same sites.*

*The LA would propose the technical 'closure' of Honley CE (VC) Infant and Nursery School and Honley CE (VC) Junior School.*

#### **CAPITAL IN COMPETITIONS (46)**

(46) For competitions the LA will be expected to provide premises and meet the capital costs of implementing the winning proposal, and must include a statement to this effect in the notice inviting proposals. Where the estimated premises requirements and/or capital costs of a proposal submitted in response to a competition exceed the initial cost estimate made by the LA, the decision-maker should consider the reasons for the additional requirements and/or costs, as set out in the proposal and whether there is agreement to their provision.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

#### **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(46) The proposal to establish a new Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school with nursery provision is not subject to a competitive process, as already explained the proposed new school is being established under section 11(2) special cases of the Education and Inspections Act which enables new maintained schools to be established in certain circumstances.

#### **NEW VOLUNTARY-AIDED SCHOOLS (under section 11 of EIA 2006) 47/48/49/50/51 **Not applicable to these proposals****

(47). Section 11 of the EIA 2006 permits a new VA school to be proposed without the requirement for the Secretary of State's approval. Such a school must be proposed following the required statutory process and may be for a school with or without a designated religious character.

(48). Many VA schools are schools with a religious character. The department recognises the important contribution that faith schools make to the education system and that 'faith need' (demand for faith

places on choice grounds) may be viewed as separate from 'basic need' (demand for new school places).

(49). When assessing basic need, LAs need to look at the general demand for places and if a new school is needed to address basic need, must go down the academy presumption route. Where there is a demand for faith places, the law allows for LAs to seek to establish a new academy with religious designation, or for other proposers to establish new VA schools outside the presumption process.

(50). The approval of a new school to meet local demand for faith places may also meet the demand (or some of the demand) for basic need.

(51). Legislation allows maintained schools to seek to convert to academy status.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS Not applicable to these proposals**

The proposal seeks to establish a new Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

**INDEPENDENT FAITH SCHOOLS JOINING THE MAINTAINED SECTOR 52 Not applicable to these proposals**

(52) Legislation allows an independent faith school to move into the maintained sector. However, decision-makers must ensure that the decision to proceed with such a proposal is clearly based on value for money and that the school is able to meet the high standards expected of state-funded educational provision. The department would expect the decision-maker to consider the following points:

- that there is genuine demand/need for this type of school place in the local community;
- that the current and projected financial health of the proposer is strong;
- that the proposal represents long term value for money for the taxpayer;
- that the school will be able to deliver the whole of the national curriculum to the expected high standard
- that all aspects of due diligence have been considered and undertaken; and that the school building is appropriate for the delivery of a high standard of education and in good condition throughout, or can easily be improved to meet such standards.

**REPRESENTATIONS Not applicable**

**OFFICER COMMENT Not applicable**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS Not applicable to these proposals**

**REPLACEMENT GRAMMAR SCHOOLS 53 Not applicable to these proposals**

(53) A new school can only be designated as a grammar school by the Secretary of State where it is being established in place of one or more closing grammar schools<sup>8</sup>. Decision-makers should therefore satisfy themselves that if a new school is proposed as a grammar school it is eligible for designation. Where an existing grammar school is expanding the proposer and decision maker must consider the points listed in paragraph 30.

**REPRESENTATIONS Not applicable**

<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b> Not applicable
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> Not applicable to these proposals

**ADDITIONAL FACTORS RELEVANT TO CLOSURE PROPOSALS**

<b>CLOSURE PROPOSALS (under s15 EIA 2006) 54</b>
(54) The decision-maker should be satisfied that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils in the area, taking into account the overall quality of provision, the likely supply and future demand for places. The decision-maker should consider the popularity with parents of the schools in which spare capacity exists and evidence of parents' aspirations for those schools.
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b> None
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b> None
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b>
(54) There would be no displaced pupils should the proposals be approved for implementation. All the pupils attending Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior school would automatically become part of the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school with nursery provision on the 1st May 2017. Pupils at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior school would remain in the same buildings as they are currently.
This proposal does not intend to add more capacity in the area but retain the same number of places.
The new Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school will cater for pupils aged 3 to 11, with a PAN of 66 for Key Stage 1, a PAN of 68 for Key Stage 2 and retaining the 48 part-time early learning places for nursery children aged 3-4 years.

<b>SCHOOLS TO BE REPLACED BY PROVISION IN A MORE SUCCESSFUL/POPULAR SCHOOL 55</b>
(55) Such proposals should normally be approved, subject to evidence provided.
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b> None
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b> None
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> Not applicable to these proposals

<b>SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN 56</b>
(56) For all closure proposals involving schools causing concern, copies of the Ofsted monitoring letters for the relevant schools should be made available. Decision-makers should have regard to the length of time the school has been in special measures, requiring improvement or otherwise causing concern. The decision-maker should also have regard to the progress the school has made, the prognosis for improvement, and the availability of places at other existing or proposed schools within a reasonable travelling distance. There is a presumption that these proposals should be approved, subject to checking that there are sufficient accessible places of an acceptable standard available to accommodate displaced pupils and to meet foreseeable future demand for places in the area.
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b> None
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b> None



**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS - Not applicable to these proposals**

**RURAL SCHOOLS 57/58/59 -**

(57). There is a presumption against the closure of rural schools. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and the proposal clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. Those proposing closure should provide evidence to show that they have carefully considered the following:

- alternatives to closure including the potential for federation with another local school or conversion to academy status and joining a multi-academy trust or umbrella trust to increase the school's viability;
- Not applicable where a rural infant and junior school on the same site are closing to establish a new primary school on the same site(s).
- the scope for an extended school to provide local community services; and facilities e.g. child care facilities, family and adult learning, healthcare, community internet access etc.;
- the transport implications; and
- the overall and long term impact on local people and the community of closure of the village school and of the loss of the building as a community facility.

(58). When deciding a proposal for the closure of a rural primary school the decision-maker must refer to the Designation of Rural Primary Schools Order to confirm that the school is a rural school.

(59). For secondary schools, the decision-maker must decide whether a school is to be regarded as rural for the purpose of considering a proposal. In doing so the decision-maker should have regard to the department's register of schools – EduBase which includes a rural/urban indicator for each school in England. Where a school is not recorded as rural on Edubase, the decision-maker can consider evidence provided by interested parties, that a particular school should be regarded as rural.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS - Not applicable to these proposals**

**EARLY YEARS PROVISION 60/61**

(60). In considering a proposal to close a school which currently includes early years provision, the decision-maker should consider whether the alternative provision will integrate pre-school education with childcare services and/or with other services for young children and their families; and should have particular regard to the views of the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

(61). The decision-maker should also consider whether the new, alternative/extended early years provision will maintain or enhance the standard of educational provision for early years and flexibility of access for parents. Alternative provision could be with providers in the private, voluntary or independent sector.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(60/61) The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled primary school with nursery provision would

retain the same level and scope of early year's provision to that which is currently provided by Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. This means that the proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled Primary School, with nursery provision would provide the following level of early year's provision:

Provide 48 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years)

The length of sessions would be the same as offered now by Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. The provision would be fully inclusive, but there is no proposed specialised provision reserved for children with special educational needs.

The proposed new all-through Voluntary Controlled Primary School with nursery provision, would build on the existing strengths and the strong working relationship between Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School to successfully integrate early year's provision within an all-through setting and form a closer, more effective working relationship until the end of Key Stage 2.

There is demand for early years places in the area as can be evidenced via the take up of existing places at Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School. There is a requirement in the area for additional places to meet the future demand associated with "30 hours free childcare" as per the evidence presented in the Kirklees Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016.

As the proposal is for a technical closure linked to the establishment of identical replacement early years provision the impact on children and families is considered to be minimal. The impact on other local providers both in and outside of the school sector is also considered to be minimal. Given the nature of the proposal detailed assessments of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools, and in settings outside of the maintained school sector which deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within three miles of the school has not been considered beyond that which is contained in the Kirklees Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016.

Outside the scope of these proposals a number of options are being explored about how best to meet the evidence of future demand for early years and childcare places in the area.

## **NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSURES 62**

(62). There is a presumption against the closure of nursery schools. This does not mean that a nursery school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and the proposal should demonstrate that:

- plans to develop alternative provision clearly demonstrate that it will be at least as equal in terms of the quantity as the provision provided by the nursery school with no loss of expertise and specialism; and
- replacement provision is more accessible and more convenient for local parents.

**REPRESENTATIONS None**

**OFFICER COMMENT None**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS - Not applicable to these proposals**

## **BALANCE OF DENOMINATIONAL PROVISION 63/64**

(63). In deciding a proposal to close a school with religious character, decision-makers should consider the effect that this will have on the balance of denominational provision in the area.

(64). The decision-maker should not normally approve the closure of a school with a religious character where the proposal would result in a reduction in the proportion of relevant denominational places in the area. However, this guidance does not apply in cases where the school concerned is severely under-

subscribed, standards have been consistently low or where an infant and junior school (at least one of which has a religious character) are to be replaced by a new all-through primary school with the same religious character on the site of one or both of the predecessor schools.

**REPRESENTATIONS** None

**OFFICER COMMENT** None

### **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(63/64) The number of denominational places would remain the same as the Infant School and Junior school are both Church of England Schools.

The schools are well supported by local families. Numbers of pupils on roll have remained stable at or near capacity and are projected to stay at this level in the immediate future. Almost all pupils transfer directly from the infant school to the junior school at the start of Year 3 and so there should be no direct impact on parental choice. No comments were received in consultation referring to any concerns about the denominational nature of the proposed new school.

It is proposed that the closure of Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery school and Honley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School would be linked to the establishment of the proposed new all-through Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school, with nursery provision. Early years and key stage one would remain on the same site. Denominational provision for infant and junior school age pupils in the area would be maintained and there should be no impact on parental choice. The new school would preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The school would aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. It would encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Church of England Diocese of Leeds Board of Education and Kirklees Council are committed to the newly created school being distinctive and inclusive in supporting all children and their families in learning and development. It would ensure equality of opportunity and work to remove any barrier to success. Leeds Diocesan Board of Education within the Church of England Diocese of Leeds and Kirklees Council believe that combining the ethos and values of the school and the other schools that are subject to this proposal, to form the ethos and values of the new school would impact positively on teaching and learning, provide a firm foundation for culture of continuous, sustained improvement, and to offer an exciting and innovative opportunity for the whole school community.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES 65**

(65) Some schools may be a focal point for family and community activity, providing extended services for a range of users, and its closure may have wider social consequences. In considering proposals for the closure of such schools, the effect on families and the community should be considered. Where the school is providing access to extended services, provision should be made for the pupils and their families to access similar services through their new schools or other means.

**REPRESENTATIONS**

**OFFICER COMMENT**

### **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS**

(65) The proposed new all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school for pupils aged 3-11 years with nursery provision would continue to be a focal point for the community and be integral in ensuring local educational provisions work effectively both with each other as well as with local organisations and groups. As the work to develop Community Hubs continues there may be opportunities in the future to provide services in different ways.

## **ADDITIONAL FACTORS RELEVANT TO PROPOSALS TO CHANGE CATEGORY TO FOUNDATION, ACQUIRE/REMOVE A TRUST AND ACQUIRE/REMOVE A FOUNDATION**

## MAJORITY GOVERNING BODY

### STANDARDS 66/67/68 **Not applicable to these proposals**

(66) Decision Makers should consider the impact of changing category to foundation and acquiring or removing a Trust on educational standards at the school. Factors to consider include:

- the impact of the proposals on the quality, range and diversity of educational provision in the school;
- the impact of the proposals on the curriculum offered by the school, including, if appropriate, the development of the school's specialism;
- the experience and track record of the Trust members, including any educational experience and expertise of the proposed trustees;
- how the Trust might raise/has raised pupils' aspirations and contributes to the ethos and culture of the school;
- whether and how the proposals advance/have advanced national and local transformation strategies;
- the particular expertise and background of Trust members. For example, a school seeking to better prepare its pupils for higher education might have a higher education institution as a partner.

(67) In assessing standards at the school, the decision-maker should take account of recent reports from Ofsted or other inspectorates and a range of performance data. Recent trends in applications for places at the school (as a measure of popularity) and the local reputation of the school may also be relevant context for a decision.

(68) The government wants to see more schools benefit from the freedom to control their own assets, employ their own staff and set their own admissions criteria. However, if a proposal is not considered strong enough to significantly improve standards at a school that requires it, the decision maker should consider rejecting the proposal

**REPRESENTATIONS** None

**OFFICER COMMENT** None

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS** **Not applicable to these proposals**

### COMMUNITY COHESION 69 **Not applicable to these proposals**

(69) Trusts have a duty to promote community cohesion. In addition to the factors outlined in paragraph 22, the decision-maker should also carefully consider the Trust's plans for partnership working with other schools, agencies or voluntary bodies.

**REPRESENTATIONS**

**OFFICER COMMENT**

**RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS** **Not applicable to these proposals**

### GENERAL POINTS ON ACQUIRING A TRUST 70 **Not applicable to these proposals**

(70). For new Trust schools (foundation schools with a charitable foundation) the decision-maker must be satisfied that the following criteria are met for the proposal to be approved:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the proposal is not seeking to alter the religious character of a school or for a school to acquire or lose a religious character. These alterations cannot be made simply by acquiring a Trust;</li> <li>• the necessary work is underway to establish the Trust as a charity and as a corporate body; and</li> <li>• that none of the trustees are disqualified from exercising the function of trustee, either by virtue of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disqualifications under company or charity law;</li> <li>• disqualifications from working with children or young people;</li> <li>• not having obtained a criminal record check certificate<sup>14</sup>; or</li> <li>• the Requirements Regulations which disqualify certain persons from acting as charity trustees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>

<p><b>OTHER POINTS ON TRUST PROPOSALS 71</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b></p> <p>(71). Additionally, there are a number of other factors which should be considered when adding or removing a Trust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whether the Trust acts as the Trust for any other schools and/or any of the members are already part of an existing Trust;</li> <li>• if the proposed Trust partners already have a relationship with the school or other schools, how those schools perform (although the absence of a track record should not in itself be grounds for regarding proposals less favourably);</li> </ul> <p>how the partners propose to identify and appoint governors. What, if any, support would the Trust/foundation give to governors?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to what extent the proposed Trust partners have knowledge of the local community and the specific needs of the school/area and to what extent the proposal addresses these; and</li> <li>• the particular expertise and background of Trust members.</li> </ul>
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>

<p><b>GENERAL POINT ON REMOVING A TRUST 72</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b></p> <p>(72) If a proposal is for the removal of a Trust, the governing body should consider the proposal in the context of the original proposal to acquire the Trust, and consider whether the Trust has fulfilled its expectations. Where new information has come to light regarding the suitability of Trust partners, this should be considered.</p>
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>

<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>

<b>SUITABILITY OF PARTNERS 73/74</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>
<p>(73) Decision-makers will need to be satisfied of the suitability of Trust partners and members. They should use their own discretion and judgement in determining on a case-by-case basis what circumstances might prevent the reputation of a Trust partner being in keeping with the charitable objectives of a Trust, or could bring the school into disrepute. However, the decision-maker should seek to come to a balanced judgement, considering the suitability and reputation of the current/potential Trust. Decision-makers should seek to assure themselves that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Trust members and proposed trustees (where the trustees are specified in the proposals) are not involved in illegal activities and/or activities which could bring the school into disrepute;</li> <li>• the Trust partners are not involved in activities that may be considered inappropriate for children and young people (e.g. tobacco, gambling, adult entertainment, alcohol).</li> </ul> <p>(74)The following sources may provide information on the history of potential Trust partners <b>(N/A)</b></p>

<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>

<b>LAND AND ASSETS, WHEN REMOVING A TRUST/FOUNDATION MAJORITY 75/76</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>
<p>75. When removing a Trust, the governing body is required to resolve all issues relating to land and assets before the publication of proposals, including any consideration or compensation that may be due to any of the parties. Where the parties cannot agree, the issues may be referred to the Schools Adjudicator to determine.</p> <p>76. The Schools Adjudicator will take account of a governing body's ability to pay when determining any compensation. Therefore, all of these issues must be resolved by the point at which the decision is made and the amount of compensation due to either party may be a factor in deciding proposals to remove a Trust.</p>
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>

<b>FINANCE - WHEN REMOVING A TRUST/FOUNDATION MAJORITY 77</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>
<p>77. Trusts are under no obligation to provide financial assistance to a school, but there may be instances where the Trust does provide investment. The well-being and educational opportunities of pupils at the school should be paramount, and no governing body should feel financial obligations prevent the removal of a Trust where this is in the best interests of pupils and parents.</p>
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>

<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>

<b>OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE TRUST WHEN REMOVING A TRUST/FOUNDATION MAJORITY 78</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>
78. Trusts may offer a variety of services to the school, such as careers advice, work experience placements, strategic partnerships with other schools, and access to higher education resources and so on. The damage to relationships and/or loss of any of these advantages should be weighed up against the improvements envisaged by a change in governance or the removal of the Trust
<b>REPRESENTATIONS</b>
<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<b>RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS</b> <b>Not applicable to these proposals</b>