

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE DIRECTOR MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

5 December 2017

PROPOSAL TO CEASE TO MAINTAIN SKIPTON INGS COMMUNITY PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Executive Member with information upon which to make a decision on the proposal to cease to maintain Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2017.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 17 October 2017 the Executive approved the publication of statutory proposals to close Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2017.
- 2.2 This followed careful consideration of the responses to public consultation carried out by the Children and Young People's Service.
- 2.3 The statutory proposals were published on 26 October 2017, giving 4 weeks until 23 November 2017 for representations to be made.
- 2.4 This report is supported by a number of Appendices as listed below:

Annex A: Public Notice and Statutory Proposals

Appendix 1: Public Notice in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006

Appendix 2: Statutory Proposal for school closure

Appendix 3: Anonymous response received 20 November 2017

Annex B: School Organisation Guidance for Decision-makers

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 sets out the procedures for closing a maintained school. These are detailed in School Organisation regulations and guidance¹. The regulations and guidance apply to Local Authorities and governing bodies proposing to close schools, and to Local Authorities (including the County Council's Executive or Executive Members) acting as decision-makers.

4 PROPOSALS

¹ School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 and Department for Education statutory guidance Opening and closing maintained schools and Guidance for decision makers April 2016.

4.1 North Yorkshire County Council proposes:

To cease to maintain Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2017. It is proposed that the catchment area of Christ Church CE VC Primary School should be expanded to include the current Ings catchment area with effect from 1 January 2018.

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES

5.1 The consultation period ran from 26 June to 15 September 2017. Consultation documents were distributed to a wide range of stakeholders. The consultation document and responses to the consultation are included in Annex A, Appendix 2.

5.2 The Executive met on 17 October 2017, considered the consultation responses, and resolved to proceed with publication of the statutory proposals.

6 STATUTORY PROPOSALS AND NOTICES

6.1 The public notice, placed on the school gates and in the Craven Herald newspaper, invited written objections or comments to be submitted by 23 November 2017. A copy of the notice is attached as Annex A, Appendix 1. At the time of the publication of the notice, a copy of the complete proposal, including all the information required in the school organisation regulations and guidance, was published on the County Council's website. A copy of the proposal is attached as Annex A, Appendix 2.

6.2 One response was received following the publication of the Statutory Notices. This response supports the closure but is anonymous. The response is attached as Appendix 3 for completeness. However, as with all anonymous responses, be they for or against the proposal, little weight should be attached as we do not know the responder's interest in or connection to the matter.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 As set out in the report to Executive on 17 October, any savings to the Dedicated Schools Grant arising from the closure, if approved, would remain within the ring fenced Dedicated Schools Grant as part of the funding for all schools. The current lump sum figure for Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is £89,047. Any revenue or capital balances would be made available to the receiving school in line with the Closing School Accounting Policy.

7.2 If the school closed, currently there would be no potential additional cost to the Local Authority in providing transport to other schools. Free home to school transport would be provided for entitled pupils in accordance with the revised catchment area arrangements in accordance with the County Council's Home to School Transport policy. Based on current pupil numbers and places of residence there are no eligible pupils.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE

- 8.1 The consideration and determination of school organisation proposals by the Local Authority is set out in regulations and in guidance produced by the Department for Education.² Careful regard has been had to these provisions.

PRELIMINARY CHECKS

- 8.2 The Decision Maker must consider, on receipt of each proposal:
- whether any information is missing;
 - whether the published notice of the proposal complies with statutory requirements;
 - whether the statutory consultation has been carried out prior to the publication of the notice;
 - and whether the proposal is related to other published proposals.

Having undertaken an audit of these preliminary checks, the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) advises that:

- all information required has been supplied;
- the published notice complies with statutory requirements;
- statutory consultation has been carried out prior to publication of the notice;
- and that the preliminary points for consideration have been dealt with sufficiently to permit the Executive or Executive Members to proceed to determine this proposal.

TYPES OF DECISION THAT CAN BE MADE

- 8.3 In considering proposals for a school closure, the Executive (or the Executive Member for Schools, if there are no objections received during the representation period), as Decision Makers can decide to:
- reject the proposals;
 - approve the proposals;
 - approve the proposals with a modification;
 - approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition.

9 PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING

- 9.1 The Executive agreed on 25 September 2007 that in making a decision on school organisation proposals:
- (a) The decision maker must have regard to the Decision Makers' Guidance and to the Executive Procedure Rules laid down in the North Yorkshire County Council Constitution.
- (b) All decisions must give reasons for the decision, indicating the main factors/criteria for the decision.

² See footnote 1.

10 ISSUES RAISED DURING THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 17 OCTOBER 2017 AND IN THE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE STATUTORY PROPOSALS

10.1 A representative of the local community spoke at the Executive meeting following a meeting arranged locally and held in Skipton on 14 October 2017. He stated that the consultation process was challenged and an outcome of closure was perceived to be a foregone conclusion. Reference was made to incorrect assumptions circulating via social media regarding the possible future use of the site as a Mosque or faith school. He went on to talk about the movement of children to alternative schools and a suggestion that this may have resulted in bullying and exclusion. He felt the Equality Impact Assessment did not give sufficient weight to the protected characteristics of faith and race, and queried the logic of closing a school which is at the heart of the community. He urged that the proposed closure be postponed to allow further consultation and presented a petition of 402 signatures which seeks to keep Ings CP School open.

10.2 County Councillor Andy Solloway spoke as the local representative for Skipton West and asked for the following points to be considered;

10.21 He spoke of the many parents who have made tough decisions in choosing to take their children out of Ings and place them in another school. He said many of which are still experiencing problems with transport and places. He related hearing of children not getting their first, second or even third choice of school and urged the LA to do all it can to support these parents and that some provision or funding is made available to support them.

10.22 Many of the Ings children who have now moved to schools with available places are now in much larger class sizes than they were used to. There has also been concern expressed from parents of those schools that the increase in numbers has created additional pressure on the recipient schools. Cllr Solloway asked that the Council supports these schools and fills any financial gaps if needed.

10.23 Ings School was and still is a community resource. There are many community activities that take place there and which should continue even if the decision is taken to close the school. The building should remain accessible to the local community as removing this facility would be a final insult and he urged that this be avoided.

11.0 RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED

11.1 SUPPORT TO PARENTS

NYCC Admissions team have worked closely with parents and schools since the start of the consultation process to ensure that parents' preferences for alternative schools have been met, as far as possible. This has included meeting with parents at the school to provide information on local schools.

Of the 42 pupils on roll at Ings at the start of the consultation process, 40 pupils have been allocated places, one moved out of area, and one pupil was allocated a place under SEND arrangements. Of those pupils, 16 received

their first preference of school, seven received their second preference, 15 their third preference, and only two their fourth preference.

Pupils have been allocated places across eight schools in Skipton and the surrounding area. No more than four pupils have been admitted to a single year group at any school.

11.2 SUPPORT TO OTHER SCHOOLS

Initial views from Education and Skills advisers speaking to local headteachers are that schools have managed the transition well and the LA is not aware of any requests for additional support, or any pupils experiencing particular difficulties in their transition. Education and Skills advisers have been visiting Skipton primary schools this term and will continue to monitor the transition of pupils.

The financial position of each school receiving additional pupils from Ings will be monitored and consideration given to their entitlement of Pupil Growth funding in cases where numbers have increased significantly.

11.3 TRANSPORT

There are five other primary schools in Skipton Town all within 1.5 miles of Ings CP School, two of which are less than one mile from Ings. The Local Authority does not consider these travel distances unreasonable. Free home to school transport would be provided for entitled pupils in accordance with the County Council's Home to School transport policy.

11.4 FUTURE USE OF INGS SCHOOL SITE

The community use of the school site has been examined as part of the consultation on the closure. Below is a list of current community groups that are using facilities on the school site;

Monday	9.30 – 11.00	English tutor for beginners (as from 16/10/17, at community centre previously)
	11.30 – 15.00	Ladies sewing group
Tuesday	13.00 – 15.00	English Tutor for advanced students (as from 16/10/17, at community centre previously)
	15.30 – 17.30	SELFA Charity Group
Wednesday	13.00 – 14.30	Ladies Group
	15.30 – 17.30	SELFA Charity Group
Thursday	9.30 – 12.00	Ladies Group

Governors have agreed that existing groups can continue to use the school until the end of term, subject to the school having staff available to provide users with access to the building. LA Officers will work in particular with representatives of the SELFA charity group regarding their future use of the building.

The future community use of the school, including the multi-use games area, will be taken into consideration when decisions are being made about the future of the school site, should the decision be made to close the school.

Other community facilities are available nearby at Sandylands Sports Centre and Broughton Road Community Centre which at the time of writing this report had rooms available for hire.

Local Authority Officers are hopeful that the Ings School site can provide primary school places for children in Skipton in the future and are in discussion with the Regional Schools Commissioner about the likely opening of an academy. Members will be updated when further information is available.

11.5 CONSULTATION PROCESS

A challenge was made into how the Local Authority undertook the consultation process which was carried out between 26 June and 15 September 2017. The procedures set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 were adhered to. The consultation document went out to a number of organisations, groups, and individuals, and was published on both the NYCC website and the school website. A public meeting was held at the school on 19 July. Interested parties had around 12 weeks in which to respond.

It is the Local Authority's view that the Equality Impact Assessment gave sufficient due regard to the impact of closure on what is an inclusive non faith designated community primary school.

12 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION.

12.1 The report to the Executive on 17 October set out the key concerns. The latest position on these issues is summarised below;

12.2 STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

At the last two Ofsted inspections (October 2014 and November 2016) the school was judged as Requires Improvement. Governors and school leaders have made progress in very challenging circumstances, however, significant improvement has not been possible due to staffing turbulence and difficulties in recruiting high quality staff.

Local Authority staff, Governors, and teachers at the school have concerns about the impact of falling numbers on ensuring appropriate curriculum delivery and a broad and balanced experience to the children.

12.3 PUPIL NUMBERS

As detailed in the previous report there was only one pupil on roll at the school at the start of the September term who has now accepted a place at an alternative school. Since then one reception aged child joined the school after half term.

12.4 FINANCIAL POSITION

As reported previously budget projections based on pupil numbers of 31 show in-year financial deficits for 2017/18 and 2018/19 at £56,300 and £105,300 respectively and a projected cumulative deficit at the end of 2018/19 of

£249,400. The financial position has deteriorated further with the departure of the majority of pupils.

12.5 STAFFING

The current position is that appropriate staffing is being maintained in accordance with our obligation to provide the best possible education while the school remains open.

13 CATCHMENT AREA

13.1 Despite inviting comments during consultation around the future treatment of the catchment area for Skipton Ings, none were received. During the representation period to 23 November Officers were again in contact with local schools for their views.

13.2 The outcome of discussion during this period is a proposal that the catchment area of Christ Church CE VC Primary School be extended to include the area currently served by Skipton Ings CP School. This is on the understanding, agreed with the leaders of Christ Church, that local catchment arrangements will be reviewed for September 2020 and beyond.

14 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no Human Rights issues in relation to this issue.

15 RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 (a) That having undertaken the required preliminary checks, the Executive Member resolves that the four key issues listed above in paragraph 8.2 have been satisfied and there can be a determination of the proposals.

(b) That the following proposal be determined:

To cease to maintain Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2017.

To extend the catchment area of Christ Church CE VC Primary School with effect from 1 January 2018 to serve the area currently served by Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School.

Stuart Carlton
Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service

Report prepared by Julia Temple and John Lee Strategic Planning Team.

Action AgreedExecutive Member
Date: 5 December 2017

Action RequestedCorporate Director
Date: 5 December 2017

List of Appendices:

Annex A: Public Notice and Statutory Proposal

Appendix 1: Public Notice in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006

Appendix 2: Statutory Proposal for school closure

Appendix 3: Anonymous response received 20 November 2017

Annex B: School Organisation Guidance for Decision-makers

Background documents

Report to Executive, 17 October 2017



Department
for Education

Opening and closing maintained schools

**Statutory guidance for proposers and
decision-makers**

April 2016

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1: Summary

About this guidance

This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education. This means that recipients must have regard to it when carrying out duties relating to establishing (opening) a new school and / or the discontinuance (closing) of an existing school.

The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that good quality school places are provided where they are needed. It should be read in conjunction with Part 2 and Schedule 2 of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 as amended by the Education Act (EA) 2011 and *The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013*.

Review date

This guidance will be review in April 2017.

Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is relevant to all categories of maintained school, unless explicitly stated otherwise, and is for those proposing (e.g. governing bodies, dioceses and local authorities (LAs)) to open and / or close a school, decision-makers (LAs, the [Schools Adjudicator](#)), and for information purposes for those affected by a proposal (e.g. dioceses, trustees, parents etc.).

A governing body, LA or the Schools Adjudicator must have regard to this guidance when making decisions under Schedule 2 of [EIA 2006](#) (as amended by [EA 2011](#)) and the details set out in the [Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations](#).

Separate advice is available on making [prescribed alterations to maintained schools](#) and [significant changes to academies](#).

It is the responsibility of LAs and governing bodies to ensure that they act in accordance with the relevant legislation when making changes to or opening or closing a maintained school and they are advised to seek independent legal advice where appropriate.

Main points

- Where a LA identifies the need for a new school, specifically to meet increased basic need in their area section 6A of EIA 2006 places the LA under a duty to seek proposals to establish an academy (free school) via the '[free school presumption](#)'.

The LA is responsible for providing the site for the new school and meeting all associated capital and pre-/post-opening costs.

- The final decision on all new /free school presumption proposals lies with the [Regional Schools Commissioner](#) (RSC) on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- Any persons ('proposer') for example LA or diocese may publish a proposal at any time for a new school outside of the free school presumption and section 7 competitions process under section 11 of EIA 2006. It is also possible to apply to the Secretary of State for consent to publish proposals to establish a new school under section 10 of EIA 2006.
- All decisions on proposals to open or close a maintained school must be based on the factors outlined in the [guidance for decision-makers](#), following the [statutory five stage process](#).
- Consultations should be carried out in term time to allow the maximum numbers of people to see and respond to statutory proposals.
- Within one week of the date of their publication the documents below **MUST** be sent to the Secretary of State (via schoolorganisation.notifications@education.gsi.gov.uk):
 - a copy of the statutory proposal
 - a copy of the statutory notice
 - a copy of the decision record on the proposal.
- The school organisation team will make the necessary updates to the EduBase system.

2: Establishment of new schools

The following information sets out details of the free school presumption process as well as well as the **other** circumstances in which the establishment of a new maintained school can be proposed.

The free school presumption

Where a LA identifies the need for a new school, to meet basic need, section 6A of EIA 2006 places the LA under a duty to seek proposals to establish an academy (free school) via the '[free school presumption](#)'. The LA is responsible for providing the site for the new school and meeting all associated capital and pre-/post-opening revenue costs. All new free school presumption proposals require the RSC's approval (on behalf of the Secretary of State) as it is the Secretary of State who will enter into a funding agreement with the academy trust/sponsor.

School competitions

If the free school presumption does not result in a suitable proposal, a statutory competition can be held under 'section 7' of EIA 2006. This will not require a separate application for approval, since the Secretary of State will inform the LA that approval to hold a competition is given at the same time as informing the LA that no suitable free school was identified.

Free school presumption proposals and proposals for foundation, foundation special and voluntary schools can be submitted into the competition. However the RSC will consider any free school proposals first when making a decision on the case.

If a free school proposal is considered suitable, the competition ends and the proposer works with the department and LA to progress its proposal. If a free school presumption proposal is not considered suitable, or none are received, the competition continues and it is for the LA to decide on the most suitable maintained school proposal that should be approved. However, if the LA is involved¹ in the Trust of a proposed foundation school, the [Schools Adjudicator](#) will be the decision-maker.

Where approval is given to hold a section 7 competition, the LA must follow the statutory process set out in Schedule 2 to EIA 2006 and the [Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations](#).

For section 7 competitions there is no right of appeal.

¹ As set out in para 10(2) of schedule 2 to EIA 2006

Establishing new provision outside competitive arrangements

It is still possible to publish proposals for new maintained school outside of the competitive arrangements at any time.

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 EIA 2006.

The Secretary of States 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.

The proposer should be able to demonstrate to the decision-maker a clear demand for the places the new school will provide.

The statutory process in [part 4](#) must be followed to establish the new school. The [Schools Adjudicator](#) will decide LA proposals (and cases where the LA are involved in the Trust of a proposed foundation school). The LA will decide proposals from other proposers.

Section 10 proposals

It is also possible to apply to the Secretary of State for 'consent to publish' proposals to establish a new school under section 10 of EIA 2006:

- to replace a community school; or
- for a brand new or replacement foundation or voluntary controlled school.

Each request for consent will be considered on its merits and the particular circumstances of the case, including whether the need for a new school might be better met by a free school.

If consent is given the statutory process in [part 4](#) must be followed to establish the new school. The Schools Adjudicator will decide LA proposals (and cases where the LA are involved in the Trust of a proposed foundation school). The LA will decide proposals from other proposers.

The table below sets out a summary of the processes.

Proposer	Type of proposal	Decision-maker	Right of appeal to the Adjudicator?
Other proposers	Free school presumption	RSC	N/A
LA	Section 11	Schools Adjudicator	CofE Diocese RC Diocese
Other proposers	Section 11	LA (Schools Adjudicator if LA involved in Trust of foundation school)	CofE Diocese RC Diocese Proposers (if LA is decision-maker)
Other proposers	Section 7 (competition)		
	Stage 1. Free school proposals considered first. If a proposal is received and considered suitable completion ends and proposer / LA / department take forward the free school proposal.	RSC	N/A
	Stage 2. Where no suitable free school bid received proposals for new foundation, foundation special or voluntary school submitted will be considered.	LA (Schools Adjudicator)	N/A
LA	Section 10	Schools Adjudicator.	CofE Diocese RC Diocese
Other proposers	Section 10	LA (Schools Adjudicator if LA involved in Trust of foundation school)	CofE Diocese RC Diocese Proposers (if LA is decision-maker)

3: School closures

All decisions related to school closures are taken locally following a statutory process to allow those directly affected by the proposals to feed in their comments.

All decisions on proposals to close a school must be made in accordance with the factors outlined in the [guidance for decision-makers](#).

Who can close a school?

An LA can propose the closure of **ALL** categories of maintained school, following the five-stage statutory process in [part 4](#).

The governing body of a voluntary, foundation, or foundation special school may also publish proposals to close its own school following the statutory process. Alternatively, it may give [at least two years' notice of its intention to close](#) the school to the Secretary of State and the LA.

Reasons for closing a maintained school include where:

- it is surplus to requirements (e.g. result of an area-wide reorganisation and/or neighbouring schools have sufficient places to accommodate displaced pupils);
- it is to be [‘amalgamated’ with another school](#);
- it is failing and there is no viable sponsored academy solution;
- it is to [acquire, lose or change religious character](#); or
- it is being replaced by a new school.

Closure of rural schools

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 a proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.

When producing a proposal, the proposer must carefully consider:

- the likely effect of the closure of the school on the local community;
- educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools;
- the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
- any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- any alternatives to the closure of the school.

When deciding a proposal for the closure of a rural primary school, there is a legal requirement² that the decision-maker must refer to the [Designation of Rural Primary Schools \(England\) Order](#) to confirm that the school is a rural primary school.

Secondary schools are identified on the EduBase system using the Office for National Statistics' [Rural and Urban Area Classification](#). Decision-makers should consider this indicator when deciding a proposal for the closure of a rural secondary school.

The [free school presumption](#) will not apply in cases where a rural infant and junior school on the same site are being closed to establish a new primary school.

In order to assist the decision-maker, the proposer of a rural school closure should provide evidence to show that it has carefully considered:

- alternatives to closure including: federation with another local school; conversion to academy status and joining a multi-academy trust; 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.;
- transport implications i.e. the availability, and likely cost of transport to other schools and sustainability issues; and
- the overall and long term impact on local people and the community of the closure of the village school and of the loss of the building as a community facility.

Amalgamations

There are two ways to 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 or presumption free school (see [part 2](#)). 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 the 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.

² Section 15(7)(b) of EIA 2006

Existing schools wishing to acquire, change or lose a religious character

It is not possible for an existing school to make any change to its religious character. Instead the LA or governing body must publish a proposal to close the existing school, and a faith organisation, as proposer, must issue a 'related' proposal to establish a new voluntary or foundation school, with a religious character. This can be done by either gaining the Secretary of State's consent under section 10 or as a special case under section 11 of EIA 2006.

In **ALL** cases before the religious designation flexibilities can be utilised, the proposer will need to [apply separately, to the Secretary of State, for the new school to be designated with a religious character](#). This would normally be done once the decision on the new school has been approved. Schools that have been designated with a religious character that close will automatically have the designation revoked.

Upon gaining a religious designation a school can not automatically change its admissions policy to include faith-based criteria. It will need to consult in accordance with the [School Admissions Code](#) and determine revised admission arrangements.

The table below sets out a summary of the process for closing a maintained school.

Proposer	Type of proposal	Decision-maker	Right of appeal to the Adjudicator?
LA	Following a statutory process to close a community, community special or maintained nursery school	LA	CofE Diocese RC Diocese
LA	Following a statutory process to close a foundation, foundation special or voluntary school	LA	CofE Diocese RC Diocese GB Trustees
Governing Body	Following a statutory process to close a voluntary, foundation or foundation special school	LA	CofE Diocese RC Diocese GB Trustees

NB: the LA must make a decision within a period of two months of the end of the representation period or they must be referred to the [Schools Adjudicator](#).

Two years notice of closure – voluntary and foundation schools

Instead of following the statutory process for closure, the governing body of a voluntary or foundation school may, subject to specified provisions³, give the Secretary of State and the LA at least two years' notice of their intention to close the school.

The trustees of a foundation or voluntary school must give their governing body at least two years notice if they intend to terminate the school's occupation of its site. The minimum two years' notice allows the LA and / or governing body time to make alternative arrangements for pupils.

Closure of a community or foundation special school in the interests of pupils

The Secretary of State may direct⁴ a LA to close a community special or foundation special school if she considers it is in the interests of the health, safety or welfare of the pupils. Prior to making the direction, the Secretary of State, must consult: the LA, any other LA who would be affected by the closure of the school; for a foundation special school with a foundation, the person who appoints the foundation governors; and any other persons the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

The Secretary of State must give notice in writing, of the direction, to both the governing body and head teacher of the school. The school must be closed on the date specified by the Secretary of State.

Temporary school closures

A proposal to close a school is not required where a school will temporarily cease to operate due to a rebuild. Where a school operating over multiple sites proposes to cease operations on one (or more) of its sites the proposal will be for a [prescribed alteration](#) and not a school closure.

³ As outlined in section 30 of the SSFA 1998, and including those in the DBE Measure 1991.

⁴ Section.17 of EIA 2006

4: The statutory process

The statutory process for opening⁵ and closing⁶ a maintained school has five stages:

Stage	Description	Timescale	Comments
Stage 1	Consultation	No prescribed timescale.	Informal / pre consultation. Recommended to last a minimum of 6 weeks. School holidays should be taken into consideration and avoided where possible. Likely to be no longer than 12 months.
Stage 2	Publication		Publication of the statutory notice and proposal
Stage 3	Representation	Must be 4 weeks, at least, from date of publication.	Formal consultation. As prescribed in the Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools Regulations and cannot be shortened or lengthened.
Stage 4	Decision	LA should decide a proposal within 2 months otherwise it will fall to the Schools Adjudicator.	Where permitted appeals must be made within 4 weeks of notification of the decision.
Stage 5	Implementation	No prescribed timescale.	However the date must be as specified in the published notice, subject to any modifications agreed by the decision-maker.

⁵ Under sections 10 and 11 of EIA 2006

⁶ Under section 15 of EIA 2006

Consultation

Except where the school is a rural school or a special school where there are prescribed consultees (see [Annex A](#)), proposers of a school closure must consult organisations, groups and individuals they feel to be appropriate (the information in Annex A can be used for examples). The information that **MUST** be included in a closure proposal is set out at [Annex B](#). The information that **MUST** be included in a proposal to establish a new school under the section 10 or 11 processes is set out in [Annex C](#).

Where a LA or governing body carries out a preliminary (informal/ stage one) consultation to consider a range of options for a possible reorganisation, this would not be regarded as a statutory consultation as set out in legislation. The statutory consultation would need to cover the specific opening or closure proposal of the school in question.

How the stage one consultation is carried out is not prescribed in regulations and it is for the proposer to determine the nature of the consultation and its length (although a minimum of six weeks is recommended). It is best practice for consultations to be carried out in term time to allow the maximum number of people to respond. The Cabinet Office guidance on [Consultation principles](#) can be used for other examples of best practice.

Publication

A statutory proposal should be published within 12 months of the stage one consultation period being completed. This is so that it can be informed by up-to-date feedback. A proposal must contain the information specified in either Schedule 1 for establishing a new school (see [Annex C](#)) or Schedule 2 for closing a school (see [Annex B](#)) of the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations.

The full proposal must be published on a website (e.g. the school or LA's website) along with a statement setting out:

- how copies of the proposal may be obtained;
- that anybody can object to, support, or comment on, the proposal;
- the date that the representation period ends; and
- the address to which objections or comments should be submitted.

A brief notice (including details on how the full proposal can be accessed e.g. the website address) must be published in a local newspaper and in a conspicuous place on the school premises and at all of the entrances to the school.

Within one week of the date of publication of a section 10 or 11 proposal to open a new school, the proposer **MUST** send a copy of the proposal to the LA which it is proposed would maintain the school.

On the day of publication of a proposal to close a school the proposer **MUST** send a copy of the proposal to the governing body/LA (as appropriate).

In all cases, within one week of the date of publication on the website, the proposer **MUST** send a copy of the proposal and the information set above to:

- the Secretary of State (schoolorganisation.notifications@education.gsi.gov.uk);
- the parents of every registered pupil at the school - where the school is a special school;
- the local Church of England diocese;
- the local Roman Catholic diocese; and
- any other body or person that the proposer thinks is appropriate (e.g. relevant faith group).

Within one week of receiving a request for a copy of the proposal the proposer must send a copy to the person requesting it.

Related proposals

A proposal for one change can be linked to another proposal(s) for example such an amalgamation where two schools are closing and are to be replaced by a completely new school or if the need for the closure arises from an area-wide reorganisation such as a result of long-term LA planning.

In these cases this should be made clear in any informal or formal consultation processes, in published notices and proposals. All notices should be published together / or as one notice (e.g. where one school is to be enlarged because another is being closed a single notice could be published) and specified as 'related'.

Decisions on 'related' proposals should also be made at the same time.

Representation

The representation period starts on the date of publication of the statutory proposal and must last for at least four weeks. During this period, any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal, to the LA, to be taken into account by the decision-maker. It is also good practice for representations to be forwarded to the proposer to ensure that they are aware of local opinion.

Decision

The LA will be the decision-maker on a school closure proposal, unless the closure proposal is 'related' to another proposal that is to be decided by the [Schools Adjudicator](#).

The Schools Adjudicator will decide LA proposals for new schools (and cases where the LA are involved in the Trust of a proposed foundation school). The LA will decide proposals for new schools from other proposers.

If the LA does not make a decision within a period of two months of the end of the representation period, they must, within a week of the end of the two month period, refer the case to the Schools Adjudicator.

However, the body or individual that takes the decision must have regard to the statutory '[Decision-makers Guidance](#)'.

When issuing a decision, the decision-maker can:

- reject the proposal;
- approve the proposal without modification;
- approve the proposal with such modifications, as the LA think desirable, after consulting the LA and/or governing body (as appropriate); or
- approve the proposal – with or without modification – subject to certain conditions⁷ (such as the granting of planning permission) being met.

A proposal can be withdrawn by the proposer at any point before a decision is taken. When doing so the proposer must send written notice to the LA and the [Schools Adjudicator](#) (if the proposal has been sent to them). A notice must also be placed on the website where the original proposal was published.

Within one week of making a determination the decision-maker must arrange (via the proposer as necessary) for their decision and the reasons for it to be published on the website where the original proposal was published. They must arrange for notification of the decision and reasons for it to be sent to:

- The Secretary of State (via schoolorganisation.notifications@education.gsi.gov.uk)
- the LA (where the Schools Adjudicator is the decision-maker);
- the governing body/proposers (as appropriate);
- the trustees of the school (if any);
- the local Church of England diocese;
- the local Roman Catholic diocese;
- for a special school, the parents of every registered pupil at the school; and
- any other body considered appropriate (e.g. other relevant faith organisation).

Rights of appeal against a decision

Within four weeks of the decision being made the following bodies may appeal to the Schools Adjudicator against a decision made by a LA:

- the local Church of England diocese;
- the local Roman Catholic diocese;

⁷ As specified in Part 5 (20) of the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations

- the proposers of section 10 and 11 proposals where the LA is the decision-maker; and
- the governors and trustees of a foundation, foundation special or voluntary school that is subject to a proposal for closure

On receipt of an appeal, an LA decision-maker must then send the proposal, representations received and the reasons for their decision to the [Schools Adjudicator](#) within one week of receipt.

There is no right of appeal on determinations made by the Schools Adjudicator.

Implementation

There is no maximum limit on the time between the publication of a proposal and its proposed date of implementation. However, proposers will be expected to show good reason (for example an authority-wide reorganisation) if they propose a timescale longer than three years.

The proposer must implement a proposal in the form approved, taking into account any modifications made by the decision-maker.

The school organisation team will make the necessary changes to the school(s) EduBase record(s).

Modification post determination

If it proves necessary, due to a major change in circumstance, or unreasonably difficult to implement a proposal as approved, the proposer can propose modifications (for example to the implementation date) to the decision-maker before the approved implementation date. However, proposals cannot be modified to the extent that new proposals are substituted for those that have been published.

Revocation

If the proposer cannot implement an approved proposal because circumstances have changed (so that implementation would be inappropriate or unreasonably difficult) the proposer must publish a revocation proposal, to be relieved of the duty to implement. A revocation proposal must contain:

- a description of the original proposal as published;
- the date of the publication of the original proposal; and
- a statement as to why the duty to implement the original proposal should not apply.

The proposer must publish the revocation proposal on the website (where the original proposal was published) and a brief notice of the proposal in a local newspaper. Details of what must be included in this notice are the same as in the [publication section](#).

Where the proposer is the governing body it must send the revocation proposal to the LA within one week of the date of publication on the website. Where the original proposal was decided by the [Schools Adjudicator](#) the LA must refer the revocation proposal together with any comments or objections within two weeks of the end of the representation period to the Schools Adjudicator.

The LA decision-maker, who must determine the revocation proposal within two months of the end of the representation period, must arrange for the revocation decision to be published on the website where the original proposal and revocation proposal were published. The LA decision-maker must notify those with a [right of appeal](#) of the revocation and their reasons for doing so.

Annex A: School closure consultations

In the case of the closure of a rural primary school or a community or foundation special school proposers **must**, under section 16(1) of EIA 2006 consult:

- The LA (as appropriate);
- The registered parents of registered pupils at the school;
- where the LA is a county council the local district or parish council where the school that is the subject to the proposal is situated; and
- in the case of a special school – any LA which maintains an EHC plan or statement of special educational needs in respect of a registered pupil at the school.

The Secretary of State considers that these bodies, along with those listed below should be consulted in the case of the proposed closure of all schools:

- the governing body (as appropriate);
- pupils at the school⁸;
- (if a proposal involves, or is likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character) the appropriate diocese or relevant faith group⁹;
- the trustees of the school (if any);
- teachers and other staff at the school;
- any LA likely to be affected by the proposal, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils;
- the governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected;
- parents of any pupils at other schools who may be affected by the proposal including where appropriate families of pupils at feeder primary schools;
- any trade unions who represent staff at the school; and representatives of any trade union of staff at other schools who may be affected by the proposal;
- MPs whose constituencies include the school that is the subject of the proposal or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposal; and
- any other interested organisation / person that the proposer thinks are appropriate.

⁸ Under section 176 of the Education Act 2002.

⁹ Under the DBE Measure 1991 Church of England schools must consult with their diocese before making closure proposals.

Annex B: Statutory proposals for school closures

As set out in Schedule 2 to the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations the information below **must** be included in a proposal to close a school:

Contact details

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.

Implementation

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.

Reason for closure

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

Pupil numbers and admissions

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.

Displaced pupils

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

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.

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.

Impact on the community

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.

Rural primary schools

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).

Balance of denominational provision

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.

Maintained nursery schools

Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

- d) 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
- e) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Sixth form provision

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.

Special educational needs provision

Where existing provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) believe the proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Travel

Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use.

Annex C: Statutory proposals for establishing a new school.

As set out in the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations the information below must be included in section 10 and 11 proposals to establish a new school:

Contact details

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

Implementation

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.

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.

Reason for the new school

A statement explaining the reason why the new school is considered necessary and whether it is to replace an existing school or schools.

Category

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.

Ethos and religious character

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.

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.

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.

Pupil numbers and admissions

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.

Admission arrangements

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.

Early years provision

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 years 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.

Sixth form provision

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—

- (a) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (b) increase participation in education or training; and
- (c) expand the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.

Special educational needs provision

Whether the school will have provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs and, if so, the nature of such provision.

Details of the proposed policy of the school relating to the education of pupils with special educational needs.

Where the school will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs—

- (a) 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;
- (b) details of the improvements that the proposals will bring in respect of—
 - (i) access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local authority's Accessibility Strategy;
 - (ii) access to specialist staff, both education and other professionals, including any external support or outreach services;
 - (iii) access to suitable accommodation; and
 - (iv) supply of suitable places.

Single sex school

Where the school is to admit pupils of a single sex—

- (a) evidence of local demand for single sex education and how this will be met if the proposals are approved; and
- (b) 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.

Curriculum

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

Relevant experience of proposers

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

Effects on standards and contributions to school improvement

Information and supporting evidence on—

- (a) how the school will contribute to enhancing the diversity and quality of education in the area; and
- (b) how the school will contribute to school improvement.

Location and costs

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 LA (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Travel

The proposed arrangements for travel of pupils to the school.

Federation

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

Voluntary aided schools

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.

Foundation schools

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.

Independent schools entering the maintained sector

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.

Annex D: Further Information

This guidance primarily relates to:

- [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#), as amended by the [Education Act 2011](#)
- [The School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#), as amended by the [Education Act 2002](#)
- [The School Organisation \(Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [The School Organisation \(Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools\) \(England\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [The free school presumption – Departmental advice for local authorities and new school proposers \(July 2015\)](#)
- [Establishing New Maintained Schools – departmental advice for local authorities and new school proposers \(2013\)](#).
- [Presumption against the closure of primary schools](#)
- [Rural and Urban Area Classification](#)
- [The Religious Character of Schools \(Designation Procedure\) Regulations 1998](#)
- [How to apply for religious designation](#)
- [Guidance for decision-makers](#)
- [Schools Adjudicator](#)
- [School Admissions Code](#)

It also relates to:

- [School Governance \(Constitution\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
- [School Governance \(Roles, Procedures and Allowances\) \(England\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [Governors handbook](#).
- [School Premises \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
- [The School Companies Regulations 2002](#) as amended by the [2003 Regulations](#) and the [2014 Regulations](#)
- [Change your charity's governing document](#)
- [Academies Act 2010](#)
- [Making Significant Changes to an Existing Academy \(2014\)](#);
- [Regional Schools Commissioner](#)
- [Consultation principles](#)



Department
for Education

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Proposal to Cease to Maintain a School
Skipton, Ings Community Primary and Nursery
School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, intends to discontinue Skipton, Ings Community Primary and Nursery School, Broughton Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1TE on 31 December 2017.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE and are available on the County Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 23 November 2017.

Signed: B. Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic
Services)

Publication Date: 26 October 2017



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Signed: B. Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic
Services)

Publication Date: 26 October 2017

Statutory proposals and statutory notice

Statutory proposals for school closures

As set out in the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations the information below **must** be included in a proposal to close a school:

Contact details

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.

Proposal published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, to discontinue Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School, Broughton Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1TE from 31 December 2017.

Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is a 3-11 community primary school in the Skipton town area.

Implementation

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 close the school from 31 December 2017.

Reason for closure

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

There are four key concerns: 1) Standards of teaching and learning 2) Low pupil numbers; 3) The school's financial position 4) Staffing

1) Pupil Numbers

The number of children at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School has been low for several years. During the summer term of 2016/17 only 42 children were on roll in the school and 5 in the nursery. At the start of the new school year in September there was just one pupil on roll. The school is designed to accommodate up to 180 pupils if all spaces are in use. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover in the longer term.

In these circumstances, it is difficult to deliver quality education.

2) Standards of teaching and learning

In July 2013 the school was judged by Ofsted as Inadequate and became subject to Special Measures. The school has been re-inspected by Ofsted in October 2014 and November 2016 and on both inspections was judged as Requires Improvement.

The school has been trying to improve standards following the inspections but the low pupil numbers lead to a need to further reduce staff which compromised any further attempts the school could take to deliver an acceptable quality of education. The governors took the decision at during the summer term to reduce to a 2 class structure from September and reduce teaching assistant support.

3) The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. Revised budget projections based on lower pupil numbers of 31 have shown larger in-year financial deficits for 2017/18 and 2018/19 at £56,300 and £105,300 respectively and a projected cumulative deficit at the end of 2018/19 of £249,400. Clearly with now even lower numbers this position is much worse.

4) Staffing

During the last academic year Governors made the decision to reduce to a two class structure from September 2017 and advised that a number of teaching staff had already left the school and others were exploring other opportunities. They had been heavily reliant on supply teachers during the summer term 2016/17 and subsequently a number of staff did leave at the end of fixed term contracts or due to resignation.

The current position is that appropriate staffing is being maintained in accordance with our obligation to provide the best possible education while the school remains open.

Pupil numbers and admissions

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.

There is now only one pupil on roll at the start of this academic year.

The school's age range is 3-11 years, and provision is available for boys and girls. There is no boarding provision. Information on special educational needs of pupils is not provided as this would contravene the Data Protection Act. Total pupil numbers are significantly lower than the capacity of the school which is designed to accommodate up to 180 pupils.

Displaced pupils

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

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.

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.

- a) No interim arrangements have been necessary. All but one pupil at the school has moved to an alternative primary school.

There are other schools in Skipton town within walking distance of the Skipton Ings site.

Travel distances to other schools:

Walking distance in miles	Christ Church	Ings CP	Water Street	Parish Church CE	St Stephen's Catholic	Greatwood CP
Christ Church		0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Ings CP	0.8		1	1.1	0.9	1.4
Water Street	0.4	1		0.6	0.1	0.9
Parish Church CE	0.4	1.1	0.6		0.5	0.5
St Stephen's Catholic	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.5		0.8
Greatwood CP	0.5	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.8	

At the start of the school year 2017/18 all pupils had been offered alternative places at local schools. All but one pupil took up those places offered.

41 pupils were offered alternative places at local schools for September 2017. All but one pupil has subsequently transferred to another school.

The transfer details are as follows:

Christ Church CE VC – 7 pupils
St Stephens Catholic Primary – 5
Skipton Greatwood CP – 1
Skipton Parish CE VC – 14
Carleton Endowed – 5
Cracoe and Rylstone VC CE – 4
Gargrave CE VC – 1
Embsay CE VC – 4

There remain 127 places available across three Skipton Town primary schools as of 3 October 2017. This represents an 11.5% vacancy of all available places excluding the Ings capacity.

Parents have a right to express a preference for any school and, in the case of community and voluntary controlled schools, the relevant Local Authority is the admissions authority and will meet that preference provided there are vacant places or the school is happy to admit above the published admission number. In the case of Voluntary Aided schools, the governing body decide the conditions for admission to their particular school. Where a child attends a school which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

- b) Not applicable in this case
- c) Not applicable in this case

Impact on the community

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 school has in the past run a wide variety of after school and extra-curricular clubs and activities for children, including a before and after school club. There have also been a wide variety of sport clubs on offer such as football, netball and cricket. The reduction in pupil numbers has meant that these clubs have now stopped.

The governing body has encouraged community use of the school buildings and has attempted to increase lettings of the premises to support the budget. The school has also made links with the Adult Learning Service to broaden the range of services offered with a view to increasing regular contact with the community. Despite these attempts community uses of the facilities remain low. Given the small number of community uses of the school premises, and the alternative venues available locally, the impact on the community should be minimal.

Rural primary schools

Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of Section 15 (Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA), a statement that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered Section 15(4) EIA.

Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is not designated as a rural school.

Balance of denominational provision

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.

Not applicable

Maintained nursery schools

Not applicable

Sixth form provision

Not applicable

Special educational needs provision

The existing provision at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is not reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

Travel

Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use.

Eligibility for home to school transport will be determined in line with the County Council's current home to school transport policy and procedures based on each child's home address and individual circumstances.

Where a child attends a school which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

Parents were and will be reminded of the County Council's home to school transport policy when considering alternative schools. Pupils up to the age of 8 would normally be eligible for free home to school transport if they live more than 2 miles from their normal area school (or 3 miles for those over the age of 8). Parents can always express a preference for a school other than their normal area school however they would usually be responsible for making transport arrangements. Eligibility is assessed on an individual basis taking into account the child's home address.

North Yorkshire County Council's Home to School transport policy states that 'Transport will be arranged so that children will not normally spend more than 1 hour 15 minutes travelling to a secondary school or 45 minutes to a primary school. Journey times might need to be longer than this in some more rural areas and where road or weather conditions mean that these times are not practical.' This is in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education. The journey time for children living within the current Skipton Ings School catchment area would depend on which other school they attended and their home address. There are five other schools that are less than two miles from Ings CP School.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director-Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 23 November 2017.

Consultation

The decision to consult on closure was taken by the Executive Member for Schools following a request from governors on 13 June 2017. A consultation paper setting out the proposal was sent to parents of pupils on roll, staff at the school as well as other interested parties and individuals. A copy of the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 1. A list of the consultees is attached as Appendix 2. The consultation period ran from 26 June to 15 September 2017, extended over the summer period to ensure six term weeks. A public meeting was held at the school on 19 July 2017, a note of that meeting is attached as Appendix 3. There have been 17 consultation responses received (Appendix 4).

Appendix 1: Consultation Paper

Appendix 2: List of the Consultees

Appendix 3: Notes of the Public Meeting

Appendix 4: Consultation Responses



Consultation Document

**Proposal to close Skipton Ings Community Primary and
Nursery School from 31 December 2017**

Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School

June 2017

This paper sets out details of a proposal to close Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2017. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting on:

Wednesday 19 July at 7 pm

at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School,

Broughton Road, Skipton, BD23 1TE

The Current Position

Following a request from the School's Governing Body, North Yorkshire County Council is consulting on a proposal to close the school.

It is considered that the closure is necessary to secure the interests of current and future pupils from the school because of concerns about standards of teaching and learning and related concerns about low pupil numbers and the school's financial position.

This decision has not been reached lightly, and not before alternatives have been considered, such as collaborating with other schools.

Standards of teaching and learning

In July 2013 the school was judged by Ofsted as Inadequate and became subject to Special Measures. The school has been re-inspected by Ofsted in October 2014 and November 2016 and on both inspections was judged as Requires Improvement.

The school has been trying to improve standards following the inspections but the low pupil numbers will lead to a need to further reduce staff which compromises any further attempts the school might need to make to deliver an acceptable quality of education. The governors have had to reduce to a 2 class structure from September and reduce teaching assistant support.

Pupil Numbers

The number of children at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School has been low for several years. There are

currently only 42 children on roll in the school and 5 in the nursery. The school is designed to accommodate up to 180 pupils if all spaces are in use. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover significantly in the longer term and may reduce still further.

In these circumstances, it is difficult to deliver quality education.

The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. With these low numbers, and a reduced budget, the school will have to reduce staff. The school is projecting deficits at the end of the year of £70k in 2018/19 and £150k in 2019/20. There is no reasonable prospect of recovery.

Staffing

A number of staff have already left the school. The school is now heavily reliant on supply teachers including the upper Key Stage 2 and lower Key Stage 2/Year 2 classes and temporary arrangements for other staff posts.

The Proposal

For the reasons above it is proposed that Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School should close with effect from 31 December 2017.

The catchment area of another local school will be extended to include the

current school catchment area.

For children currently at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School, North Yorkshire County Council will work with each family to try to meet their individual preferences for other schools. Staff and governors at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School are also committed to supporting families in their choice of school and in making a smooth transition.

Other primary schools in Skipton town are:

Christ Church Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Craven Street, Skipton, BD23 2AP.

Skipton Parish Church Church of England VC Primary School, Brougham Street, Skipton, BD23 2ES.

Greatwood Community Primary School, Pinhaw Road, Skipton, BD23 2SJ.

Water Street Community Primary School, Elliot Street, Skipton, BD23 1PE.

St Stephen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, a Voluntary Academy, Gargrave Road, Skipton, BD23 1PJ.

There are also spaces available in some year groups in schools in surrounding villages.

Some schools may be able to admit over their published admission numbers for some year groups.

Eligibility for home-to-school transport will be determined in line with the County Council's current home-to-school

transport policy and procedures, based on travel distances from each child's home address and individual circumstances.

Parents have a right to express a preference for any school and, in the case of community and voluntary controlled schools, the Local Authority is the admissions authority and will meet that preference, provided there are vacant places or the school is happy to admit above the published admission number. In the case of Voluntary Aided schools, the governing body decides the conditions for admission to their particular school. Where a child attends a school, which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

North Yorkshire County Council's Admissions Team is always happy to give advice to parents – please contact Vickie Hemming-Allen 01609 535481 or Lisa Herdman 01609 534953.

Staff

A separate consultation process, including a staff meeting, is running in parallel with the consultation on the closure proposal.

The Building

The school building is owned by the County Council. Decisions about disposal of the school site and buildings will be taken after the closure proposal has been determined.

Academy options

The County Council is exploring with the Regional Schools Commissioner the possibility for a high-quality academy sponsor to take over Ings school. Potentially this could provide continuity of education for current pupils. More likely, however, would be the opening of a new academy on the site after a period of closure. This would ensure that the Ings site continues to provide primary school places for children in Skipton. These discussions are continuing in parallel with this consultation on potential closure and, should a future academy option emerge, consultees will be informed of this.

What Happens Next?

Your views about this proposal are welcomed. You can either complete and return the attached response sheet, or submit an online response

Paper responses should be returned to North Yorkshire County Council at the address below:

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS

Ings

Strategic Planning

North Yorkshire County Council

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwe>

bhost/s.asp?k=149571892135

The closing date for responses is

15 September 2017

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive in autumn 2017.

If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press in September. These notices provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision would then be made by North Yorkshire County Council's Executive Committee. If agreed the school would close on 31 December 2017.

Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	26 June 2017
Public meeting at the school	Wed 19 July at 7pm
Consultation closes	15 September 2017
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	17 October 2017
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	26 October to 23 November 2017
Final decision by County Council's Executive	5 December 2017
Proposed school closure date	31 December 2017

Appendix 2

Skipton Ings Primary and Nursery School - List of Consultees

School distributed to	Parents of pupils
	Staff of school
	Governors of school

Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of other local primary and secondary schools within a 3 mile radius of Ings CP School	Cononley
	Carlton Endowed
	Bradleys Both
	Embsay
	Greatwood CP
	St Stephens Catholic Academy
	Parish Church of England CE Primary
	Christchurch CE Primary
	Water Street CP
	Ermysteds Grammar
	Skipton Girls' High
	The Skipton Academy

Unions and Professional Associations

Local County Councillors;	Cllr A. Solloway Cllr R. Hestletine Cllr P. Mulligan
District Councillors	Cllr C. Rose Cllr P. Madeley
Local Parish/Town Council	
Julian Smith MP	
Secretary of State via School Organisation Unit	

Local Early Years providers within 3 miles:	Brougham Street Nursery School
	Cherry Tree Farm Day Nursery
	Craven Children's Holiday Club
	Embsay Children's Centre
	Embsay with Eastby Pre-School Playgroup
	First Steps Day Nursery Broughton Road
	Greatwood Community Primary School Before & After School Club
	Regent Private Day Nursery
	Rocking Horse Day Nursery
	6 Child minders
	St Stephen's After School Club
	Stepping Stones

Other consultees	Community Cohesion Worker, NYCC
	Specialist Teacher, Minority Ethnic Achievement (MEA) Team
	Refugee Council
	Leeds CE Diocese
	Catholic Diocese Leeds
	Islamic Society
	Mosque
	Bradford Council
	Regional Schools Commissioner
	Imam

Notes of public meeting at Skipton Ings Community Primary School

Wednesday 19th July 2017 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Patrick Mulligan – NYCC Executive Member
David Portlock – Chair of Governors
Graham Hamilton – Vice Chair of Governors
Donna Makepeace – Headteacher
Simon Ashby – NYCC School Improvement
Andrew Dixon – NYCC Strategic Planning

Together with parents and grandparents, members of the community, staff of Skipton Ings CP School, and a representative from the local MP's office.

Julia Temple, Strategic Planning Officer was taking notes and there was an interpreter present.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Mulligan opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The rest of the panel were introduced; Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager), Donna Makepeace (Headteacher), David Portlock (Chair of Governors), Graham Hamilton (Vice Chair of Governors) and Simon Ashby (School Improvement Advisor).

2. Presentation

A joint presentation was given by the members of the panel that explained the purpose of the meeting, the current position the school is in, and why the change is proposed now. It set out the actions that have been carried out over the past few years to improve both the educational standards at the school and its perception within the community, and explained what alternative options have been considered.

3. Questions and comments

Following the presentation Cllr Mulligan opened up the meeting to the members of the public to raise any questions or make comments on the proposal.

A parent thanked Donna Makepeace (DM) for her tireless efforts which have been acknowledged by many parents, but wondered if DM is certain that she has received sufficient support from the LA?

DM said yes she felt she has had really good support from colleagues in the LA especially in terms of driving up standards. However, in terms of issues around pupil numbers she recognises that the LA is tied by national policy on parental preference. Similarly the LA does not have the power to force other schools to amalgamate or federate with Ings and whilst it can encourage staff to work at the school it can't force staff to take up posts.

The same parent asked if the Secondary Schools had also been approached. David Portlock (DP) confirmed that Governors had had preliminary discussions with one secondary school, but these had not progressed.

A grandparent commented that it is clear the school is not in a sustainable position and asked if it is seen as a failure of North Yorkshire that there has been a deterioration of pupil numbers at Ings?

Cllr Mulligan explained that this has been a result of parental choice and despite all DM has done to improve local perception parents have chosen other schools.

Simon Ashby (SA) added that since the school went into special measures a number of things have been done, including establishing a partnership with the Teaching School Alliance. Governors have been appointed based on specific skills and experience in an attempt to drive the school forward and it is worth pointing out that the school doesn't currently have a governing body and is operating under a shadow governing body. DP added the school has had difficulty in appointing parent governors due to lack of interest from parents at the school in which a few parents responded to say they had not seen any communication about this.

A question was also asked about whether members of the community could be governors. SA confirmed that Governance structure is national policy and not one the LA is able to deviate from. Parent governors do have to be parents of pupils at the school or can be parents with children at other local schools. Recruiting good quality staff has also been difficult and the school has had to rely on agency staff to take up the positions.

If there are 140 pupils in catchment why can't the LA make parents send their children to this school? This again comes back to national policy on parental preference.

A local resident questioned why parents don't send their children to this school? Cllr Mulligan said the LA is not able to speak on behalf of parents.

A local resident who used to be a pupil at the school commented that Ings used to be a great school and that it is local perception of the school that has made this happen.

A question was raised in relation to all the extra housing that is planned?

Andrew Dixon (AD) explained that recent housing developments along with additional housing allocations set out in the draft local plan has been a consideration, however the crux of the problem is that the children are not coming to Ings. DM added that she has worked closely with colleagues in admissions who have allocated places to Ings but despite being oversubscribed last year only one pupil new to the school turned up at the start of term. A further question was raised asking could it not be an option to force parents to send their children to Ings. AD went on to explain the admissions process and explained schools have a duty to admit first preference if they have places available. Schools can also choose to admit over their published admission number if they are able to accommodate over that number.

A parent commented that DM has done everything in her power but felt that North Yorkshire should have stepped in earlier.

SA said that when the school first went into special measures in 2012 the LA, by law, had to consider closure. To prevent that happening the LA made every effort to improve educational outcomes at the school.

A parent talked about her dissatisfaction with the recent admissions process and said that her child had not been accepted at any one of the three preference schools she had applied for.

AD said he could not comment on her particular circumstances but explained the process that had been followed. What tends to happen when communities learn of the uncertainty of their school is that parents begin to move their children from that school. To avoid parents making preferences without full knowledge of provision in the area they were invited to meet with the admissions team and places have been offered following a mini admissions round. As part of that process transfer requests from pupils at other schools also had to be taken into consideration.

A parent asked if they didn't send their child to another school what would happen in September.

DM said the school would be open in September but will be operating under a different class structure. The decision on closure will not be taken until later in the autumn term and that decision cannot be pre-judged. The school will continue to operate but if the decision is to close the earliest this could happen is at the end of the autumn term.

A parent raised concern over the school her child had been offered a place saying the distance was such that she had no way of getting her child to that school. She asked if support could be given by way of transport.

AD said there are occasions where exceptions can be made but without knowing the particular circumstances in this case it was difficult to comment. AD advised having a conversation outside of this meeting to discuss further.

A grandparent felt that if it is the case that only two or three pupils are expected back at this school in September the LA should be honest with parents that the outcome of the consultation is likely to be closure.

AD said the position on pupil numbers for September is uncertain and no decisions have been made. Offers of alternative places have been made to nearly all pupils but there is no certainty that those offers will be taken up in September.

We now have a situation where other schools will be over-subscribed, what assurances will North Yorkshire give to ensure high standards are met in those schools? SA said that individual schools make a judgement about admitting over their published admission number and this is done with careful consideration and headteachers would not do so if they felt it would impact on the quality of teaching. AD added that it should be noted that given the number of schools involved and the age range of pupils, the actual impact is that no one particular year group has increased significantly at any of the schools involved.

What about housing and additional numbers coming into the town?

AD confirmed that proposed new housing in the town would lead to additional places being required and options are currently being looked into for how those places could be provided in Skipton. **A further question was asked about whether the LA could make new parents coming into the town send their children to Ings.** AD confirmed this would not be possible as parental preference and admission laws would apply to them in the same way.

What about the other school that has gone into special measures?

The school in question has received a lot of support from advisers recently in an attempt to bring them out of special measure and a support plan has been in place. A positive outcome from a recent Ofsted visit is expected and new leadership is in place which should see the school improve further over the next year.

What will North Yorkshire do to ensure that a faith school would not be provided on the Ings site? AD said the LA has been working with the Regional Schools Commissioner recently looking at options available to

provide the places needed in Skipton and the LA has been clear that whatever is provided needs to be attractive to the whole community.

Can the community be given the opportunity to convince parents to send their children to this school, and what would happen if more pupils were to arrive than expected in September? AD explained that closure is not an officer decision and that in October when a report is produced for the Executive an update on current numbers will be included. This will ensure the Executive can make a decision based on the position at that time.

Why didn't we have a meeting with the community prior to meeting with parents?

DM explained the initial meeting with parents was arranged to explain the change in class structure and it was at that time parents began to question the likelihood of closure. This was before the decision was taken to commence consultation.

A grandparent said there is a need for the local community to lobby the support of the MP around change of national policy. The MP Representative said he would be happy to take any comments or views back to Julian Smith MP.

A member of staff commented that they have done everything they can to make the school attractive to parents.

A local resident commented that they had attended a school with only two classes when they were younger so why can't it work here?

SA said there are schools in North Yorkshire that work well with just two classes but financial pressures here does not make that viable. Educational sustainability is a concern due to issues around staff recruitment.

A comment was made that the community should have been consulted before now and felt the closure was already underway.

AD confirmed there are statutory processes that must be followed but assured the public this is a consultation and no decisions on closure have yet been made.

4. Closing remarks

Cllr Mulligan closed the meeting shortly after 8.45 and expressed thanks to all those involved and to the members of the community who had come along to the meeting.

Consultation Responses

Number	Comments	Interest
1	<p>You will be aware that Craven District Council are currently consulting on the Pre Publication Craven Local Plan, which, once adopted will set out the planning framework for Craven outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park for the period 2012-2032. NYCC Education has commented on previous drafts of this plan in terms of the number of houses proposed and the educational requirements resulting from this level of housing growth. NYCC Education have indicated that 1 or 2 new schools will be required in Skipton and that new classrooms will be required at surrounding village schools (details have been provided). The proposals to close Skipton Ings Community Primary School has not been raised by NYCC Education in response to past consultations on the Craven Local Plan. Given the current proposal it is hoped that NYCC Education will provide a detailed consultation response to the Pre Publication Craven Local Plan June 2017 in terms of future education requirements in Craven given the level of housing growth proposed in the draft Local Plan and the current proposal to close Ings Primary School, Skipton. Details of the Craven Local Plan consultation can be found at: http://www.cravencdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan</p>	Craven District Council
2	<p>NYCC have the perfect opportunity now to convert Ings Primary School into a Pupil Referral Unit for primary aged children and here are some reasons why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in primary schools are being witness to hitting, spitting, kicking, shouting, climbing furniture, swearing, throwing objects, screaming etc. from children who are in crisis because they simply cannot cope within a mainstream school. Classrooms have to be evacuated and this is damaging to the children in crisis and to those who witness it. Schools are also losing valuable teaching time. • All children should have access to the right learning environment from the beginning of their education, and not have to struggle on because there is no alternative long term provision for them. A fully supportive and positive educational experience is needed for all and this can be provided intensively at a PRU. • There is a Secondary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) on Keighley Road, Skipton but no Primary PRU and we have more Primary 	Parent of child who attends Christ Church School, Skipton

	<p>schools in the Skipton and Craven area than Secondary Schools. Having a Secondary PRU highlights a need for a Primary PRU where issues can be addressed earlier in a child's education. NYCC needs to support children from an earlier age so they can return to mainstream education, if this is appropriate for the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money is available when needed to provide one to one, or two to one, staff in mainstream schools to support individual children. This money could be re-directed into providing more intensive support to children in a PRU and makes sense on a long term financial level. 	
3	<p>I think closing a valuable school unit in Skipton is madness, especially when every other school aside one, is oversubscribed!? Why not keep the school setting and split one of the other oversubscribed schools into KS1 & KS2? Why waste a school when there's two many children? Sticking all the kids in brougham Street will only allow that to be oversubscribed further down the line. Spilt an already oversubscribed school to even put the numbers and free up space? Why turn it into an academy? Parents still won't want to send their children to an academy? Use the space for good, use it as a primary school, invest in the teaching and staff and allow Skipton to save this precious educational establishment.</p>	<p>Parent of pupil at Brougham Street School</p>
4	<p>If the school closes, it would be ideal for a Primary Pupil Referral Unit to serve the area.</p>	<p>Holistic therapy tutor working in Craven</p>
5	<p>Yes it should.</p>	<p>Parent of pupil at Cononley School</p>
6	<p>I teaching Keighley so out of NY but we have no classroom supports because everyone we do have works with specific children leaving no support for others. The children who have got places in a PRU have had a wait or one of my 6 year olds had to travel to Bradford for a place! We need more help in primaries and with the same view as nurture rooms / systems it needs tackling early to try to get children back into mainstream education early. I did some supply at the school and felt it was a great setting with some excellent staff and pupils.</p>	<p>Local resident Teacher at Nessfield Primary, Keighley</p>

7	It should be kept open and used as a primary PRU.	Governor at Cononley School
8	It is shortsighted. With other schools being oversubscribed and struggling with large numbers, plans to build 100s of homes in the area, there is a desperate need for a primary education facilities add to this that many of the parents have no form of transport and are now having to walk for miles in the Yorkshire weather just so their child can get to school. Let's also consider the impact this will have on other schools in the area.	Parent of pupil at Ings
9	I'm utterly disgusted that a school like Ings is being close, It's a hub of the local community ... I was at a meeting last night and I do feel that the decision has already been made and the council is just going through the motions	Parent of past pupil at Ings
10	I'm shocked that there is a proposal to close a school, from my understanding places are needed in the Skipton area and there has been a struggle for parents of children attending Ings primary to find suitable places for their children at other schools. One Skipton resident has put forward the idea of Ings Primary being turned into a Pupil Referral unit for primary, if Ings is to close as it currently is. I believe a PRU sounds like the next best option and would be beneficial for every child in the area.	Pupil at another school
11	Obviously my first view is that the school shouldn't be closed, especially since it services an area of Skipton that is otherwise a considerable distance from the other Primary Schools in Skipton. I also think that there needs to be more support for other Schools who will be taking in the children from Ings as well as for the families who have been offered places at Schools out of Skipton. If the School does close I strongly think that the premises should be converted into a Primary PRU, a service that is desperately needed for the Craven area!	Local resident
12	It really needs to be remain a school due to the increase in demand for places.	Local resident
13	I think it would be a terrible shame to lose this school. It seems really unfair on the people who live in the Broughton Road end of town not to have a local school they can easily walk to. I have been told they will now fall into the Gargrave catchment area - if this is true, it's completely unacceptable/ bonkers! I also understand that all the other primaries in town are	Parent of child who attends a local upper school

	<p>oversubscribed/ and or in special measures. Why would you close Ings when this is the case? There are various factors contributing to the falling numbers at Ings, not least of which is racism - the "white flight" to other local schools, which I saw when my own children were at Christchurch. This has been followed by the more aspirational Asian parents also applying "anywhere but Ings", as they don't want their children to be educated in isolation from the rest of the Skipton community. A community without a primary school will struggle even harder to feel like/ integrate as a community. There must be an alternative to closing Ings. If Ings does shut, it must retain an educational function and I feel very strongly this should be under NYCC control. Under no circumstances should it become a free school for any particular interest/ faith group. It has been suggested it would be suitable for conversion to a Primary PRU, which seems a sensible idea. I know from friends who work in, or have children at, local schools that there is a small but significant problem with primary-age children who can't cope in mainstream education disrupting their own and others' learning, sometimes for years on end. These children often receive (very costly) one-to-one support within the mainstream environment, but this isn't sufficient to address their complex needs. They need access to the intensive, appropriately qualified support only available in PRUs. And their classmates have a right not to have their education disrupted while this intensive support takes place. Some children struggle in mainstream education for the whole of primary school, only to end up in a secondary PRU later. It would make more sense financially, educationally and socially for them to receive the support of a PRU at an earlier age, hopefully avoiding the need for a PRU when they move up to secondary education.</p>	
14	<p>To whom it may concern these are my points as to why the school shouldn't close down because, 1 the children that have SEN in place are settled, 2 what about the impact on the schools in Skipton that are already packed to the rim and schools are already failing the current students. 3 the impact on the school children that are at the other schools that are in a routine! 4 The 300 new homes that Skipton is supposed to be getting where are these children going to go? 5 siblings that currently go to school due to practical reasons being split up now last time I checked no one can be in 2 places at once!</p>	Local resident
15	<p>We are having problems with older children playing football on Broughton Road Play Area to the extent that parents are preventing their younger children from playing there for fear of</p>	Skipton Town

	<p>injury. There have already been several reports of small children being hit in the face and/or knocked down by leather footballs and the problem seems to be getting worse. We've put up special signs asking older children not to play football in the play area but they just keep tearing them down. We are told that the problem may have been caused by older children being prevented from playing ball games at the nearby MUGA on Ings Road. We have heard from several children that they "can no longer play at Ings", since it was announced that the school is closing, and at least one parent has said that the holiday club has stopped her taking her children into the MUGA. From my point of view it is important that the MUGA remains available to the community whatever happens to the school; not just in the short term, to prevent our football problem in the play area, but for the longer term. Is there any way we can ensure that, if the school is closed, whoever buys the land – presumably for development – has to leave the MUGA in place and makes it available to the general public?</p>	Council
16	<p>I think its a disgrace. Poorly managed by NYCC, they have allowed the school to close by not intervening earlier. This consultation is a box ticking exercise and is trying to sweep the underlying issues of Ings being deemed and asain primary school under the carpet. NYCC needs to work with the local community to increase community cohesion, rather than take the easy way out.</p>	Local resident
17	<p>As you are aware one of Skipton's primary schools Ings is due for closure in December. I'm lucky because my daughter is not primary school age as of yet. If this school was to close this would put more pressure on the other schools in the area. Not to mention the fact that a lot of children that do attend Ings have special educational needs. Parents have been given other choices for schools but these are either unfit especially for the children that have SEN in place or have siblings and the school can't take both children. Apart from that Skipton is supposedly having 300 more homes built which is great but where are these children going to go? Parents have tried contacting you in regards to this matter and you have stated that you are either at other meetings etc, I can appreciate that, that maybe the case but this should be a priority as Skipton's MP.</p>	Parent

Ings CP School Skipton.

I wanted to give a perspective on the proposed closure of Ings Community Primary and Nursery School as an educator who at times has worked alongside the school.

This is a school with very unusual difficulties which were caused by a range of circumstances. Working with the school, the headteacher, staff, pupils and families, these people certainly weren't the issue.

However the wider community of Skipton and national government policy has brought about a need to close

This school suffered from:

- The rights of parents to choose – national policy gives all parents a choice. In this case this supported 'white flight' and facilitated segregation and racist attitudes, allowing the white community of Skipton who live near to the school to educate their children in other schools away from children in the local Asian community.
- Financial pressures due to low numbers, national government cuts and a very large but near empty building. I am familiar with large schools in Bradford mainly with an Asian community, but these schools have large numbers which support a healthy budget. In times of austerity, I am sure NYCC would be also at fault if it were found to be subsidising a huge deficit budget to keep a school open at great cost for just a few pupils.

This school has had in my experience:

Excellent support from the local authority over time. Two executives head teachers were put in place by the LA working at first with the new headteacher, who has a strong understanding of how children learn, senior experience in past acting headships roles in a range of schools and had a determination to drive Ings forward to be a 'normal' North Yorkshire community primary school. I commend her ability to address the children's British values and work to ensure community cohesion and strong links with other schools. Through Mrs Makepeace and her staff, Ings had an open door that welcomed all, from dance schools to forest schools; all other local primary schools, the High & Grammar schools. All of this is was evident in working alongside the school.

Ings was:

- A small community of polite, well behaved children who were well supported to extend their experiences and learning. This takes the time and effort of a skilled leader and large staff. This is expensive to provide for a few pupils. Without money, a smaller staff would really struggle to be able to give the children the wider experiences and learning that they need and are entitled to.
- An improving school but with far deeper running issues beyond the school, than standards of education. This is apparent as local white families, overtime have chosen places at Inadequate schools (mainly St Stephens RC) rather than use the better rated school on their doorstep.

Sadly, given the absolute determination of the headteacher and staff, this school does have to close. This is a school that the wider community of Skipton have shown that they don't want and refuse to support and use.

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CORPORATE DIRECTOR.

10.11.17

Ings School.

- This is the right decision to close for a number of reasons

1. Although schools are close to full, skipton parents would prefer to still send their children to these schools with big classes rather than to Ings school
2. National policy says parents can choose, - and they do not Ings.
3. Ings is a much improved school, with some 'goods' in its inspection report, yet parents still choose other schools even those that are inadequate when inspected (St. Stephen's and Parish school).
4. Ings is a big building and will cost a lot to run for just a very few children. Government money is lessening + isn't much for low numbers of children, it is impossible and NYCC shouldn't waste money on such a big building when most families in Skipton don't want to use this school.
5. The school has tried hard to make Ings popular. Lots going on, harvest, café for Easter and Christmas, carols, visitors; but it is impossible to change what people in Skipton think about this school.

Local Resident.