

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

22 October 2019

**Stillington Community Primary School**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Member approval to consult on a proposal that the County Council should close Stillington Community Primary School from 31 August 2020.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

Governing Body

- 2.1 At a governing body meeting at Stillington Community Primary School on 16 September 2019 it was resolved, with regret, to ask the Local Authority to consult on closure proposals.
- 2.2 The motion was passed because governors felt that they had exhausted all options open to them to secure the future of the school, following two successive Inadequate Ofsted judgements with the first triggering that a directive academy order was issued by the Regional Schools Commissioner.
- 2.3 Following the directive academy order, the Governing Body of Stillington Community Primary School collaborated with the Hope Learning Trust, as the potential academy sponsor but Hope Learning Trust subsequently withdrew. The potential for Stillington Community Primary School to federate or amalgamate with a local school was examined. No potential partner school was found, so the Governing body has now asked the County Council to consult on closure (see Appendix 1).
- 2.4 The school's Chair of Governors has written to, and met with, parents to deliver the news that numbers in the school have fallen to an unsustainable level, that no academy sponsor has proved to be willing to take the school on and that therefore permanent leadership cannot be secured.

Intervention

- 2.4 Stillington Community Primary School, about 4miles east of Easingwold, was placed into Special Measures, following an Inadequate judgement by Ofsted in December 2016.
- 2.5 The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) issued a directive academy order in January 2017 as the school was eligible for intervention (having been placed in special measures) under the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- 2.6 In July 2017 the RSC identified the Hope Learning Trust as a suitable sponsor for the school to become an academy. In January 2018 the Trust took over the executive leadership of the school and the governing body worked closely with the Hope Learning Trust to ensure transition to becoming an academy.

- 2.7 In November 2018, following their due diligence process, Hope Learning Trust withdrew from the sponsorship proposal. Given that Hope found that the school was not viable as a stand-alone establishment, it is considered highly unlikely that another multi-academy trust could be found for the school by the RSC, although the directive academy order remains in place.

#### Federation or Amalgamation

- 2.8 While no alternative potential sponsor academy trust could be identified it was considered important to identify if a formal partnership with another local school could be secured. In March 2019 the school entered into a formal consultation with other schools in the locality to explore whether federation or amalgamation were possible. In May 2019, having considered the relevant information from both the school and County Council, it was concluded that none of the local schools were interested in taking forward any structural change. It is now thought highly unlikely that a federation or amalgamation with an alternative school could proceed.
- 2.9 The remaining option therefore is to proceed with this statutory consultation on closure, where the NYCC Executive is the decision making body.
- 2.10 In January 2019 the school was again inspected by Ofsted (report published in April) and again judged to be Inadequate requiring Special Measures.

#### Closure Order

- 2.11 Where a school like Stillington is in Special Measures, the Secretary of State can also order that the school is closed. If the statutory closure process were not followed, the Regional School's Commissioner may need to consult with the Secretary of State to determine if powers to direct closure for this school should be exercised.

### **3.0 STILLINGTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY**

#### Pupil numbers

- 3.1 Stillington is a 4-11 Community Primary School and currently has 19 children on roll. The school is located in Easingwold's rural area, serving families living in the village of Stillington and surrounding area. The number of children at Stillington Community Primary School has been falling over the past few years:

2013/14 – 43  
2014/15 – 39  
2015/16 – 36  
2016/17 – 35  
2017/18 – 27  
2018/19 – 29  
2019/20 - 19

- 3.2 There are currently 19 pupils on roll in the school. The school can accommodate up to 55 pupils if all spaces are in use and therefore has the potential to contribute 55 places in the local area. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover significantly in the longer term and may reduce still further. The total in-area cohort for entry into the Reception year in September 2019 was 7 of which 1 child has now joined the school.
- 3.3 The current numbers in each year group at the school are:

	Total	Published Admission Number
Reception	1	12
Year 1	5	12
Year 2	3	12
Year 3	4	12
Year 4	1	12
Year 5	4	12
Year 6	1	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	

### Finance

- 3.4 Pupil numbers determine the school budget. The critical concerns are Ofsted's two Inadequate judgements and the RSC's academy order but the fall in pupil numbers has also irrevocably undermined the school's future financial position.

Despite some limited financial support from the LA towards the seconded interim Headteacher costs, the school is projecting in-year deficits of £45.9k in 2020/21 and £44.9k in 2021/22 and a cumulative deficit of £89.4k in 2021/22. These were based on pupil assumptions of 21 in 2020/21 and 23 in 2021/22, so the position will deteriorate further as pupil numbers have fallen and there appears to be no reasonable prospect of recovery.

### Standards and school improvement support

- 3.5 The Ofsted inspection in December 2016 placed Stillington Community Primary School in special measures. Five of the six inspection judgements rated the school as inadequate. In December 2017, the Headteacher left the school. In January 2018, Hope Learning Trust took over the executive leadership of the school and provided school-to-school 'improvement' support, for which they received a Strategic School Improvement Fund grant from the DfE. In October 2018, however, the school received a monitoring visit by Her Majesty's Inspector for Education which concluded that, since the Special Measures judgement in 2016, "Leaders and managers are not taking effective actions towards the removal of special measures".
- 3.6 The temporary nature of the school's leadership has left the school in an extremely vulnerable position as a stand-alone school. In 2017 the Headteacher left the school and in October 2018 the Head of School (and Key Stage 2 teacher) resigned and left in December 2018. There is currently a temporary Headteacher in post. Given the failure to secure an academy sponsor and very low number of pupils entering the school it is considered that an attempt to recruit a substantive Headteacher with the calibre to make the necessary improvements is unlikely to be successful. Without secure leadership the quality of teaching at the school is at further risk.

- 3.7 The school was placed in Special Measures for a second time in January 2019, when the school was again inspected by Ofsted (report published in April) and again judged to be Inadequate.
- 3.8 Since the second Inadequate requiring Special Measures judgement, the school has been in receipt of significant LA support for school improvement. This includes access to additional adviser time for english, maths, special educational needs and early years teaching. Additional lead adviser visits and additional support for governors are ongoing.
- 3.9 However in the view of LA advisers, weaknesses in the quality of provision remain. The quality of teaching in KS 1 and KS 2 is not yet consistently good in their view and pupils are not making enough progress from their starting points in reading, writing and mathematics. Teaching is still not effective enough, particularly in english and mathematics. Leaders have not yet been able to address the school's weaknesses and the school currently have no capacity to bring about the rapid improvement needed for the school to be sustainable. The school support plan remains in place until March 2020.

#### Breadth of Curriculum

- 3.10 At the time of the first Inadequate Ofsted judgement in December 2016 there were 33 pupils on roll. As numbers have fallen since this judgement, the school's Governing Body and the Local Authority have become increasingly concerned that pupils will not have access to the full range of experiences they need, particularly opportunities for working and playing with children their own age.

### **4.0 PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE LOCAL AREA**

- 4.1 There are 5 other primary schools within a 5 mile radius of Stillington Community Primary School (as shown in Appendix 2). Appendix 3 shows that, across those schools in the 5 mile radius including Stillington, there are 604 children. It also shows there are 706 places in the 5 remaining schools, excluding Stillington, and therefore there are places available for all the pupils currently at Stillington Community Primary School.
- 4.2 The nearest school to Stillington, 2.4 miles from Stillington Community Primary School, is Sutton-on-the-Forest Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, which has places available in all year groups. It is proposed that the catchment area of Sutton-on-the-Forest Church of England Primary School is expanded to include the current Stillington catchment area.
- 4.3 Parents will be able to express a preference for any local school and if there are places available they will be accepted. Schools may agree to accept local children above their admission number.
- 4.4 Appendix 3 provides projected numbers based on forecast birth rates, with potential additional pupils from outstanding housing permissions and proposed housing allocations in the draft Hambleton Local Plan.
- 4.5 Hambleton District Council is currently preparing a revised Local Plan which will set out how the district should grow and develop to 2035. The Plan's two Principal Centres for major housing developments planned in the area are in Northallerton and Thirsk. In

terms of Secondary Centres, the Local Plan proposes a housing development within the Easingwold area adjacent to Easingwold Community Primary School. The timing of this site would be dependent on the speed at which the Plan's housing developments are progressed, and experience elsewhere in the County suggests that such developments can be very protracted.

- 4.6 Appendix 3 appears to show that in the schools within a 5 mile radius, with existing permissions (but no Local Plan housing) there are surplus spaces available, but with Local Plan housing included, there is a shortfall of spaces. However, the shortfall is skewed by being largely based on predicted additional pupil places at Easingwold Community Primary School required from Local Plan housing.
- 4.7 The Local Plan provides additional playing field land at Easingwold Primary School, which will enable additional classrooms to be built on the existing school site. Also, there are a number of Section 106 developer contributions available to fund the expansion, if required, of Easingwold Primary School. It would not be reasonable to expect demand for additional primary school places in Easingwold to be met by spare places at Stillington Community Primary School
- 4.8 The number of children likely to be generated by a housing development is difficult to predict. In broad terms, we forecast 1 primary child for every 4 new dwellings and 1 secondary child for every 8 new dwellings. However, new housing developments can vary in the number of pupils that they generate. Our experience is that several of the recent housing developments in Easingwold have not, to date, produced the expected pupil yield. Therefore the predicted shortfall may not arise.
- 4.9 The RSC issued a directive academy order in January 2017 as the school was eligible for intervention under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. As required by the RSC, County Council officers provided information in the form of an initial viability assessment and also in a subsequent refresh. The officers' conclusion was that places in Stillington School were not essential in the context of school place sufficiency. This consideration took account of available capacity across primary schools in the locality as a whole due to falling pupil numbers and to large housing developments in Easingwold not generating additional primary aged children in the way that earlier forecast information predicted they would. Appendix 3 shows the significant surplus places and the clear downward trend unless housing impacts are included

## **5.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS AND TIMESCALE**

- 5.1 Should a decision be made to initiate a consultation on the proposed closure of Stillington Community Primary School, a period of six term-time weeks is recommended. A draft timetable is set out below. A draft consultation document is attached in Appendix 3.
- 5.2 A separate staff consultation process, including a meeting for staff and their professional associations and unions, would run in parallel with the statutory process on the closure proposal.
- 5.3 The School is designated as a rural school under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order 2016. The statutory guidance states 'Decision-makers should adopt 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.' There are specific factors that proposers are required to consider which will be

covered in the formal consultation stage should a decision be made to publish statutory proposals.

5.4 The final decision on closure would be taken by the Executive (or by the Executive Member for Schools if there are no objections during the representation period).

5.5 Suggested key dates are shown below:

Approval to Consult by Executive Members	22 October 2019
Consultation opens (6 weeks during term time)	4 November 2019
Public meeting	25 November 2019
Consultation closes	16 December 2019
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	28 January 2020
Executive decision to publish statutory notices	2 January 2020
Publication of statutory notices	10 February 2020
Representation period starts (4 weeks)	10 February 2020
Representation period ends	9 March 2020
Final decision by County Council's Executive	24 March 2020
Proposed school closure date	31 August 2020

5.6 The Stillington school buildings and playground are owned by the County Council. Any decisions about the future of the site and buildings would be taken separately from the decision on whether to close the school. Any capital receipt from the disposal of the school site would be determined with reference to the appropriate legislation and regulations.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Executive Member for Schools is recommended to give approval to consult on a proposal to close Stillington Community Primary School from 31 August 2020.

Stuart Carlton  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE.

Report prepared by Mark Ashton, Strategic Planning Officer

Action Agreed .....Executive Member  
Date:

Action Requested .....Corporate Director  
Date:

## Appendix 1



Stillington Community Primary School  
Main Street  
Stillington  
York  
YO61 1LA  
Tel/Fax: 01347 810347  
E-mail: [cofg@stillington.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:cofg@stillington.n-yorks.sch.uk)

19th September 2019

Stuart Carlton  
Director of Children's Services  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
DL7 8AD

Dear Mr Carlton,

At a meeting of the full governing body of Stillington Community Primary School held on Monday 16th September, it was resolved to request that NYCC commence consultation on the closure of Stillington Community Primary School (with effect from 31st August 2020).

This is not a decision that the Governing Board has taken lightly or without a great deal of consideration; at this point, governors feel that we have exhausted all options open to us which could secure the future of the school.

### Significant events:

The school was placed into Special Measures following an Ofsted inspection in December 2016, and a Directive Academy Order was subsequently issued.

In July 2017, the Regional Schools' Commissioner (RSC) identified HOPE Learning Trust as the potential sponsor MAT.

In December 2017, the Headteacher left the school.

In January 2018, HOPE took over the executive leadership of the school and provided school-to-school 'improvement' support, for which they received a SSIF grant from the DfE. During this time, the Governing Board worked closely with HOPE Executives in order to facilitate a smooth transition into academisation.

In May 2018, HOPE began their due diligence process.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018, North Yorkshire County Council placed additional financial control requirements on the school, in accordance with the Department for Education guidance "Treatment of surplus and deficit balances when maintained schools become academies" (March 2018)

In October 2018, the school received an HMI monitoring visit which concluded that since the Special Measures judgement in December 2016, "Leaders and managers are not taking effective action towards the removal of special measures".

In November 2018, following their due diligence process, HOPE withdrew from the sponsorship arrangement, and their school-to-school support ceased in December 2018. The Head of School (and KS2 teacher) resigned.

In January 2019, the Local Authority (LA) arranged for the secondment of an interim Headteacher; later in January, we were once again inspected by Ofsted (report published in April) and judged to be requiring Special Measures.

#### Rationale:

From January 2019, given that HOPE Learning Trust completed their due diligence and found that, in their opinion, the school was not viable as a stand-alone establishment, we had to consider it extremely unlikely that the RSC would find another multi-academy trust to be a willing sponsor for our school, although the Directive Academy Order remains in place.

Governors recognised that this, added to the temporary nature of the school's leadership and low pupil numbers, left us in an extremely vulnerable position as a stand-alone school.

In March, we entered into a formal consultation with local schools to establish whether they would be interested in forming a partnership with us, which could place education in Stillington on a more secure footing. We were supported in this approach by the Strategic Planning Team within the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) at County Hall. As a result of the consultation, in May we received initial expressions of interest. However, following a period of discussion and information-sharing with the headteachers and governors involved, no school was able to commit to any formal partnership with Stillington School.

Since 2015 (when the school was judged as Requires Improvement), the number of children attending the school has fallen from 39 to 18 (Sept 2019), with increasing numbers of parents in the catchment area choosing other local schools for their child/ren. In September 2019, the school attracted one of the seven potential new starters from catchment. Governors are very conscious of the potential impact of falling/low pupil numbers on the quality of education we can provide:

- Whilst just 18 children in a school may seem idyllic, small cohorts make it increasingly difficult to ensure that pupils have the necessary breadth of curriculum, educational and social experiences, and sufficient peer interaction for them to develop and achieve their full potential.
- School budgets are based on the number of children in school; as a standalone school, the current staffing position is not sustainable within the current budget allocation. However, we consider that any further reduction in staffing would seriously compromise the quality of the educational opportunities that we are able to offer our children. Since HOPE's withdrawal, the Governing Board have been successful in securing some additional funding from the LA towards school improvement. This currently supports the interim Headteacher costs. An extension to the Headteacher's secondment has been agreed for this academic year; however, to support continued progress for 2020/21, a substantive headteacher would need to be recruited at cost to the school. The school's financial forecasts show significant in-year budget deficits from 2020/21 onwards and we are aware that the LA has increasingly limited ability to provide on-going financial support to schools in our position.

The latest NYCC strategic planning documents regarding the provision of primary education places in our area show no significant increase in pupil numbers forecast for Stillington School, and the current projections suggest that the need for school places in the locality can be met without Stillington School's capacity, having taken account of known future housing developments in the coming years.

Stillington Community Primary School is listed as a designated 'Rural Primary School'.

So, it is with a heavy heart and our children's best interests in mind that, on behalf of the Governing Board, I submit this request for NYCC to consider consultation on the closure of the school (with effect from 31st August 2020).

Yours sincerely,



Corinne Cross  
Chair of Governors

**Appendix 2 – Schools within a 5-mile radius of Stillington Community Primary School**





### Appendix 3] – Places available within a five mile radius of Stillington Community Primary School

	Stillington CP	Cravke CE	Easingwold CP	Huby CE	Sutton on the Forest CE	Sheriff Hutton Primary	Total
Distance from Stillington CP School by road	NA	2.5	4.3	4.2	2.4	4.9	
Last Ofsted inspection	Inadequate April 2019	Outstanding November 2012	Good April 2019	Good July 2019	Good May 2018	Good November 2015	
Net Capacity (places available at the school)	55	96	297	112	96	105	761
Current pupil roll	19	101	219	92	75	98	604
Current capacity +/-	36	-5	78	20	21	7	157
Pupil roll 2020/21	21	98	219	90	70	96	594
Pupil roll 2021/22	20	95	221	95	62	103	596
Pupil roll 2022/23	22	91	214	95	61	102	585
Pupil roll 2023/24	21	89	215	100	57	99	581
Pupil roll 2024/25	21	90	211	93	57	102	574
Pupils from outstanding permissions by 2022/23	4	2	97	4	3	1	111
Potential pupils from future housing – Local Plan (over 15 yrs)	9	0	35	7	0	0	51
Potential additional pupils from housing *							



# ***Consultation Document***

**Proposal to close  
Stillington Community Primary School  
from 31 August 2020**

## Stillington Community Primary School

November 2019

This paper sets out details of a proposal to close Stillington Community Primary School with effect from 31 August 2020. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting on:

Monday **25<sup>th</sup> November 2019** at 6.30 pm

At: **Stillington Community Primary School**, Stillington, York, YO611LA

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### The Current Position

At a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 the Governing Body of Stillington Community Primary School voted to seek to consult on the school's closure following two Special Measures judgements by Ofsted. Governors felt that they had exhausted all options open to them to secure the future of the school following the Ofsted judgements and the issuing of a directive academy order by the Regional Schools Commissioner. The governing body has written to request that the County Council begin consulting on a proposal to close the school at the end of the current academic year.

The Local Authority agree that closure should be considered in order 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. The County Council is therefore now consulting on the proposal to close the school with effect from 31 August 2020.

The LA and the Governing Body have not reached this decision lightly and not before considering all other options. Following the directive academy order, Hope Learning Trust were identified as the potential academy sponsor to take the school forward. After Hope

Learning Trust withdrew from the process, the Governing Body examined forming a partnership via federation or amalgamation with another local school as a way of putting education in Stillington on a more secure footing. Unfortunately no potential partner school has been found, so the Governing body has now asked the County Council to consult on closure.

### Background

In December 2016 Stillington Community School, near York, was placed into Special Measures, following an Inadequate judgement by Ofsted. Subsequently, in January 2017 the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) issued a directive academy order. This required the school to become a sponsored academy.

In July 2017 the RSC identified the Hope Learning Trust as a suitable sponsor for the school to become an academy. In January 2018 the Trust took over the executive leadership of the school and the governing body worked closely with Hope Learning Trust to ensure transition to becoming an academy.

In November 2018, following their due diligence process, Hope Learning Trust withdrew from the sponsorship arrangement. Given that Hope found that, in their opinion, the school was not

viable as a stand-alone establishment it is considered highly unlikely that another multi-academy trust could be found for the school by the RSC, although the directive academy order remains in place.

The remaining options were either to federate or amalgamate with another school. The County Council supported the school to explore the potential for this type of structural change.

In March the school entered into a formal consultation with other schools in the locality to explore whether a federation or amalgamation might place the school on a more secure footing. . Having considered the relevant information from both the school and County Council it was concluded that no other local school was interested in taking forward a partnership with Stillington CP. As a result it is now thought highly unlikely that a federation or amalgamation with an alternative school could proceed.

Governors and NYCC officers then again reviewed the financial position of the school combined with the falling pupil numbers and concluded that the viability of the school is at significant risk. The critical concern is Ofsted's judgement and the RSC's academy order but the fall in pupil numbers has also irrevocably undermined the school's future financial position.

The remaining option therefore is to proceed with this statutory consultation on closure, where the NYCC Executive is the decision making body.

Where a school like Stillington is in Special Measures, the Secretary of State can also order that the school is closed. If the statutory closure process were not followed, the Regional School's Commissioner may need to consult with the Secretary of State to

see if powers to direct closure should be exercised.

### **Standards of teaching and learning**

The school was twice placed in Special Measures, after first being judged Inadequate in 2016 and then again in 2019. Despite Hope Learning Trust providing DfE funded school-to-school improvement support, in October 2018 the school received a monitoring visit by Her Majesty's Inspector for Education which concluded that, since the Special Measures judgement in 2016, "Leaders and managers are not taking effective actions towards the removal of special measures". In January 2019 the school was again inspected by Ofsted (report published in April) and again judged to be Inadequate requiring Special Measures.

The school has been trying to improve standards following the Ofsted inspections, and has received extensive support from the Local Authority, 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 temporary nature of the school's leadership has left the school in an extremely vulnerable position as a stand-alone school. In 2017 the Headteacher left the school and in 2018 the Head of School (and Key Stage 2 teacher) resigned. There is currently a temporary Headteacher in post. Given the failure to secure an academy sponsor and the very low number of pupils entering the school it is considered that an attempt to recruit a substantive Headteacher with the calibre to make the necessary improvements is unlikely to be successful. The current temporary arrangements cannot continue into the

future. Without secure leadership the quality of teaching at the school is at further risk.

### **Pupil Numbers**

The number of children at Stillington Community Primary School has been falling over the past few years. Since the Special Measures judgment in 2016, the number of children attending the school has fallen from 39 to 19 (Sept 19). This is well below the capacity of the school – which can accommodate 55 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.

The current numbers in each year group at the school are:

	Total
Reception	1
Year 1	5
Year 2	3
Year 3	4
Year 4	1
Year 5	4
Year 6	1

### **Breadth of Curriculum**

As numbers have fallen since the Special Measures judgement, the school's Governing Body and the Local Authority have become increasingly concerned that pupils will not have access to the full range of experiences they need, particularly opportunities for working and playing with children their own age.

### **The Financial Position**

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. The school is projecting an in-year deficits of £45.9k in 2020/21 and £44.9k in 2021/22 and a cumulative deficit of £89.4k in 2021/22. These were based on pupil assumptions of 21

in 2020/21 and 23 in 2021/22, so the position will deteriorate further as pupil numbers have fallen and there appears to be no reasonable prospect of recovery.

### **The Proposal**

For the reasons above it is proposed that Stillington Community Primary School should close with effect from 31 August 2020.

The nearest school, 2.4 miles from Stillington Community Primary School, is Sutton-on-the-Forest Church of England Primary School. This is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

There is also Crayke Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School at 2.8 miles away. The nearest Community Primary School is Easingwold Community Primary School, which is 4.3 miles from Stillington Primary School.

It is proposed that the catchment area of Sutton-on-the-Forest Church of England Primary School is expanded to include the current Stillington catchment area. This school has the capacity to take the additional pupils and has indicated a willingness to do so.

The County Council would welcome consultees' views on the proposed catchment area extension.

For children currently at Stillington Community Primary School, North Yorkshire County Council will work with each family to try to meet their individual preferences for other schools regardless of the catchment area decision. Some schools may be able to admit over their published admission numbers for some year groups. Staff and governors at Stillington Community

Primary School are also committed to supporting families in their choice of school and in making a smooth transition should this become necessary.

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 Rachel Conyers on 01609 533005 or Lisa Herdman on 01609 534953. In addition a school admissions/transport 'surgery' for parents will be held at Stillington School during the consultation period.

### **Staff**

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

### **The School Site**

The Stillington school buildings and playground are owned by the County

Council. Any decisions about the future of the site and buildings would be taken separately from the decision on whether to close the school. Any capital receipt from the disposal of the school site would be determined with reference to the appropriate legislation and regulation.

### **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  
Stillington  
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/snapweb/host/s.asp?k=157001162200>

Responses to the consultation will be published on the County Council's website. Your personal details, and those of others you may refer to, will not be published.

### **The closing date for responses is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive on 28 January 2020.

If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on Monday 10 February 2020. These notices provide a further four weeks for

representations to be made. A final decision is then scheduled to be taken by North Yorkshire County Council's

Executive on 24 March 2020. If agreed, the school would close on 31 August 2020.

### **Anticipated Key Dates**

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	4 November 2019
Public meeting at the school	25 November 2019
Consultation closes	16 December 2019
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	28 January 2020
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	10 February – 9 March 2020
Final decision by County Council's Executive	24 March 2020
Proposed school closure date	31 August 2020

**Stillington Community Primary School**  
**A consultation on whether the school should be closed**

Observations and/or suggestions:

Interest/Status .....

e.g. Parent/Governor/Teacher/Community

Name of School .....

Signed .....

Date: .....

Name (Block Capitals) .....

Address: .....

.....  
.....  
Postcode: .....

To help us assess whether we have provided clear information, please let us know whether you found this consultation easy to understand? YES/NO

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?  
.....

**Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, responses to the consultation will be published on the County Council's website where it may be accessed by members of the public. Your personal details will not be published.** Please send this response sheet to the following "FREEPOST" address. You do not need to use a postage stamp.

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS

Stillington

Strategic Planning

North Yorkshire County Council

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

DL7 8AE

Or go to:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=157001162200>

and submit your response there

**To be received by no later than 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

*We are collecting this information for the purpose of gathering views on the proposal. Your personal data will not be published or passed to any other organisation unless a legal obligation compels us to do so. We may contact you to discuss your views further. For more information about how your personal data is handled at North Yorkshire County Council please visit: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy)*

