

Woodfield Community Primary School – Discontinuance

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

Proposal published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, to discontinue Woodfield Community Primary School, Woodfield Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4HZ from 31 December 2022.

Woodfield Community Primary School is a 3-11 school in the Harrogate area.

Implementation

It is proposed to close the school from 31 December 2022.

Reason for closure

The proposal is to close Woodfield Community Primary School with effect from 31 December 2022.

Woodfield Community Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in January 2020, who found the overall effectiveness to be inadequate and the school became subject to special measures. Any maintained school that is judged inadequate by Ofsted is required to become a sponsored academy. The Regional Schools Commissioner has been unable to secure an Academy Trust to sponsor Woodfield School due to viability concerns. Where a school would not be viable as an academy, it is expected the local authority will close the school and that the Secretary of State can direct them to do so if necessary.

The Governing Bodies of Woodfield Community Primary and Grove Road Community Primary explored with LA officers combining the two schools in order to share the benefits of both school sites. The move would have meant Woodfield School would technically close and become part of Grove Road from September 2022. An extensive consultation process was undertaken involving public meetings and gathering the views of parents and the local community during December and January. After careful consideration Grove Road Community Primary School decided in March, with regret, to withdraw its support for the amalgamation. In light of this, the County Council's Executive decided to reject the amalgamation proposal at its meeting on 19 April 2022.

Following this, the Governing Body of Woodfield Community Primary School has looked again at what options are available for the school, and concluded that they have now exhausted all options. They have therefore had to request that the County Council undertake a consultation on a proposal that the school should close.

Pupil numbers and admissions

There are 36 pupils of mainstream school age on roll at Woodfield school as of 4 July 2022 (not including Nursery): 4 pupils in Reception, 1 in Year 1, 5 in Year 2, 2 in Year 3, 8 in Year 4, 4 in Year 5, 12 in Year 6. There are also 9 nursery aged children.

There are currently 4 applicants who have Woodfield as their preferred school for Reception

Appendix 1: Draft statutory proposals and draft statutory notice

entry in September 2022.

The school's age range is 3-11 years, and provision is available for boys and girls. There is no boarding provision. There are 11 children who have SEN support and 3 pupils with Education, Health and Care plans. Two further children are in the process of assessment for an EHCP. Total pupil numbers are significantly lower than the capacity of the school which is designed to accommodate up to 150 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—

- any interim arrangements;
- 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
- 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.

- No interim arrangements have been necessary.

There are 12 other North Yorkshire primary schools in the local area. Across the local area there are places available for all the pupils currently at Woodfield Community Primary School. Details of capacity and forecast pupil numbers in the four nearest primary schools are set out below.

Table 1 - Pupil forecasts to 31/32 including potential impacts of new housing

Schools	Net Capacity	Max Workplaces	NOR 2022 - Jan	Current +/- Capacity	Forecast based on January 2022 NOR						
					22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	31/32
Bilton Grange Primary	310	310	323	-13	315	309	302	297	291	293	270
Grove Road CP	280	298	293	-13	286	274	266	259	253	250	237
Richard Taylor CE Primary	263	263	275	-12	275	269	266	264	258	254	242
St. Robert's Catholic Primary	280	300	279	1	276	278	272	271	266	259	250
Woodfield Primary	150	150	37	113	27	24	19	19	16	16	15
	1283	1321	1207	76	1179	1154	1125	1110	1084	1072	1014

	Housing
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Appendix 1: Draft statutory proposals and draft statutory notice

Schools	Outstanding Permissions	Pupil Yield*	Anticipated Position 31/32	LDF Proposals where known	Pupil Yield*	Anticipated Position 31/32
Bilton Grange Primary	2	1	40	0	0	40
Grove Road CP	265	66	-23	198	50	-73
Richard Taylor CE Primary	0	0	21	0	0	21
St. Robert's Catholic Primary	0	0	30	0	0	30
Woodfield Primary	5	1	134	0	0	134
	272	68	201	198	50	152

*Based on 1 primary-aged pupil from every 4 houses

It is proposed that should Woodfield School close, the catchment areas of Bilton Grange Primary School and Grove Road Community Primary School are expanded to include the current Woodfield School catchment area or parts of it. ***The detail of the catchment proposal will be confirmed before the full statutory proposal is published.***

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 and Academy schools, the local 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) This is a mainstream primary, and therefore, not a school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs
- c) This is a mainstream primary, and therefore, not a school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs

Impact on the community

The County Council owns the school site, which also accommodates Bilton and Woodfield Community Library, Harrogate Bilton Children and Family Hub, and Oak Beck House. Decisions about the future use of the school premises will be taken after the closure proposal has been determined.

Rural primary schools

Not applicable as the schools is not designated as a Rural primary school

Balance of denominational provision

Not applicable.

Maintained nursery schools

Not applicable

Sixth form provision

Not applicable

Special educational needs provision

The existing provision at Woodfield Community Primary School is not reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

Travel

NYCC and the schools are committed to ensuring that parents and pupils travel to school in a sustainable way and are encouraged to walk or cycle to school where possible.

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

Consultation

The decision to consult on amalgamation was taken by the Executive Member for Education and Skills on 24 May 2022 following a request from the governing body. 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 in Appendix 2. A list of the consultees is in Appendix 3. The consultation period ran from 6 June to 4 July 2022. A set of frequently asked questions were issued to parents (Appendix 4). A public consultation meeting was held on 15 June, and a note of this meeting is attached (Appendix 5). There have been 87 consultation responses received (Appendix 6).

Related proposals

This proposal is not related to any other proposals.

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 Strategic Planning - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, or emailing schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk by 5pm on 6 October 2022.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Proposal to Cease to Maintain a School Woodfield Community Primary 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 Woodfield Community Primary School, Woodfield Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4HZ on 31 December 2022.

The proposal also includes revised school catchment area arrangements that would apply, in the event of closure, from 1 January 2023.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Strategic Planning - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD 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 Strategic Planning - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, or emailing schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk by 5pm on 6 October 2022.

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