

Hope SENTAMU LEARNING TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: **Helen Winn**

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By email

Stuart Carlton
Director of Children and Young People's Services
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Racecourse Lane
Northallerton
DL7 8DD

10 September 2021

Dear Stuart,

Subject: Future of Baldersby St James Church of England Primary School

Since the conversion of Baldersby St James Primary school on 1st September 2018 we have all undertaken a significant amount of work and resources to make the school a vibrant and positive learning environment. Despite our efforts the number of pupils on roll has reduced.

The requirement to combine classes, due to the existing and projected low pupil numbers, continues to create a significant challenge in providing the ***breadth of educational experience*** that our pupils require and deserve.

As you are aware, we have undertaken extensive discussions with representatives from the Department for Education, North Yorkshire County Council and the Diocese of York to establish an ongoing solution for the school. We have comprehensively researched and considered all potential options available to support the continued operation of the school. As there is good quality church and non-church education in the local area with capacity this provides us with limited options.

In line with Department for Education guidance, we are commencing a **listening period** on **10th September 2021 until 22nd October 2021** with a view to closing the school at the end of this academic year, **31st August 2022**.

We understand that as the school is classed as 'rural' the Local Authority Executive will consider their formal response regarding the proposed closure of the school at a meeting in October 2021. We are more than happy to provide further information or assistance, should this be required.

We are committed to providing quality education to our students. This decision is one that has not been taken lightly.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank North Yorkshire County Council for its continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Winn', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Helen Winn

Chief Executive Officer | Hope Sentamu Learning Trust