

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



14 May 2014

EXECUTIVE - Tuesday 27 May 2014

Further to the Agenda and papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached:-

Consideration of the outcome of statutory consultations of proposals to close Brewers Hill Community Middle School, Streetfield Community Middle School and Ashton Church of England (C of E) Voluntary Aided (VA) Middle School in August 2016.

Attached are the Appendices to the above report, that were previously circulated with the Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda for their meeting on 7 May 2014.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Sandra Hobbs, Committee Services Officer on Tel: 0300 300 5257.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Hobbs
Committee Services Officer
email: sandra.hobbs@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

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Appendix **A**

Consultation on the proposed closure of Brewers Hill Middle School, Aldbanks, Dunstable.

**Monday 24 February 2014 -
Monday 7 April 2014**

1. Introduction

Councils have a duty to ensure there are enough suitable school places for children aged 5-16 (as per Section 14 of the Education Act 1996). The Council's role is to promote parental choice, diversity, high standards and fair access to education (Education and Inspections Act 2006).

To help meet these duties a Council has the power to close schools where no other viable options are available.

Possible reasons for closing a school include where:

- it is surplus to requirements (e.g. as a result of an area-wide reorganisation and/or there are sufficient places in neighbouring schools to accommodate displaced pupils)
- it is to be amalgamated/ merged 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.

Central Bedfordshire Council is proposing to close Brewers Hill Middle School because the current and projected pupil numbers make the school unviable.

This document explains the reasons for proposing to close the school and how you can have your say.

The Council is also currently consulting on proposals to close two other middle schools in the Dunstable area for the same reasons. You can also have your say, by responding to the separate consultations, on the proposals to close:

- Ashton Church of England Voluntary Aided (CofE VA) Middle School (High Street North, Dunstable) and
- Streetfield Middle School (Dunstable Road, Caddington).

Consultation documents and responses forms are available from the schools concerned and from the Councils website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations. You can also request copies by email from admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and by calling the School Admissions helpline on T. 0300 300 8037.

2. Background

There have been lots of changes taking place in Dunstable and Houghton Regis schools over the last few years; many have taken advantage of greater powers given to them by Government to change their school, in response to parental demand. The governing bodies of maintained schools in the area, which have approached the Council for permission to consult on a change of age range, were able to provide proof of parental support at that early stage in response to their initial surveys. This support was further demonstrated during the consultation process for each proposal and was one of the factors that were considered by the Council when approving a requested change of age range.

Likewise, for academies that were required to ask the Secretary of State for Education for permission to change their age range, the level of parental support was again one of the factors that were considered when approving the proposal.

In both Dunstable and Houghton Regis there has been a shift from the three tier system of lower, middle and upper schools towards a two tier primary and secondary school model as a result of these changes.

This shift has led to many of the previous feeder schools converting to primary schools. This has led to fewer pupils applying to middle schools for the intake at Year 5. Also the four former upper schools have extended their age ranges, meaning that some pupils are leaving middle schools to start secondary school in year 7. The combination of these factors means that pupil numbers at Brewers Hill Middle School have fallen significantly as a result of these changes. We have now reached a point where falling pupil numbers means the Council needs to consider the future viability of the school.

The funding that schools receive comes to the Council from Central Government and is passed directly to the Council's maintained schools in accordance with our local funding formula (academies receive their funding direct from Central Government). A maintained school's funding allocation is predominantly based upon the total number of pupils they have on roll and the total number of pupils that are due to move in and out of the school during that academic year. Because of falling pupil numbers, the budget for Brewers Hill Middle School is due to fall by 13.6% for 2014/15 alone and this decrease, and projected decreases going forward places the school in a financially unviable position. With such a significantly reduced budget, the school will find it difficult to employ sufficient teachers to enable the delivery of a full curriculum.

The table below sets out the current pupil numbers at Brewers Hill Middle School, the projected numbers in September 2014 based on actual applications, and projected numbers for September 2015 based on assumptions regarding applications. Brewers Hill Middle School has a Published Admission Number of 120 which is the total number of children that the school is able to admit for each year group.

Current and Projected Pupil Numbers at Brewers Hill Middle School

Year Group	Current number of pupils – as at 15 January 2014	Projected number of pupils for September 2014	Projected number of pupils for September 2015
5	64	36	0
6	56	64	36
7	33	28	32
8	28	33	28
Total	181	161	96
Total number of places available at the school	480	480	480
Percentage of school places filled	The school is 37.7% full	The school would be 33.5% full	The school would be 20% full

The projected figures are based upon applicants' 'first preferences'. There are sufficient places within Brewers Hill Middle School to admit all of the children who have applied for a place, in year 5, at the school as a 'first preference'. Due to the places that are currently available within other Dunstable middle schools, children who have applied for a place within an alternative Dunstable middle school as their 'first preference' and have named Brewers Hill Middle School as their 'second preference' will be allocated a place within their

'first preference' school. Second and third preferences for Brewers Hill Middle School will not therefore need to be considered.

As described above, low pupil numbers make the school no longer educationally or financially viable and keeping this school open would not be in the best educational interests of their pupils.

3. Our proposal

The Council is proposing to close Brewers Hill Middle School. The Council has considered other options (see question the Frequently Asked Questions on page seven) but the fall in pupil numbers, both current and projected, means that the school is not able to deliver the full curriculum and the school is unviable.

Should the proposal go forward and the closure of the school be approved, the timeframe and process would be as follows. **Please note that this timescale would need to be reviewed nearer the time depending on actual numbers at the school.**

September 2014	
Year 5	Children for the new Year 5 group are admitted.
Year 6	Parents of Year 6 children are invited to apply for transfer to a secondary school in Year 7 (to transfer in September 2015).
Year 7	Year 7 operates, but on a reduced size of year group.
Year 8	Parents of Year 8 children are invited to apply for transfer to a secondary school in Year 9 (to transfer in September 2015). This will be the last Upper transfer in Dunstable.

April 2015	
Year 7	Parents of Year 7 children are invited to consider making an application to transfer to a secondary school in Year 8 (to transfer in September 2015). This is known as an in-year application as it happens outside of the normal transfer point.

September 2015	
Year 5	No new pupils are admitted.
Year 6	Parents of Year 6 children are invited to apply for transfer to a secondary school in Year 7 (to transfer in September 2016).
Year 7	Year 7 operates, but on a reduced size of year group.
Year 8	Year 8 operates, but on a reduced size of year group.

April 2016	
Year 6	<p>Any Year 6 children whose parents haven't made an application to transfer to a secondary school will be sent an application to state a preference for a school.</p> <p>If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places will be allocated.</p>
Year 7	<p>Parents of Year 7 children are invited to consider making an application to transfer to a secondary school in Year 8 (to transfer in September 2015).</p> <p>This is known as an in-year application as it happens outside of the normal transfer point. If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places in Year 8 for September will be allocated.</p>
Year 8	<p>Parents of any Year 8 children remaining in the school are invited to apply for a place in Year 9 at a secondary school (to transfer in September 2016).</p> <p>If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places in Year 9 for September will be allocated.</p>

We recognise that this proposal to close the school may be unsettling for pupils, staff, parents and carers and we are keen to hear from all those people who want to have their say on the proposals during the consultation. You will find a full list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) starting on page seven of this document which may help to address some immediate concerns that you have. You are also welcome to raise queries via the School Admissions helpline on T. 0300 300 8037 or at the public meeting that is being held at the school on Tuesday 4 March (see page six for details).

4. The consultation process

The Council is required to consult with a range of people and organisations including:

- Parents and carers of the children in the school
- The school's governing body
- The school's teachers and other staff
- The governing bodies, teachers and staff of other schools that may be affected
- Parents and carers of children at other schools that may be affected e.g. at feeder schools
- The local diocese and other faith groups
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Members of Parliament

You can have your say online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations or you can complete pages 13 and 14 of this document and return them to the FREEPOST address provided at the end of the form. As well as providing feedback on the Council's proposed closure of Brewers Hill Middle School, you can also submit an alternative

We will also hold a public meeting at Brewers Hill Middle School on **Tuesday 4 March 2014** at 7.00 pm which is open to all interested parties. We are also meeting with the staff, union representatives and governors of Brewers Hill Middle School.

The timetable for the consultation and decision making process is set out below. At the end of this consultation, if the Council decides to pursue closure of the school, it would then have to go through another stage of consultation (a Statutory Notice period) before any final decision could be made in August.

Consultation Timetable

Action	Timescale/Deadline
Six week consultation period begins	Monday 24 February 2014.
Staff, Governors and trade union meeting	Tuesday 25 February at 4.00pm at Brewers Hill Middle School.
Public meeting	Tuesday 4 March 2014 at 7.00pm at Brewers Hill Middle School.
End of six week consultation period	Monday 7 April 2014.
Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee meet to consider the responses received to the consultation. This meeting is open to the public **	Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 7.00pm at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable.
Council's Executive meet to consider responses to consultation and decide next course of action. This meeting is open to the public **	Tuesday 27 May 2014 at 9.30am at Priory House, Chicksands.
If decision is made to proceed with the closure, Statutory Notices will be published and a four week period for comments and/or objections begins	Monday 9 June 2014.
End of Statutory Notice period	Monday 7 July 2014.
Final decision regarding the proposal to be made by the Council's Executive Committee This meeting is open to the public **	Tuesday 19 August 2014 at 9.30am at Priory House, Chicksands.

** for information regarding these meetings, please see page 11.

For more information about this proposal please:

- visit the School Admissions webpage at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions
- email admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or
- call the School Admissions helpline on T. 0300 300 8037.

5. Frequently asked questions (FAQ's)

Q – Does this consultation mean that the Council has already decided that Brewers Hill Middle School will close?

A – No. The Council's Executive committee has approved the start of a consultation on the proposal to close the school, based upon the school's financial and educational viability. The final decision will not be made until 19 August 2014.

Q – Has the Council considered any alternative solutions other than the proposed closure of Brewers Hill Middle School?

A – Yes. We have considered converting the school to either a primary or a secondary school but we do not need any additional primary or secondary places. The school also worked with the Barnfield Federation to investigate a conversion to academy status as part of that organisation but unfortunately this was unsuccessful.

Q – To give parents a real choice, could the Council keep just one of the 3 middle schools open?

A – Unfortunately, due to the total number of pupils currently in Brewers Hill, Ashton CofE VA and Streetfield Middle Schools, and the number of projected pupils moving forward, this is not a viable option.

Q – Why is the Council proposing to close Brewers Hill Middle School, which is a 'Good' school (Ofsted February 2013) when 2 of the 3 upper/secondary schools in Dunstable 'require improvement'?

A – Although we recognise that the school has improved significantly over recent years, the proposed closure is based upon the school's education and financial viability and is not based upon standards. However standards will inevitably fall if, due to the significantly reduced budget, the school cannot employ sufficient teaching staff to enable the delivery of a full appropriate curriculum for all year groups.

Q – What is the Council's response to the accusation that by proposing to close 3 middle schools in Dunstable you are reducing parental choice?

A – Parental choice and support was demonstrated to us within the proposals that were brought forward to the Council by the schools that wished to expand their age range. This has been further demonstrated by the number of parents who have not applied for a middle school place for September 2014 but are choosing to keep their child within a primary school. There are still middle school options available in the area:

- Barnfield Vale has expanded and is a Primary and Middle school for children aged 4-13 years and admits children in both Year R and Year 5 as these are their normal points of entry.
- Caddington Village School is for children aged 4-13 years and admits children in both Year R and Year 5 as these are their normal points of entry.
- Priory Academy is expanding from 9-13 years to 9-16 years from September 2014 and admits children in the Middle transfer round to Year 5 as their normal point of entry.

Q – How can the Council be sure that the projected figures are correct?

A – The projected number of pupils for September 2014 for Brewers Hill Middle School is based upon the total number of applications received by the School Admissions Team, by the national closing date of 15 January 2014, that requested a year 5 place in the school.

Q- Would there be sufficient places in Dunstable upper/secondary schools to take any potential displaced children?

A – Yes. The Council is legally obliged to provide sufficient places for all children aged 5-16 years.

Q – Following the conversion of many Dunstable lower schools to primary status, is there now a surplus of primary school places within the town?

A – Yes. There is currently a 17% surplus of places in year R (reception) to year 5 and a surplus of between 63% and 65% surplus of places in years 5 to 8 within the local area.

Q – Historically, some Dunstable parents have chosen to send their children to schools outside of the local area. Is this still the case?

A – The admissions process allows for parental preference and parents can select any school they wish their child to attend whether that is their local school or one some distance away. In previous years some parents in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area have opted for Middle and Upper schools in the Leighton Buzzard or Harlington areas or have chosen to send their children to schools in Luton.

Q – Will the new homes planned for Frenches Avenue in Dunstable potentially increase demand for places at Brewers Hill Middle School?

A – Although every new housing development creates pressure on schools, the number of new homes planned for Frenches Avenue will only equate to a very small number of children, estimated at just 8 per year group.

Q – Are the school staff also being consulted as part of the consultation process?

A – School staff and trade union representatives are being consulted throughout this consultation process. Should a decision be made to issue statutory notices to close the school, staff and trade unions would be further consulted. The Council and the school's Human Resources provider will work with the governing body, the staff group and trade unions to ensure all staff have access to appropriate advice and support and will ensure that the relevant policies and procedures of the Council are followed.

Q - Should a decision to close the school be made, how would the Council retain the staff that would be needed until the school closed completely?

A - Should a decision be made to close the school, the governing body of the school would consider a staffing structure that would reflect the pupil numbers and the educational and pastoral needs of pupils at the school until it's closure. The Council would work with the governing body and their Human Resources provider when considering the staffing structure.

Q- Is the Council able to place staff from the schools under consultation in other local schools that may have vacancies?

A – In accordance with education legislation, each school's governing body is responsible for appointing its own staff therefore vacant posts in other schools are unable to be ring fenced to staff in those schools under consultation. The Council has a redeployment procedure for school based staff and would support the redeployment of suitably qualified and experienced staff where possible.

Q- Why did the Council not forewarn parents of this proposal?

A – Because it is only a proposal at this stage. A decision has not been made yet. The data upon which this proposal is based was not available until after 15 January 2014, when the closing date for middle school applications had passed.

Q – My child is due to transfer into Brewers Hill Middle school this September from their lower / primary school – if the proposal is approved, what would this mean for my son/daughter?

A – If the proposal to close the school is approved, all children who are due to start Brewers Hill Middle School in September 2014 would still be able to take up their place. By 31 October 2015 you would need to make an application for your child for a year 7 place at a Secondary school in September 2016. Brewers Hill Middle School would be closed by the end of the academic year in the summer of 2016.

Q – My child is currently attending Brewers Hill Middle School – if the proposal is approved, what would this mean for him/her?

A – If the decision is taken to close the school then the following would apply:

Child is currently in Year 5	<p>Could continue at the school and make an application in September 2014, when in Year 6, to transfer to year 7 in secondary school in September 2015.</p> <p>Or alternatively child could continue into Year 7 in September 2015 but would need to make an ‘in-year’ application in the summer of 2016 to transfer into Year 8 at an alternative school i.e. Secondary school or Priory Academy or Barnfield Vale.</p>
Child is currently in Year 6	<p>You would need to make either a late application for a Secondary school to start Year 7 in September 2014.</p> <p>Or apply ‘in-year’ for a place in Year 8 in the summer of 2015 to start in September 2015.</p>
Child is currently in Year 7	<p>Could continue at the school and make application in September 2014, when in Year 8, to transfer to Upper school as normal for September 2015.</p> <p>Or make an ‘in-year’ application for a place in a secondary school either to start in the academic year of 2014/15 as a Year 7 pupil, or at the end of Year 7 to start in Year 8 at a secondary school.</p>
Child is currently in Year 8	<p>Would transfer to Upper or secondary school in September 2014 as per usual process.</p>

Q – What happens at the end of this consultation period?

A - This consultation period will end on Monday 7 April. The responses to the consultation, plus any other alternative proposals that are submitted as part of the consultation process, will be considered at a meeting of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 7 May. This meeting will be held at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable at 7.00 pm. As with all Council meetings, the public are welcome to attend and

to speak at this meeting. For advice on how to apply to speak at a council meeting, please see the guidance on page 11.

The Council's Executive Committee will then consider the results of the consultation plus any other viable options, along with the recommendations from the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at their meeting on Tuesday 27 May. This meeting will be held at the Council's offices, Priory House, in Chicksands at 9.30 am. The public are welcome to attend and to speak at this meeting. For advice on how to apply to speak at a council meeting, please see the guidance on page 11.

If a decision is made by the Executive to proceed with the proposal to close Brewers Hill Middle School, the Council would move to the next stage of the process, which is the publication of a statutory proposal and this would be published on Monday 9 June.

Q – If the Executive decide that an alternative viable option has been submitted for the future of Brewers Hill Middle School, what would happen then?

A - The Council would be required to carry out a consultation process for the alternative proposal, following the same procedure as this consultation.

Q – What is a statutory proposal and what would happen if it is published?

A – A statutory proposal is the second part of the process that the Council is obliged to carry out for proposed prescribed alterations to its maintained schools. A full representation (description) of the proposal would be published on Monday 9 June along with a summary of the proposal, which is referred to as a statutory notice.

Once published, all interested parties would have an opportunity to respond and make their views known to the Council regarding whether or not they support the proposal to close the school. Any comments or concerns they may have can be submitted during this period. This part of the process would last for 4 weeks and would end on Monday 7 July.

Q – When would the decision be taken to either keep the school open or close it?

A –The Council's Executive would consider all of the responses received during the statutory notice period, and would determine whether or not to close the school at their meeting on 19 August 2014. This meeting, which the public are welcome to attend, will be held at the Council's offices, Priory House, in Chicksands at 9.30 am. For advice on how to apply to speak at this council meeting, please see the guidance on page 11.

Q – Could the Governing Body of Brewers Hill Middle School or anybody else appeal against the Executive's decision?

A -.Within four weeks of the decision being made by the Council, the following can apply to the Schools Adjudicator against the decision

- The local Church of England Diocese
- The local Roman Catholic Diocese
- The governing body of the school that is subject to the proposal
- The Trustees of a foundation, foundation special or voluntary school that is subject to the proposal

On receipt of an appeal, the Schools Adjudicator would request the Council to submit, within one week, the proposal, the responses received and the reason for the decision made. There is no right of appeal on any determination made by the Schools Adjudicator.

Q – What would happen to the building and land if the school was to close?

A – No decision has been made regarding this. The land and buildings would remain as Council assets. The school's playing fields are used by Dunstable Town Football Club and

this agreement would continue. If the Council decided to submit the buildings and land for disposal, the Secretary of State could insist that they are used for educational purposes.

Q – Why has the Council allowed this situation to happen within Dunstable?

A – Following Central Government's decision to allow academies (which are outside of the Council's control) to change their age ranges, in order to give maintained schools (schools which are within the Council's control) the same flexibility, Central Bedfordshire Council has allowed schools, with evidence of parental support, to bring forward their proposals to improve their schools and, through this, the outcomes for their pupils.

The changes that have subsequently occurred in schools and academies throughout Dunstable and Houghton Regis have led to the situation that we now have.

New Government regulations, which came into effect at the end of January 2014, have given more freedoms to maintained schools; they are now able to change their age range by up to two years without following a statutory process and without the Council's consent.

Q – Has the consultation that Brewers Hill Middle School carried out previously, regarding a conversion to Barnfield Park Academy, had any bearing on this consultation?

A – No. In 2011 Brewers Hill Middle School governing body and Head teacher approached Barnfield Academy Trust with a view to becoming an Academy, with the intention to change their age range to become a primary school, with plans for a future studio school to be established (Studio schools are for pupils aged 14-19 years olds that have a new approach to learning which includes teaching through enterprise projects and real work). With the impact of the changing pattern of provision in the area, Barnfield Academy Trust eventually identified that there would not be sufficient demand for a further primary school.

The governing body of Brewers Hill Middle School may launch a further consultation regarding an alternative proposal. Information will be available on the school's website - <http://www.brewershillmiddle.co.uk/>

If you have any questions that have not been addressed above you are welcome to:

- raise these at the meeting to be held in school on Tuesday 4 March
- visit the School Admissions webpage at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions
- email admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or
- call the School Admissions helpline on T.0300 300 8037.

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Attending and speaking at Council meetings

The public are welcome to attend the Council meetings at which decisions regarding the proposed closure will be discussed.

The Council's Constitution allows anyone to register to speak about an item, prior to the meeting, once the agenda has been published. Those who register to speak are allowed a maximum of three minutes to speak (unless the Chairman agrees to allow more time).

Normally no more than three people can speak on any one item, but again the Chairman can extend this number if they feel it necessary and if there is significant public interest.

We encourage groups of residents or community groups to nominate a speaker to speak on their behalf and represent the views of others so as to encourage as many different views to be represented as possible.

Speakers are normally invited to speak at the start of the meeting or, at the discretion of the Chairman, during the debate.

Agendas for meetings are published eight working days ahead of the date of meeting. You can find the agendas on the Council's website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/committees

You are encouraged to submit a request to speak at a meeting to the Clerk to the Committee to speak as soon as possible after the agenda has been published, although the Clerk can accept such requests up to 15 minutes before the meeting starts.

The clerk to the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee is Jonathon Partridge: you can contact Jonathon via email Jonathon.partridge@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or T. 0300 300 4634.

The clerk to the Executive is Sandra Hobbs: You can contact Sandra via email Sandra.hobbs@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or T. 0300 300 5257.

Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services
Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford
SG17 5TQ



Brewers Hill Middle School Proposed Closure Consultation



Central Bedfordshire Council is consulting on the potential closure of Brewers Hill Middle School as current and projected pupil numbers makes the school unviable. We want to hear your views.

Feedback must be received by **5pm on 7th April 2014**. You can also see the full details of the proposed closure and complete this online at: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

1. Are you a: (Please tick one)

- ☐ Parent of a child/children at Brewers Hill Middle School
- ☐ Parent of a child/children at another school in the area
- ☐ School employee of Brewers Hill Middle School
- ☐ School employee of another school in the area
- ☐ School Governor of Brewers Hill Middle School
- ☐ School Governor of another school in the area
- ☐ Local resident
- ☐ Other

Please specify:

2. If you are the parent of a child/children currently at another school, or the employee or governor of another school, please tell us which school. (Please write name of school)

3. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Brewers Hill Middle School (Please tick one option)

- ☐ Agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Disagree

4. Please give your reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Brewers Hill Middle School. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

5. Please use the space below to suggest any alternatives to closing the school or make any other comments you would like to make about this proposal.

About you

The following information will help us when considering your opinions and to make sure that we're getting the views of all members of the community. The answers will not be used to identify any individual. Our data protection statement is provided at the end of this form.

6. Are you (Please tick one)

☐ Male

☐ Female

7. What is your age? (Please tick one)

☐ Under 16 years

☐ 20-29 years

☐ 45-59 years

☐ 65-74 years

☐ 16-19 years

☐ 30-44 years

☐ 60-64 years

☐ 75 years +

8. Do you consider yourself to be disabled? (Please tick one)

Under the Equality Act 2010 a person is considered to have a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a sustained and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. To which of these groups do you consider you belong? (Please tick one)

☐ Asian or Asian British

☐ Chinese

☐ White British

☐ Black or Black British

☐ Mixed

☐ Other Ethnic group

If other, please specify:

10. What is your postcode?

Thank you for your views.

Please return your completed form by 5pm on Monday 7 April 2014 to:

FREEPOST RSJS GBBZ SRZT (you do not need to use a stamp)

School closure proposal for Brewers Hill Middle School

Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ

Data Protection Act 1998

Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Central Bedfordshire Council for the purpose analysing feedback to the consultation on the proposed closure of Brewers Hill Middle School, Dunstable. The information collected may be disclosed to officers and members of the Council and its' partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes.

Information classification: Protected when complete

Notes from staff briefing held at Brewers Hill Middle school on Tuesday 25 February 2014

Title of meeting:	Notes from staff briefing held at Brewers Hill Middle School	
Date/Time:	25 February 2014 at 4.00 pm	
Attendees:	<u>Central Bedfordshire Council</u> – Helen Redding, Assistant Director School Improvement Rob Parsons, Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning David Waller, Senior Human Resource Manager Lydia Braisher, Admissions Manager Sue Barrow, Information Manager	<u>Union Representatives</u> – Tim Rawsden – NASUWT Bridget Fordham – ATL Martin Foster - GMB
Venue:	Brewers Hill Middle School, Aldbanks, Dunstable	

A presentation was given by the officers of Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the proposal to close Brewers Hill Middle School and the consultation process that is being undertaken.

The officers advised that the proposed closure of the school was based upon the

- Changing pattern of provision
- Year 5 retained in Primaries, Year 7 transfers to Secondaries
- Reducing pupil numbers in the Middle Schools
- School funding follows the child so resulting significant financial impact
- Forecast further reduction in pupil numbers will increase the financial impact

Questions were then invited.

Below is a summary of the questions and issues that were raised by the staff.

Question	Response
Due to the process that the school went through last year, to become an academy within the Barnfield Federation, is the school being given an opportunity to consider any other change?	The Governing Body are able to bring forward an alternative proposal in response to this consultation.
Can the lower schools, that have changed their age range, provide the facilities that are needed for the curriculum e.g. science labs?	At the meetings held during the lower school consultations many parents asked whether the lower schools would be able to deliver the full primary curriculum. The

Central Bedfordshire Council

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	schools were able to assure them that they would.
Why are you proposing to close Brewers Hill, which is an Ofsted 'good' school, when the secondary schools 'require improvement'?	<p>The proposal to close the school is based upon the viability of the school, which affects the ability of the school to deliver the curriculum. It is not based upon the current standard of the school.</p> <p>The secondary schools in the town are making good progress.</p>
Did the Council consider the over supply of places when it approved the change of age ranges for the Dunstable and Houghton Regis schools?	The Council allowed maintained schools to bring forward proposals to change their age range in order to give those schools the same opportunities as were available to academies within the area. The supply of places was one of the factors that was considered when decisions were made by the Secretary of State (for academies) and by the Council (for maintained schools).
Are the primary schools undersubscribed? Will any of them be closed?	Some lower schools that have converted to primary are predicted to have lower numbers for year 5 in September 2014. This is a trend seen elsewhere in the first few years of a school's transition to a new age range but we expect numbers to rise in subsequent years as parents grow in confidence.
Are academies allowed to do what they like? Academies appear unaccountable and Council maintained schools are therefore at a disadvantage	Academies are accountable to the Secretary of State who will intervene in any that are underperforming or are significantly undersubscribed and therefore unviable.
The letters that have been sent out to parents of current year 6 students regarding admissions have been misleading and parents have raised their concerns with staff. If the letter had been properly written we would not be losing so many pupils. The school should have been privy to any letters that were due to be sent out to our parents.	<p>The School Admissions service has a duty to advise parents of a change to a transfer point. We therefore needed to advise parents that there will be no coordinated year 9 transfer into Manshead or Queensbury from September 2016.</p> <p>The letters invited parents to contact the Admissions helpline. Many did contact us and we were able to assist them.</p>
By forcing children into bigger schools, with much older children, you are forcing them to grow up too quickly.	All of the schools that have proposed an extension to their age range have had to demonstrate how they will manage the increased age range and provide the pupils with a good education. If we have any

	concerns about a maintained schools ability to subsequently do this, we will intervene. If we have any such concerns about an academy we can take these to the DfE's Regional Commissioner.
Comment from union representative	<p>Please feedback to the consultation with the enthusiasm for the school that you have shown today.</p> <p>It is not a losing battle. Twice we have been close to inevitable closure decisions which were subsequently over turned.</p> <p>Tell the Council's elected members of your views by responding.</p>

Notes from public meeting held at Brewers Hill Middle School on Tuesday 4 March 2014

Title of meeting:	Notes from public meeting held at Brewers Hill Middle School
Date/Time:	4 March 2014 at 7.00 pm
Venue:	Brewers Hill Middle School, Aldbanks, Dunstable

A presentation was given by officers of Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the proposal to close Brewers Hill Middle School and the consultation process that is being undertaken.

Helen Redding, Assistant Director School Improvement

Rob Parsons, Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning

Lydia Braisher, Admissions Manager

The officers advised that the proposed closure of the school was based upon the

- Changing pattern of provision
- Year 5 retained in Primaries, Year 7 transfers to Secondaries
- Reducing pupil numbers in the Middle Schools
- School funding follows the child so resulting significant financial impact
- Forecast further reduction in pupil numbers will increase the financial impact

The officers encouraged everybody to respond to the consultation.

Questions and concerns were invited.

Below is a summary of the questions and concerns that were raised

Question	Response
If the decision is made to close the school, can the Governing Body appeal the decision?	The Governing Body can appeal to the Schools Adjudicator within four weeks of the decision being made. There is no right of appeal on the determination made by the Schools Adjudicator.
If the decision is made to close the school, and the teachers all leave, who would support the children and what would happen to their education?	The Council would work in partnership with the school to support the process and to provide support to the children. The Council would also commission any additional support that is required.
What would happen to the staff if the school closes?	With the reduced budget that the school have for 2014/15, the school's Governing Body will have to consider its staffing budget with effect from September 2014, irrespective of the outcome of the closure proposal.

	If the school faces closure, the Council will provide HR support to the school and to the staff.
This is not a 'failing' school, why is this school facing closure?	The proposal to close the school is based upon the viability of the school, which affects the ability of the school to deliver the curriculum. It is not based upon the current standard of the school.
Could just one middle school remain open?	There is a 65% surplus of places within the area in years 5-8. There is no demographic demand for these places to be retained in the area.
Why were the parents of year 4 children not advised of this proposal before they were asked to submit their choice for year 5?	Figures from the admission process, which closed on 15 January 2014, were used to confirm the numbers of pupils that were due to move to the school in September. This then gave us the information we needed regarding the future viability of the school.
How will the decision be made regarding the proposal? What will be the criteria?	The Council is required to follow the guidance produced by the Department for Education for decision makers. This includes consideration of all of the responses to the consultation.
You are taking away our choice. By forcing children into bigger schools, with much older children, you are forcing them to grow up too quickly.	All of the schools that have proposed an extension to their age range have had to demonstrate how they will manage the increased age range and provide the pupils with a good education. If we have any concerns about a maintained schools ability to subsequently do this, we will intervene. If we have any such concerns about an academy we can take these to the DfE's Regional Commissioner.
The letters that have been sent out to parents of current year 6 students regarding admissions have been misleading and parents have raised their concerns with staff. If the letter had been properly written the middle schools would not be losing so many pupils.	<p>The School Admissions service has a duty to advise parents of a change to a transfer point. We therefore needed to advise parents that there will be no coordinated year 9 transfer into Manshead or Queensbury from September 2016.</p> <p>The letters invited parents to contact the Admissions helpline. Many did contact us and we were able to assist them.</p>
Have the children from the new development north of Houghton Regis been included in the projected numbers?	This will be provided either within or adjacent to that development, providing school places local to the new communities in north Houghton Regis, when they are required
How can village schools stay open, with very low numbers?	<p>School funding regulations changed last year and each school now receives a uniform lump sum, plus additional funding based upon the number of pupils they have.</p> <p>Small schools that struggle to stay open often go into partnership with other schools in order to remain viable.</p>

Can parents change their mind?	Yes, parents can change their preference and submit a late application
This is scaremongering and nobody has been asked to vote for either 2 tier or 3 tier across the town. Nobody has voted for this closure. The council will not listen.	<p>Academies and schools within Dunstable and Houghton Regis have brought forward their own proposals to change their age ranges. They were able to justify these proposals and show evidence of parental support to the Council who is the decision maker for Council maintained schools and to the Department for Education for academies.</p> <p>This not a referendum, there is no voting process. This is a consultation and we encourage everybody to submit their responses.</p>
<p>Why has the Council not driven all of the changes?</p> <p>Academies are competing for our children. Feeder schools are in partnership with other schools. The mess within the town is due to the lack of partnership working between schools.</p>	<p>The Council is no longer able to drive system wide change and schools are now largely in control of their own destinies. The Council has not been the decision maker for the changes that have happened in academies, but the Council decided to give our maintained schools the same freedoms that were available to academies.</p> <p>Following recent changes to school regulations by the Department for Education, all maintained schools can now change their age range by up to 2 years without any recourse to the Council.</p> <p>The Council retains responsibility for ensuring the provision of school places.</p>

At the close of the meeting, everyone was encouraged to respond to the consultation.

Appendix **B**

Consultation on the proposed closure of Streetfield Middle School, Dunstable Road, Caddington.

**Monday 24 February 2014 -
Monday 7 April 2014**

1. Introduction

Councils have a duty to ensure there are enough suitable school places for children aged 5-16 (as per Section 14 of the Education Act 1996). The Council's role is to promote parental choice, diversity, high standards and fair access to education (Education and Inspections Act 2006).

To help meet these duties a Council has the power to close schools where no other viable options are available.

Possible reasons for closing a school include where:

- it is surplus to requirements (e.g. as a result of an area-wide reorganisation and/or there are sufficient places in neighbouring schools to accommodate displaced pupils)
- it is to be amalgamated/ merged 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.

Central Bedfordshire Council is proposing to close Streetfield Middle School because the current and projected pupil numbers make the school unviable.

This document explains the reasons for proposing to close the school and how you can have your say.

The Council is also currently consulting on proposals to close two other middle schools in the Dunstable area for the same reasons. You can also have your say, by responding to the separate consultations, on the proposals to close:

- Brewers Hill Middle School (Aldbanks, Dunstable) and
- Ashton CofE VA Middle School (High Street North, Dunstable).

Consultation documents and responses forms are available from the schools concerned and from the Councils website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations . You can also request copies by email from admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and by calling the School Admissions helpline on T.0300 300 8037.

2. Background

There have been lots of changes taking place in Dunstable and Houghton Regis schools over the last few years; many have taken advantage of greater powers given to them by Government to change their school, in response to parental demand. The governing bodies of maintained schools in the area, which have approached the Council for permission to consult on a change of age range, were able to provide proof of parental support at that early stage in response to their initial surveys. This support was further demonstrated during the consultation process for each proposal and was one of the factors that were considered by the Council when approving a requested change of age range.

Likewise, for academies that were required to ask the Secretary of State for Education for permission to change their age range, the level of parental support was again one of the factors that were considered when approving the proposal.

In both Dunstable and Houghton Regis there has been a shift from the three tier system lower, middle and upper schools towards a two tier primary and secondary school model as a result of these changes.

This shift has led to many of the previous feeder schools converting to primary schools. This has led to fewer pupils applying to middle schools for the intake at Year 5. Also the four former upper schools have extended their age ranges, meaning that some pupils are leaving middle schools to start secondary school in year 7. The combination of these factors means that pupil numbers at Streetfield Middle School have fallen significantly as a result of these changes. We have now reached a point where falling pupil numbers means the Council needs to consider the future viability of the school.

The funding that schools receive comes to the Council from Central Government and is passed directly to the Council's maintained schools in accordance with our local funding formula (academies receive their funding direct from Central Government). A maintained school's funding allocation is predominantly based upon the total number of pupils they have on roll and the total number of pupils that are due to move in and out of the school during that academic year. Because of falling pupil numbers, the budget for Streetfield Middle School is due to fall by 24.3% for 2014/15 alone, and this decrease, and projected decreases going forward, places the school in a financially unviable position. With such a significantly reduced budget, the school will find it difficult to employ sufficient teachers to enable the delivery of a full curriculum.

The table below sets out the current pupil numbers at Streetfield Middle School, the projected numbers in September 2014 based on actual applications, and projected numbers for September 2015 based on assumptions regarding applications. Streetfield Middle School has a Published Admission Number of 130 which is the total number of children that the school is able to admit for each year group.

Current and Projected Pupil Numbers at Streetfield Middle School

Year Group	Current number of pupils – as at 15 January 2014	Projected number of pupils for September 2014	Projected number of pupils for September 2015
5	78	22	0
6	86	78	22
7	85	29	26
8	114	85	29
Total	363	214	77
Total number of places available at the school	520	520	520
Percentage of school places filled	The school is 69.8% full	The school would be 41.2% full	The school would be 14.8% full

The projected figures are based upon applicants' 'first preferences'. There are sufficient places within Streetfield Middle School to admit all of the children who have applied for a place, in year 5, at the school as a 'first preference'. Due to the places that are currently available within other Dunstable middle schools, children who have applied for a place within an alternative Dunstable middle school as their 'first preference' and have named Streetfield Middle School as their 'second preference' will be allocated a place within their

'first preference' school. Second and third preferences for Streetfield Middle School will therefore need to be considered.

As described above, low pupil numbers make the school no longer educationally or financially viable and keeping this school open would not be in the best educational interests of their pupils.

3. Our proposal

The Council is proposing to close Streetfield Middle School. The Council has considered other options (see question the Frequently Asked Questions on page seven) but the fall in pupil numbers, both current and projected, means that the school is not able to deliver the full curriculum and the school is unviable.

Should the proposal go forward and the closure of the school be approved, the timeframe and process would be as follows. **Please note that this timescale would need to be reviewed nearer the time depending on actual numbers at the school.**

September 2014	
Year 5	Children for the new Year 5 group are admitted.
Year 6	Parents of Year 6 children are invited to apply for transfer to a secondary school in Year 7 (to transfer in September 2015).
Year 7	Year 7 operates, but on a reduced size of year group.
Year 8	Parents of Year 8 children are invited to apply for transfer to a secondary school in Year 9 (to transfer in September 2015). This will be the last Upper transfer in Dunstable.

April 2015	
Year 7	Parents of Year 7 children are invited to consider making an application to transfer to a secondary school in Year 8 (to transfer in September 2015). This is known as an in-year application as it happens outside of the normal transfer point.

September 2015	
Year 5	No new pupils are admitted.
Year 6	Parents of Year 6 children are invited to apply for transfer to a secondary school in Year 7 (to transfer in September 2016).
Year 7	Year 7 operates, but on a reduced size of year group.
Year 8	Year 8 operates, but on a reduced size of year group.

April 2016	
Year 6	<p>Any Year 6 children whose parents haven't made an application to transfer to a secondary school will be sent an application to state a preference for a school.</p> <p>If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places will be allocated.</p>
Year 7	<p>Parents of Year 7 children are invited to consider making an application to transfer to a secondary school in Year 8 (to transfer in September 2015).</p> <p>This is known as an in-year application as it happens outside of the normal transfer point. If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places in Year 8 for September will be allocated.</p>
Year 8	<p>Parents of any Year 8 children remaining in the school are invited to apply for a place in Year 9 at a secondary school (to transfer in September 2016).</p> <p>If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places in Year 9 for September will be allocated.</p>

We recognise that this proposal to close the school may be unsettling for pupils, staff, parents and carers and we are keen to hear from all those people who want to have their say on the proposals during the consultation. You will find a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) starting on page seven of this document which may help to address some immediate concerns that you have. You are also welcome to raise queries via the School Admissions helpline on T. 0300 300 8037 or at the public meeting that is being held at the school on Wednesday 5 March (see page six for details).

4. The consultation process

The Council is required to consult with a range of people and organisations including:

- Parents and carers of the children in the school
- The school's governing body
- The school's teachers and other staff
- The governing bodies, teachers and staff of other schools that may be affected
- Parents and carers of children at other schools that may be affected e.g. at feeder schools
- The local diocese and other faith groups
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Members of Parliament

You can have your say online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations or you can complete pages 12 and 13 of this document and return them to the FREEPOST address provided at the end of the form. As well as providing feedback on the Council's

proposed closure of Streetfield Middle School, you can also submit an alternative proposal for the school. All responses should be returned by **5.00pm Monday 7 April 2014**.

We will also hold a public meeting at Streetfield Middle School on **Wednesday 5 March 2014** at 7.00 pm which is open to all interested parties. We are also meeting with the staff, union representatives and governors of Streetfield Middle School.

The timetable for the consultation and decision making process is set out below. At the end of this consultation, if the Council decides to pursue closure of the school, it would then have to go through another stage of consultation (a Statutory Notice period) before any final decision could be made in August.

Consultation Timetable

Action	Timescale/Deadline
Six week consultation period begins	Monday 24 February 2014.
Staff, Governors and trade union meeting	Wednesday 26 February at 4.00pm at Streetfield Middle School.
Public meeting	Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 7.00pm at Streetfield Middle School.
End of six week consultation period	Monday 7 April 2014.
Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee meet to consider the responses received to the consultation This meeting is open to the public **	Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 7.00pm at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable.
Council's Executive meet to consider responses to consultation and decide next course of action This meeting is open to the public **	Tuesday 27 May 2014 at 9.30am at Priory House, Chicksands.
If decision is made to proceed with the closure, Statutory Notices will be published and a four week period for comments and/or objections will begin	Monday 9 June 2014.
End of Statutory Notice period	Monday 7 July 2014.
Final decision regarding the proposal to be made by the Council's Executive Committee This meeting is open to the public **	Tuesday 19 August 2014 at 9.30am at Priory House, Chicksands.

** for information regarding these meetings, please see page 11.

For more information about this proposal please -

- visit the School Admissions webpage at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions
- email admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or
- call the School Admissions helpline on T.0300 300 8037.

5. Frequently asked questions (FAQ's)

Q – Does this consultation mean that the Council has already decided that Streetfield Middle School will close?

A – No. The Council's Executive committee has approved the start of a consultation on the proposal to close the school, based upon the school's financial and educational viability. The final decision will not be made until 19 August 2014.

Q – Has the Council considered any alternative solutions other than the proposed closure of Streetfield Middle School?

A – Yes. We have considered converting the school to either a primary or a secondary school but we do not need any additional primary or secondary places.

Q – To give parents a real choice, could the Council keep just one of the 3 middle schools open?

A – Unfortunately, due to the total number of pupils currently in Streetfield, Ashton CofE VA and Brewers Hill Middle Schools, and the number of projected pupils moving forward, this is not a viable option.

Q – Is the Council proposing to close Streetfield Middle School because it 'requires improvement' as per the last Ofsted report (dated December 2013)?

A –No. The closure is proposed because the current and projected pupil numbers make the school unviable. The school is currently being supported through the Council's School Intervention Strategy due to its performance.

Q – What is the Council's response to the accusation that by proposing to close 3 middle schools in Dunstable you are reducing parental choice?

A – Parental choice and support was demonstrated to us within the proposals that were brought forward to the Council by the schools that wished to expand their age range. This has been further demonstrated by the number of parents who have not applied for a middle school place for September 2014 but are choosing to keep their child within a primary school. There are still middle school options available in the area:

- Barnfield Vale has expanded and is a Primary and Middle school for children aged 4-13 years and admits children in both Year R and Year 5 as these are their normal points of entry.
- Caddington Village School is for children aged 4-13 years and admits children in both Year R and Year 5 as these are their normal points of entry.
- Priory Academy is expanding from 9-13 years to 9-16 years from September 2014 and admits children in the Middle transfer round to Year 5 as their normal point of entry.

Q – How can the Council be sure that the projected figures are correct?

A – The projected number of pupils for September 2014 for Streetfield Middle School is based upon the total number of applications received by the School Admissions Team, by the national closing date of 15 January 2014, that requested a year 5 place in the school.

Q- Would there be sufficient places in Dunstable upper/secondary schools to take any potential displaced children?

A – Yes. The Council is legally obliged to provide sufficient places for all children aged 5-16 years.

Q – Following the conversion of many Dunstable lower schools to primary status, is there now a surplus of primary school places within the town?

A – Yes. There is currently a 17% surplus of places in year R (reception) to year 5 and a surplus of between 63% and 65% surplus of places in years 5 to 8 within the local area.

Q – Historically, some Dunstable parents have chosen to send their children to schools outside of the local area. Is this still the case?

A – The admissions process allows for parental preference and parents can select any school they wish their child to attend whether that is their local school or one some distance away. In previous years some parents in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area have opted for middle and upper schools in the Leighton Buzzard or Harlington areas or have chosen to send their children to schools in Luton.

Q – Are the school staff also being consulted as part of the consultation process?

A – School staff and trade union representatives are being consulted throughout this consultation process. Should a decision be made to issue statutory notices to close the school, staff and trade unions would be further consulted. The Council and the school's Human Resources provider will work with the governing body, the staff group and trade unions to ensure all staff have access to appropriate advice and support and will ensure that the relevant policies and procedures of the Council are followed.

Q - Should a decision to close the school be made, how would the Council retain the staff that would be needed until the school closed completely?

A - Should a decision be made to close the school, the governing body of the school would consider a staffing structure that would reflect the pupil numbers and the educational and pastoral needs of pupils at the school until it's closure. The Council would work with the governing body and their Human Resources provider when considering the staffing structure.

Q- Is the Council able to place staff from the schools under consultation in other local schools that may have vacancies?

A – In accordance with education legislation, each school's governing body is responsible for appointing its own staff therefore vacant posts in other schools are unable to be ring fenced to staff in those schools under consultation. The Council has a redeployment procedure for school based staff and would support the redeployment of suitably qualified and experienced staff where possible.

Q- Why did the Council not forewarn parents of this proposal?

A – Because it is only a proposal at this stage. A decision has not been made yet. The data upon which this proposal is based was not available until after 15 January 2014, when the closing date for middle school applications had passed.

Q – My child is due to transfer into Streetfield Middle School this September from their lower / primary school – if the proposal is approved, what would this mean for my child?

A – If the proposal to close the school is approved, all children who are due to start Streetfield Middle School in September 2014 would still be able to take up their place. By 31 October 2015 you would need to make an application for your child for a year 7 place at a Secondary school in September 2016. Streetfield Middle School would be closed by the end of the academic year in the summer of 2016.

Q – My child is currently attending Streetfield Middle School – if the proposal is approved, what would this mean for him/her?

A – If the decision is taken to close the school then the following would apply:

Child is currently in Year 5	<p>Could continue at the school and make an application in September 2014, when in Year 6, to transfer to year 7 in secondary school in September 2015.</p> <p>Or alternatively child could continue into Year 7 in September 2015 but would need to make an ‘in-year’ application in the summer of 2016 to transfer into Year 8 at an alternative school i.e. Secondary school or Priory Academy or Barnfield Vale.</p>
Child is currently in Year 6	<p>You would need to make either a late application for a Secondary school to start Year 7 in September 2014.</p> <p>Or apply ‘in-year’ for a place in Year 8 in the summer of 2015 to start in September 2015.</p>
Child is currently in Year 7	<p>Could continue at the school and make application in September 2014, when in Year 8, to transfer to Upper school as normal for September 2015.</p> <p>Or make an ‘in-year’ application for a place in a secondary school either to start in the academic year of 2014/15 as a Year 7 pupil, or at the end of Year 7 to start in Year 8 at a secondary school.</p>
Child is currently in Year 8	<p>Would transfer to Upper or secondary school in September 2014 as per usual process.</p>

Q – What happens at the end of this consultation period?

A - This consultation period will end on Monday 7 April. The responses to the consultation, plus any other alternative proposals that are submitted as part of the consultation process, will be considered at a meeting of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 7 May. This meeting will be held at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable at 7.00 pm. As with all Council meetings, the public are welcome to attend and to speak at this meeting. For advice on how to apply to speak at a council meeting, please see the guidance on page 11.

The Council’s Executive Committee will then consider the results of the consultation plus any other viable options that have been submitted, along with the recommendations from the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at their meeting on Tuesday 27 May. This meeting will be held at the Council’s offices, Priory House, Chicksands at 9.30 am. The public are welcome to attend and to speak at this meeting. For advice on how to apply to speak at a council meeting, please see the guidance on page 11.

If a decision is made by the Executive to proceed with the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School, the Council would move to the next stage of the process, which is the publication of a statutory proposal and this would be published on Monday 9 June.

Q – If the Executive decide that an alternative viable option has been submitted for the future of Streetfield Middle School, what would happen then?

A - The Council would be required to carry out a consultation process for the alternative proposal, following the same procedure as this consultation.

Q – What is a statutory proposal and what would happen if it is published?

A – A statutory proposal is the second part of the process that the Council is obliged to carry out for proposed prescribed alterations to its maintained schools. A full representation (description) of the proposal would be published on Monday 9 June along with a summary of the proposal, which is referred to as a statutory notice.

Once published, all interested parties would have an opportunity to respond and make their views known to the Council regarding whether or not they support the proposal to close the school. Any comments or concerns they may have can be submitted during this period. This part of the process would last for 4 weeks and would end on Monday 7 July.

Q – When would the decision be taken to either keep the school open or close it?

A –The Council's Executive would consider all of the responses received during the statutory notice period, and would determine whether or not to close the school at their meeting on 19 August 2014. This meeting, which the public are welcome to attend, will be held at the Council's offices, Priory House, Chicksands at 9.30 am. For advice on how to apply to speak at this council meeting, please see the guidance on page 11.

Q – Could the Governing Body of Streetfield Middle School or anybody else appeal against the Executive's decision?

A -. Within four weeks of the decision being made by the Council, the following can apply to the Schools Adjudicator against the decision

- The local Church of England Diocese
- The local Roman Catholic Diocese
- The governing body of the school that is subject to the proposal
- The Trustees of a foundation, foundation special or voluntary school that is subject to the proposal

On receipt of an appeal, the Schools Adjudicator would request the Council to submit, within one week, the proposal, the responses received and the reason for the decision made. There is no right of appeal on any determination made by the Schools Adjudicator.

Q – What would happen to the building and land if the school was to close?

A – No decision has been made regarding this. The land and buildings would remain as Council assets. If the Council decided to submit the buildings and land for disposal, the Secretary of State could insist that they are used for educational purposes.

Q – Why has the Council allowed this situation to happen within Dunstable?

A – Following Central Government's decision to allow academies (which are outside of the Council's control) to change their age ranges, in order to give maintained schools (schools which are within the Council's control) the same flexibility, Central Bedfordshire Council has allowed schools, with evidence of parental support, to bring forward their proposals to improve their schools and, through this, the outcomes for their pupils.

The changes that have subsequently occurred in schools and academies throughout Dunstable and Houghton Regis have led to the situation that we now have.

New Government regulations, which came into effect at the end of January 2014, have given more freedoms to maintained schools; they are now able to change their age range by up to two years without following a statutory process and without the Council's consent.

Q – How does the consultation that Streetfield Middle School is currently undertaking, regarding a change of age range, affect the Council’s consultation?

A –The consultation process that the Governing Body of Streetfield Middle school is currently undertaking is to enable the school to feedback into the Council’s consultation with, what the governing body believe, will be an alternative viable proposal to the school’s proposed closure.

Information regarding Streetfield Middle School’s Governing Body’s proposal can be found on the schools website - <http://www.streetfield.beds.sch.uk/>

If you have any questions that have not been addressed above you are welcome to -

- raise these at the meeting to be held in school on Wednesday 5 March
- visit the School Admissions webpage at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions
- email admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or
- call the School Admissions helpline on T. 0300 300 8037.

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Attending and speaking at Council meetings

The public are welcome to attend the Council meetings at which decisions regarding the proposed closure will be discussed.

The Council’s Constitution allows anyone to register to speak about an item, prior to the meeting, once the agenda has been published. Those who register to speak are allowed a maximum of three minutes to speak (unless the Chairman agrees to allow more time).

Normally no more than three people can speak on any one item, but again the Chairman can extend this number if they feel it necessary and if there is significant public interest.

We encourage groups of residents or community groups to nominate a speaker to speak on their behalf and represent the views of others so as to encourage as many different views to be represented as possible.

Speakers are normally invited to speak at the start of the meeting or, at the discretion of the Chairman, during the debate.

Agendas for meetings are published eight working days ahead of the date of meeting. You can find the agendas on the Council’s website here www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/committees

You are encouraged to submit a request to the Clerk to the Committee to speak at a meeting as soon as possible after the agenda has been published, although the Clerk can accept such requests up to 15 minutes before the meeting starts.

The clerk to the Children’s Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee is Jonathon Partridge: you can contact Jonathon via email Jonathon.partridge@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or T. 0300 300 4634.

The clerk to the Executive is Sandra Hobbs: You can contact Sandra via email Sandra.hobbs@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or T. 0300 300 5257.

Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children’s Services
Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford
SG17 5TQ



Streetfield Middle School Proposed Closure Consultation



Central Bedfordshire Council is consulting on the potential closure of Streetfield Middle School as current and projected pupil numbers makes the school unviable. We want to hear your views.

Feedback must be received by **5pm on 7th April 2014**. You can also see the full details of the proposed closure and complete this online at: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

1. Are you a: (Please tick one)

- ☐ Parent of a child/children at Streetfield Middle School
- ☐ Parent of a child/children at another school in the area
- ☐ School employee of Streetfield Middle School
- ☐ School employee of another school in the area
- ☐ School Governor of Streetfield Middle School
- ☐ School Governor of another school in the area
- ☐ Local resident
- ☐ Other

Please specify:

2. If you are the parent of a child/children currently at another school, or the employee or governor of another school, please tell us which school. (Please write name of school)

3. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School (Please tick one option)

- ☐ Agree
 ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
 ☐ Disagree

4. Please give your reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

5. Please use the space below to suggest any alternatives to closing the school or make any other comments you would like to make about this proposal.

About you

The following information will help us when considering your opinions and to make sure that we're getting the views of all members of the community. The answers will not be used to identify any individual. Our data protection statement is provided at the end of this form.

6. Are you (Please tick one)

☐ Male

☐ Female

7. What is your age? (Please tick one)

☐ Under 16 years

☐ 20-29 years

☐ 45-59 years

☐ 65-74 years

☐ 16-19 years

☐ 30-44 years

☐ 60-64 years

☐ 75 years +

8. Do you consider yourself to be disabled? (Please tick one)

Under the Equality Act 2010 a person is considered to have a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a sustained and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. To which of these groups do you consider you belong? (Please tick one)

☐ Asian or Asian British

☐ Chinese

☐ White British

☐ Black or Black British

☐ Mixed

☐ Other Ethnic group

If other, please specify:

10. What is your postcode?

Thank you for your views.

Please return your completed form by 5pm on Monday 7 April 2014 to:

FREEPOST RSJS GBBZ SRZT (you do not need to use a stamp)

School closure proposal for Streetfield Middle School

Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ

Data Protection Act 1998

Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Central Bedfordshire Council for the purpose analysing feedback to the consultation on the proposed closure of Streetfield Middle School, Dunstable. The information collected may be disclosed to officers and members of the Council and its' partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes.

Information classification: Protected when complete

Notes from staff briefing held at Streetfield Middle school on Wednesday 26 February 2014

Title of meeting:	Notes from staff briefing held at Streetfield Middle School	
Date/Time:	26 February 2014 at 4.00 pm	
Attendees:	<u>Central Bedfordshire Council</u> – Helen Redding, Assistant Director School Improvement Rob Parsons, Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning David Waller, Senior Human Resource Manager Lydia Braisher, Admissions Manager Sue Barrow, Information Manager <u>HR Provider (Bedford Borough Council) -</u> Tina Wallace	<u>Union Representatives –</u> Stuart Barnard – NASUWT Ken Richards – Unison Mark Foster – GMB John Laidlaw - ATL
Venue:	Streetfield Middle School, Dunstable Road, Caddington	

A presentation was given by the officers of Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School and the consultation process that is being undertaken.

The officers advised that the proposed closure of the school was based upon the

- Changing pattern of provision
- Year 5 retained in Primaries, Year 7 transfers to Secondaries
- Reducing pupil numbers in the Middle Schools
- School funding follows the child so resulting significant financial impact
- Forecast further reduction in pupil numbers will increase the financial impact

Questions were then invited.

Below is a summary of the questions and issues that were raised by the staff.

Question	Response
What would happen if the schools that are extending their age ranges are not able to provide the places that they have committed to provide?	The Council would hold the Governing Body to account to provide the places.

Historically, the Council has a poor record of forecasting pupil numbers. How accurate is the current forecast?	The forecast for pupil numbers is key to the Council's proposal. The forecast numbers for year 5 from September 2014 are based upon the number of applications we have received for transfer. Based upon these numbers, forecasts have been made for subsequent years. It is these low numbers that have impacted upon the schools budget from September 2014.
Why are Councillor Versallion and the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services Edwina Grant not at this meeting?	Officers have been charged by the Council's Executive to carry out this consultation. Councillor Versallion is a member of the Council's Executive and will therefore be involved in the decision making process. <i>The Head teacher apologised for advising staff that these two people would be at the meeting.</i>
We are concerned that parents were not provided with an informed choice and that the lower schools did not advise their year 4 parents of the choices available to them, despite Streetfield sending information to the lower schools for distribution. Not all parents understand the system (e.g. in-year transfers) and not all parents have access to a computer.	The Council does not target children who are not required to transfer e.g. we do not target year 4 children at St Vincents Catholic Primary (whose age range is 4-11) or upper school children who could move to the UTC at age 14. We only send out information at specific transfer points. Information regarding parental choice is available on the School Admissions website and via our telephone helpline.
The letters that have been sent out by the Council to parents of current year 6 students regarding admissions have been misleading. If the letter had been properly written we would not be losing so many pupils.	The School Admissions service has a duty to advise parents of a change to a transfer point. We therefore needed to advise parents that there will be no coordinated year 9 transfer into Manshead or Queensbury from September 2016. The letters invited parents to contact the Admissions helpline. Many did contact us and we were able to assist them.
Have all of the schools in Dunstable been subjected to the same level of financial scrutiny?	The Council reviews the finances of all maintained schools on an annual basis. Schools budgets for 2014/15 have recently been set and sent out to the schools. The funding follows the child therefore those schools that are affected by the loss of year 5 pupils are seeing a decrease in their budget.
Are academies allowed to do what they like? Academies appear unaccountable and Council maintained schools are therefore at a disadvantage	Academies are accountable to the Secretary of State who will intervene in any that are underperforming or are significantly undersubscribed and therefore unviable.

Will a decision be made on the proposal to close all 3 Dunstable Middle Schools at the same time?	A separate consultation is being carried out for each of the 3 Dunstable Middle Schools. A separate decision will be made for each proposal.
What would happen to the SEN provision within the school if the school were to close?	The Council would ensure that this is provided elsewhere. Staff would be transferred to the new provision.
Can the school come forward with an alternative proposal?	The Council will consider an alternative proposal however it will need to be viable and be able to demonstrate demand from potential future parents.
Did the Council require other schools, which were proposing a change of age range, to provide the same level of support?	All schools were required to show a level of parental support.
Could the final decision regarding the proposed closure be delayed until September?	The national offer day for middle school places in 16 April. Children will start year 5 on 3 September. There is no ideal time to carry out this process and we cannot delay the decision beyond August.
What would happen to the redundant school site? Would it be used for housing?	No discussion has been had regarding the future use of the site. The Council would be required to get permission from the Secretary of State if it wished to dispose of the site. The site would also have to be offered as possible site for a 'free school'

At the close of the meeting, all were encouraged to respond to the consultation.



Notes from public meeting held at Streetfield Middle School on Wednesday 5 March 2014

Title of meeting:	Notes from public meeting held at Streetfield Middle School
Date/Time:	5 March 2014 at 7.00 pm
Venue:	Streetfield Middle School, Dunstable Road, Caddington

A presentation was given by officers of Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School and the consultation process that is being undertaken.

Helen Redding, Assistant Director School Improvement

Rob Parsons, Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning

Lydia Braisher, Admissions Manager

The officers advised that the proposed closure of the school was based upon the

- Changing pattern of provision
- Year 5 retained in Primaries, Year 7 transfers to Secondaries
- Reducing pupil numbers in the Middle Schools
- School funding follows the child so resulting significant financial impact
- Forecast further reduction in pupil numbers will increase the financial impact

The officers encouraged everybody to respond to the consultation.

Questions and concerns were invited.

Below is a summary of the questions and concerns that were raised

Question	Response
What would happen to the redundant school site? Would it be used for housing?	There have been no discussions regarding the future use of the site. The Council would be required to get permission from the Secretary of State if it wished to dispose of the site. The site would also have to be offered as possible site for a 'free school'
Have the 600 new houses on the housing development next door to the school been included in the forecast figures?	Yes. We update our School Organisation Plan annually and this takes into account all proposed new developments across Central Bedfordshire.
To close all of the 3 middle schools will take away parental choice. You are moving the schools in the area from 3 tier to 2	There is still a mix of 2 tier and 3 tier provision in the town. Priory Academy is a Middle combined Secondary school that has an intake at Year 5 and is working in partnership with Dunstable Icknield, Watling and Studham Lower

tier.	schools; there is also Barnfield Vale who currently has a Middle intake. If the decision is made to close the Middle schools, options are available to transfer to alternative schools as part of the annual admissions round or in-year.
There will be almost no opportunity to get into Priory Academy, it is always oversubscribed.	Admission numbers fluctuate across all schools.
This fall in numbers is due to the letter that was sent out by the Council. Some parents have chosen not to request a middle school place because of the uncertainty. It was scaremongering. Lower schools did not advise their year 4 parents of the choices available to them, despite Streetfield sending information to the lower schools for distribution.	<p>The role of the School Admissions Service is to advise parents when a transfer point is removed. The co-ordinated year 9 transfer point from middle to upper will not be available for current year 6 pupils after September 2015.</p> <p>The Council's letter to parents was clear and provided contact details for obtaining further advice.</p> <p>Information regarding parental choice is available on the School Admissions website and via our telephone helpline.</p>
What would happen to the SEN provision within the school if the school were to close?	The Council would ensure that this is provided elsewhere. The staff would be transferred with the provision and we would ensure that there were sufficient places available.
What would happen to the children who do not have SEN but who need support within the mainstream school and who get this support at Streetfield?	<p>All schools have a responsibility for meeting the needs of all of their pupils, including those pupils with SEN and Disability. Each school will provide information on how they support their pupils. The Children and Families Act will bring about many changes to the way in which children are supported and we are working with our Parent Forum SNAP (Special Needs Action Panel) to help shape future services. All schools will be required to update their arrangements in the light of these changes.</p> <p>The Council's Parent Partnership Team can also provide advice to parents who have concerns.</p>
Has the decision already been made to close the 3 middle schools? Is there a political agenda to rid the Council of their control of all schools?	<p>No decision has been made; this is the consultation stage for the proposal.</p> <p>There is no plan to rid the Council of its control. The Council has not been the decision maker for the changes that have happened in academies, but the Council decided to give our maintained schools the same freedoms that were available to academies.</p>
Are middle schools in other areas of Central Bedfordshire still viable?	The changes that have happened in Dunstable and Houghton Regis have not happened in other areas of Central Bedfordshire. For example, Robert Bloomfield

	Academy is a 840 place middle school in Shefford that is full and there are no concerns regarding its viability.
Can the lower schools, that have changed their age range, provide the same facilities as the middle schools e.g. science labs?	At the meetings held during the lower school consultations many parents asked whether the lower schools would be able to deliver the full primary curriculum. The schools were able to assure them that they would.
If all year 6 children were to stay at Streetfield, could Manshead then avoid having to provide a year 7?	Parents have the option to decline a place in year 7 but Manshead would have to provide a year 7.
Will the different stages of the consultation process be published? Which Councillors will consider the proposal and the views submitted during the consultation process?	The Council will publish the first report, which will be considered by the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on our website 8 working days ahead of the meeting date. This meeting will be held on 7 May at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable and is open to the public. Subsequent reports will also be published on the Council's website. The Members of the Committees are listed on the Council's website.
Will all of the views that are being put forward be considered by the Members?	The Council is capturing the views from both the staff and the public meetings and all of these, plus the responses to the consultations, will be considered by the Committee Members.
Who came up with the proposal to close the middle schools?	The Council monitors the viability of all maintained schools in Central Bedfordshire. Council officers put forward the option for consulting on closure to the Council's Executive.
Why have you given so much support to the new primaries?	<p>The Council gives support to all of its maintained schools. Academies are answerable to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Academies and schools within Dunstable and Houghton Regis have brought forward their own proposals to change their age ranges. They were able to justify these proposals and show evidence of parental support to the Council who is the decision maker for Council maintained schools and to the Department for Education for academies.</p> <p>However, following recent changes to school regulations by the Department for Education, all maintained schools can now change their age range by up to 2 years without any recourse to the Council.</p> <p>The Council retains responsibility for ensuring the provision of school places.</p>
This is scaremongering and nobody has been asked to vote for either 2 tier or 3 tier across the town. Nobody has voted for this	This not a referendum, there is no voting process. This is a consultation and we encourage everybody to submit their responses.

closure. The council will not listen.	
You are using our children as guinea pigs, they will get lost in the system if the middle schools close.	If the middle schools close the Council will work with the schools to support them as they transfer.
You should not close the school until 2018, which would allow the children who come into the school at year 5 in September 2014 to complete their middle school education.	It will be up to Members to determine whether the school should close, and if so, the date of the closure.
If, after the closure of the 3 middle schools, there were not enough school places in Dunstable, would the Council provide transport to schools outside of the town?	There are sufficient places in all of the year groups.
Some primaries have very low numbers for year 5, despite the schools being confident that year 5 children would stay.	Some lower schools that have converted to primary are predicted to have lower numbers for year 5 in September 2014. This is a trend seen elsewhere in the first few years of a school's transition to a new age range but we expect numbers to rise in subsequent years as parents grow in confidence.
Have the children from the new development north of Houghton Regis been included in the projected numbers?	Places for these children will be provided either within or adjacent to that development, providing school places local to the new communities in north Houghton Regis, when they are required.
If the school might close, why is money being spent on the school roof?	Despite what may happen in the future, the school building still has to be maintained.

At the close of the meeting the Acting Head teacher of Streetfield Middle School gave his view of the current situation and how it has arisen.

He advised of the alternative proposal that the school is currently consulting on, in response to the Council's proposed closure; this is to change the range of the school from 9-13 years to 4-11 years, with the addition of Nursery provision for 6 months -4 years. He encouraged everyone to respond to both the Council's and to the school's consultations.

Appendix **C**

Consultation on the proposed closure of Ashton Church of England Voluntary Aided Middle School, High Street North, Dunstable.

**Monday 24 February 2014 -
Monday 7 April 2014**

1. Introduction

Councils have a duty to ensure there are enough suitable school places for children aged 5-16 (as per Section 14 of the Education Act 1996). The Council's role is to promote parental choice, diversity, high standards and fair access to education (Education and Inspections Act 2006).

To help meet these duties a Council has the power to close schools where no other viable options are available.

Possible reasons for closing a school include where:

- it is surplus to requirements (e.g. as a result of an area-wide reorganisation and/or there are sufficient places in neighbouring schools to accommodate displaced pupils)
- it is to be amalgamated/ merged 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.

Central Bedfordshire Council is proposing to close Ashton Church of England Voluntary Aided (CofE VA) Middle School because the current and projected pupil numbers make the school unviable.

This document explains the reasons for proposing to close the school and how you can have your say.

The Council is also currently consulting on proposals to close two other middle schools in the Dunstable area for the same reasons. You can also have your say, by responding to the separate consultations, on the proposals to close:

- Brewers Hill Middle School (Aldbanks, Dunstable) and
- Streetfield Middle School (Dunstable Road, Caddington).

Consultation documents and responses forms are available from the schools concerned and from the Councils website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations . You can also request copies by email from admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and by calling the School Admissions helpline on T. 0300 300 8037.

2. Background

There have been lots of changes taking place in Dunstable and Houghton Regis schools over the last few years; many have taken advantage of greater powers given to them by Government to change their school, in response to parental demand. The governing bodies of maintained schools in the area, which have approached the Council for permission to consult on a change of age range, were able to provide proof of parental support at that early stage in response to their initial surveys. This support was further demonstrated during the consultation process for each proposal and was one of the factors that were considered by the Council when approving a requested change of age range.

Likewise, for academies that were required to ask the Secretary of State for Education for permission to change their age range, the level of parental support was again one of the factors that were considered when approving the proposal.

In both Dunstable and Houghton Regis there has been a shift from the three tier system lower, middle and upper schools towards a two tier primary and secondary school model as a result of these changes.

This shift has led to many of the previous feeder schools converting to primary schools. This has led to fewer pupils applying to middle schools for the intake at Year 5. Also the four former upper schools have extended their age ranges, meaning that some pupils are leaving middle schools to start secondary school in year 7. The combination of these factors means that pupil numbers at Ashton CofE VA Middle School have fallen significantly as a result of these changes. We have now reached a point where falling pupil numbers means the Council needs to consider the future viability of the school.

The funding that schools receive comes to the Council from Central Government and is passed directly to the Council's maintained schools in accordance with our local funding formula (academies receive their funding direct from Central Government). A maintained school's funding allocation is predominantly based upon the total number of pupils they have on roll and the total number of pupils that are due to move in and out of the school during that academic year. Because of falling pupil numbers, the budget for Ashton CofE VC Middle School is due to fall by 29.8.% for 2014/15 alone and this decrease, and projected decreases going forward, places the school in a financially unviable position. With such a significantly reduced budget, the school will find it difficult to employ sufficient teachers to enable the delivery of a full curriculum.

The table below sets out the current pupil numbers at Ashton CofE VA Middle School, the projected numbers in September 2014 based on actual applications, and projected numbers for September 2015 based on assumptions regarding applications. Ashton CofE VA Middle School has a Published Admission Number of 155 which is the total number of children that the school is able to admit for each year group.

Current and Projected Pupil Numbers at Ashton CofE VA Middle School

Year Group	Current number of pupils – as at 15 January 2014	Projected number of pupils for September 2014	Projected number of pupils for September 2015
5	106	35	0
6	118	106	35
7	104	37	33
8	140	104	37
Total	468	282	105
Total number of places available at the school	620	620	620
Percentage of school places filled	The school is 75.5% full	The school would be 45.5% full	The school would be 16.9% full

The projected figures are based upon applicants' 'first preferences'. There are sufficient places within Ashton CofE VA Middle School to admit all of the children who have applied for a place, in year 5, at the school as a 'first preference'. Due to the places that are currently available within other Dunstable middle schools, children who have applied for a place within an alternative Dunstable middle school as their 'first preference' and have named Ashton CofE VA Middle School as their 'second preference' will be allocated a

place within their 'first preference' school. Second and third preferences for Ashton CofE VA Middle School will not therefore need to be considered.

As described above, low pupil numbers make the school no longer educationally or financially viable and keeping this school open would not be in the best educational interests of their pupils.

3. Our proposal

The Council is proposing to close Ashton CofE VA Middle School. The Council has considered other options (see Frequently Asked Questions on page seven) but the fall in pupil numbers, both current and projected, means that the school is not able to deliver the full curriculum and the school is unviable.

Should the proposal go forward and the closure of the school be approved, the timeframe and process would be as follows. **Please note that this timescale would need to be reviewed nearer the time depending on actual numbers at the school.**

September 2014	
Year 5	Children for the new Year 5 group are admitted.
Year 6	Parents of Year 6 children are invited to apply for transfer to a secondary school in Year 7 (to transfer in September 2015).
Year 7	Year 7 operates, but on a reduced size of year group.
Year 8	Parents of Year 8 children are invited to apply for transfer to a secondary school in Year 9 (to transfer in September 2015). This will be the last Upper transfer in Dunstable.

April 2015	
Year 7	Parents of Year 7 children are invited to consider making an application to transfer to a secondary school in Year 8 (to transfer in September 2015). This is known as an in-year application as it happens outside of the normal transfer point.

September 2015	
Year 5	No new pupils are admitted.
Year 6	Parents of Year 6 children are invited to apply for transfer to a secondary school in Year 7 (to transfer in September 2016).
Year 7	Year 7 operates, but on a reduced size of year group.
Year 8	Year 8 operates, but on a reduced size of year group.

April 2016	
Year 6	<p>Any Year 6 children whose parents haven't made an application to transfer to a secondary school will be sent an application to state a preference for a school.</p> <p>If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places will be allocated.</p>
Year 7	<p>Parents of Year 7 children are invited to consider making an application to transfer to a secondary school in Year 8 (to transfer in September 2015).</p> <p>This is known as an in-year application as it happens outside of the normal transfer point. If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places in Year 8 for September will be allocated.</p>
Year 8	<p>Parents of any Year 8 children remaining in the school are invited to apply for a place in Year 9 at a secondary school (to transfer in September 2016).</p> <p>If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places in Year 9 for September will be allocated.</p>

We recognise that this proposal to close the school may be unsettling for pupils, staff, parents and carers and we are keen to hear from all those people who want to have their say on the proposals during the consultation. You will find a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) starting on page seven of this document which may help to address some immediate concerns that you have. You are also welcome to raise queries via the School Admissions helpline on T.0300 300 8037 or at the public meeting that is being held at the school on Monday 3 March (see page six for details)

4. The consultation process

The Council is required to consult with a range of people and organisations including:

- Parents and carers of the children in the school
- The school's governing body
- The school's teachers and other staff
- The governing bodies, teachers and staff of other schools that may be affected
- Parents and carers of children at other schools that may be affected e.g. at feeder schools
- The local diocese and other faith groups
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Members of Parliament

You can have your say online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations or you can complete pages 13 and 14 of this document and return them to the FREEPOST address provided at the end of the form. As well as providing feedback on the Council's proposed closure of Ashton CofE VA Middle School, you can also submit an alternative

We will also hold a public meeting at Ashton CofE VA Middle School on **Monday 3 March 2014** at 7.00 pm which is open to all interested parties. We are also meeting with the staff, union representatives and governors of Ashton CofE VA Middle School.

The timetable for the consultation and decision making process is set out below. At the end of this consultation, if the Council decides to pursue closure of the school, it would then have to go through another stage of consultation (a Statutory Notice period) before any final decision could be made in August.

Consultation Timetable

Action	Timescale/Deadline
Six week consultation period begins	Monday 24 February 2014.
Staff, Governors and trade union meeting	Monday 24 February at 4.00pm at Ashton CofE VA Middle School.
Public meeting	Monday 3 March 2014 at 7.00pm at Ashton CofE VA Middle School.
End of six week consultation period	Monday 7 April 2014.
Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee meet to consider the responses received to the consultation. This meeting is open to the public **	Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 7.00pm at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable.
Council's Executive meet to consider responses to consultation and decide next course of action. This meeting is open to the public **	Tuesday 27 May 2014 at 9.30am at Priory House, Chicksands.
If decision is made to proceed with the closure, Statutory Notices will be published and a four week period for comments and/or objections will begin	Monday 9 June 2014.
End of Statutory Notice period	Monday 7 July 2014.
Final decision regarding the proposal to be made by the Council's Executive Committee. This meeting is open to the public **	Tuesday 19 August 2014 at 9.30am at Priory House, Chicksands.

** for information regarding these meetings, please see page 11.

For more information about this proposal please:

- visit the School Admissions webpage at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions
- email admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or
- call the School Admissions helpline on T. 0300 300 8037.

5. Frequently asked questions (FAQ's)

Q – Does this consultation mean that the Council has already decided that Ashton CofE VA Middle School will close?

A – No. The Council's Executive committee has approved the start of a consultation on the proposal to close the school, based upon the school's financial and educational viability. The final decision will not be made until 19 August 2014.

Q – Has the Council considered any alternative solutions other than the proposed closure of Ashton CofE VA Middle School?

A – Yes. We have considered converting the school to either a primary or a secondary school but we do not need any additional primary or secondary places.

Q – To give parents a real choice, could the Council keep just one of the 3 middle schools open?

A – Unfortunately, due to the total number of pupils currently in Ashton CofE VA, Brewers Hill and Streetfield Middle Schools, and the number of projected pupils moving forward, this is not a viable option.

Q – Is the Council proposing to close Ashton CofE VA Middle School because it 'requires improvement' as per the last Ofsted report (dated December 2013)?

A – No. The closure is proposed because the current and projected pupil numbers make the school unviable. The school is currently being supported through the Council's School Intervention Strategy due to its performance.

Q – What is the Council's response to the accusation that by proposing to close 3 middle schools in Dunstable you are reducing parental choice?

A – Parental choice and support was demonstrated to us within the proposals that were brought forward to the Council by the schools that wished to expand their age range. This has been further demonstrated by the number of parents who have not applied for a middle school place for September 2014 but are choosing to keep their child within a primary school. There are still middle school options available in the area:

- Barnfield Vale has expanded and is a Primary and Middle school for children aged 4-13 years and admits children in both Year R and Year 5 as these are their normal points of entry.
- Caddington Village School is for children aged 4-13 years and admits children in both Year R and Year 5 as these are their normal points of entry.
- Priory Academy is expanding from 9-13 years to 9-16 years from September 2014 and admits children in the Middle transfer round to Year 5 as their normal point of entry.

Q – How can the Council be sure that the projected figures are correct?

A – The projected number of pupils for September 2014 for Ashton CofE VA Middle School is based upon the total number of applications received by the School Admissions Team, by the national closing date of 15 January 2014, that requested a year 5 place in the school.

Q- Would there be sufficient places in Dunstable upper/secondary schools to take any potential displaced children?

A – Yes. The Council is legally obliged to provide sufficient places for all children aged 5-16 years.

Q – Following the conversion of many Dunstable lower schools to primary status, is there now a surplus of primary school places within the town?

A – Yes. There is currently a 17% surplus of places in year R (reception) to year 5 and a surplus of between 63% and 65% surplus of places in years 5 to 8 within the local area.

Q – Historically, some Dunstable parents have chosen to send their children to schools outside of the local area. Is this still the case?

A – The admissions process allows for parental preference and parents can select any school they wish their child to attend whether that is their local school or one some distance away. In previous years some parents in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area have opted for middle and upper schools in the Leighton Buzzard or Harlington areas or have chosen to send their children to schools in Luton.

Q – Are the school staff also being consulted as part of the consultation process?

A – School staff and trade union representatives are being consulted throughout this consultation process. Should a decision be made to issue statutory notices to close the school, staff and trade unions would be further consulted. The Council and the school's Human Resources provider will work with the governing body, the staff group and trade unions to ensure all staff have access to appropriate advice and support and will ensure that the relevant policies and procedures of the Council are followed.

Q - Should a decision to close the school be made, how would the Council retain the staff that would be needed until the school closed completely?

A - Should a decision be made to close the school, the governing body of the school would consider a staffing structure that would reflect the pupil numbers and the educational and pastoral needs of pupils at the school until it's closure. The Council would work with the governing body and their Human Resources provider when considering the staffing structure.

Q- Is the Council able to place staff from the schools under consultation in other local schools that may have vacancies?

A – In accordance with education legislation, each school's governing body is responsible for appointing its own staff therefore vacant posts in other schools are unable to be ring fenced to staff in those schools under consultation. The Council has a redeployment procedure for school based staff and would support the redeployment of suitably qualified and experienced staff where possible.

Q- Why did the Council not forewarn parents of this proposal?

A – Because it is only a proposal at this stage. A decision has not been made yet. The data upon which this proposal is based was not available until after 15 January 2014, when the closing date for middle school applications had passed.

Q – My child is due to transfer into Ashton CofE VA Middle School this September from their lower / primary school – if the proposal is approved, what would this mean for my child?

A – If the proposal to close the school is approved, all children who are due to start Ashton CofE VA Middle School in September 2014 would still be able to take up their place.

By 31 October 2015 you would need to make an application for your child for a year 7 place at a Secondary school in September 2016. Ashton CofE VA Middle School would be closed by the end of the academic year in the summer of 2016.

Q – My child is currently attending Ashton CofE VA Middle School – if the proposal is approved, what would this mean for him/her?

A – If the decision is taken to close the school then the following would apply:

Child is currently in Year 5	<p>Could continue at the school and make an application in September 2014, when in Year 6, to transfer to year 7 in secondary school in September 2015.</p> <p>Or alternatively child could continue into Year 7 in September 2015 but would need to make an ‘in-year’ application in the summer of 2016 to transfer into Year 8 at an alternative school i.e. Secondary school or Priory Academy or Barnfield Vale.</p>
Child is currently in Year 6	<p>You would need to make either a late application for a Secondary school to start Year 7 in September 2014.</p> <p>Or apply ‘in-year’ for a place in Year 8 in the summer of 2015 to start in September 2015.</p>
Child is currently in Year 7	<p>Could continue at the school and make application in September 2014, when in Year 8, to transfer to Upper school as normal for September 2015.</p> <p>Or make an ‘in-year’ application for a place in a secondary school either to start in the academic year of 2014/15 as a Year 7 pupil, or at the end of Year 7 to start in Year 8 at a secondary school.</p>
Child is currently in Year 8	<p>Would transfer to Upper or secondary school in September 2014 as per usual process.</p>

Q – What happens at the end of this consultation period?

A - This consultation period will end on Monday 7 April. The responses to the consultation, plus any other alternative proposals that are submitted as part of the consultation process, will be considered at a meeting of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 7 May. This meeting will be held at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable at 7.00 pm. As with all Council meetings, the public are welcome to attend and to speak at this meeting. For advice on how to apply to speak at a council meeting, please see the guidance on page 11.

The Council’s Executive Committee will then consider the results of the consultation plus any other viable options, along with the recommendations from the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at their meeting on Tuesday 27 May. This meeting will be held at the Council’s offices, Priory House, Chicksands at 9.30 am. The public are welcome to attend and to speak at this meeting. For advice on how to apply to speak at a council meeting, please see the guidance on page 11.

If a decision is made by the Executive to proceed with the proposal to close Ashton CofE VA Middle School, the Council would move to the next stage of the process, which is the publication of a statutory proposal and this would be published on Monday 9 June.

Q – If the Executive decide that an alternative viable option has been submitted for the future of Ashton CofE VA Middle School, what would happen then?

A - The Council would be required to carry out a consultation process for the alternative proposal, following the same procedure as this consultation.

Q – What is a statutory proposal and what would happen if it is published?

A – A statutory proposal is the second part of the process that the Council is obliged to carry out for proposed prescribed alterations to its maintained schools. A full representation (description) of the proposal would be published on Monday 9 June along with a summary of the proposal, which is referred to as a statutory notice.

Once published, all interested parties would have an opportunity to respond and make their views known to the Council regarding whether or not they support the proposal to close the school. Any comments or concerns they may have can be submitted during this period.

This part of the process would last for 4 weeks and would end on Monday 7 July.

Q – When would the decision be taken to either keep the school open or close it?

A –The Council's Executive would consider all of the responses received during the statutory notice period, and would determine whether or not to close the school at their meeting on 19 August 2014. This meeting, which the public are welcome to attend, will be held at the Council's offices, Priory House, Chicksands at 9.30 am. For advice on how to apply to speak at this council meeting, please see the guidance on page 11.

Q – Could the Governing Body of Ashton CofE VA Middle School or anybody else appeal against the Executive's decision?

A - Within four weeks of the decision being made by the Council, the following can apply to the Schools Adjudicator against the decision

- The local Church of England Diocese
- The local Roman Catholic Diocese
- The governing body of the school that is subject to the proposal
- The Trustees of a foundation, foundation special or voluntary school that is subject to the proposal

On receipt of an appeal, the Schools Adjudicator would request the Council to submit, within one week, the proposal, the responses received and the reason for the decision made. There is no right of appeal on any determination made by the Schools Adjudicator.

Q – What would happen to the building and land if the school was to close?

A – No decision has been made regarding this. The land occupied by Ashton CofE VA Middle School is owned by the Ashton Foundation and the school is a St Albans Diocese School. Should a decision be taken to close the school, the Ashton Foundation would need to consider the future use of the land.

Q – Why has the Council allowed this situation to happen within Dunstable?

A – Following Central Government's decision to allow academies (which are outside of the Council's control) to change their age ranges, in order to give maintained schools (schools which are within the Council's control) the same flexibility, Central Bedfordshire Council has allowed schools, with evidence of parental support, to bring forward their proposals to improve their schools and, through this, the outcomes for their pupils.

The changes that have subsequently occurred in schools and academies throughout Dunstable and Houghton Regis have led to the situation that we now have.

New Government regulations, which came into effect at the end of January 2014, have given more freedoms to maintained schools; they are now able to change their age range by up to two years without following a statutory process and without the Council's consent.

Q – Has the consultation that Ashton CofE VA Middle School carried out previously, regarding a change of age range, had any bearing on this consultation?

A – No. In March 2013, Ashton CofE VA Middle School launched a consultation regarding a proposal to change the age range of the school from 9-13 years of age to 4-11 years of age, and to also change the name of the school. At the end of the consultation the governing body decided not to proceed with the proposal.

Q – How does the consultation that Ashton CofE VA Middle School is currently undertaking (launched in January 2014), regarding a change of age range, affect the Council's consultation?

A – As a Voluntary Aided school, the Governing Body are able to consult on a proposed change of age range (in excess of two years) without the permission of the local Council. However, at the end of the two part consultation process, the governing body is required to submit its findings to the Council and request a determination on its proposal.

Information regarding Ashton CofE VA Middle School's Governing Body's proposal can be found on the schools website - <http://www.ashtonmiddleschool.co.uk/>

If you have any questions that have not been addressed above you are welcome to -

- raise these at the meeting to be held in school on Monday 3 March
- visit the School Admissions webpage at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions
- email admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or
- call the School Admissions helpline on T. 0300 300 8037.

Attending and speaking at Council meetings

The public are welcome to attend the Council meetings at which decisions regarding the proposed closure will be discussed.

The Council's Constitution allows anyone to register to speak about an item, prior to the meeting, once the agenda has been published. Those who register to speak are allowed a maximum of three minutes to speak (unless the Chairman agrees to allow more time).

Normally no more than three people can speak on any one item, but again the Chairman can extend this number if they feel it necessary and if there is significant public interest.

We encourage groups of residents or community groups to nominate a speaker to speak on their behalf and represent the views of others so as to encourage as many different views to be represented as possible.

Speakers are normally invited to speak at the start of the meeting or, at the discretion of the Chairman, during the debate.

Agendas for meetings are published eight working days ahead of the date of meeting. You can find the agendas on the Council's website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/committees

You are encouraged to submit a request to the Clerk to the Committee to speak at a meeting as soon as possible after the agenda has been published, although the Clerk can accept such requests up to 15 minutes before the meeting starts.

The clerk to the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee is Jonathon Partridge. You can contact Jonathon via email Jonathon.partridge@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or T. 0300 300 4634.

The clerk to the Executive is Sandra Hobbs. You can contact Sandra via email Sandra.hobbs@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or T. 0300 300 5257.

**Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services
Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford
SG17 5TQ**

Notes from staff briefing held at Ashton CofE VA Middle school on Monday 24 February 2014

Title of meeting:	Notes from staff briefing held at Ashton CofE VA Middle School	
Date/Time:	24 February 2014 at 4.00 pm	
Attendees:	<u>Central Bedfordshire Council –</u> Helen Redding, Assistant Director School Improvement Rob Parsons, Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning David Waller, Senior Human Resource Manager Lydia Braisher, Admissions Manager Sue Barrow, Information Manager <u>HR Provider (Bedford Borough Council) –</u> Mark Johnson Lorraine McDonald	<u>Union Representatives –</u> John Monkhouse NUT Nicky Moore – NASUWT Bridget Fordham - ATL
Venue:	Ashton CofE VA Middle School, High Street North, Dunstable	

A presentation was given by the officers of Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the proposal to close Ashton CofE VA Middle School and the consultation process that is being undertaken.

The officers advised that the proposed closure of the school was based upon the

- Changing pattern of provision
- Year 5 retained in Primaries, Year 7 transfers to Secondaries
- Reducing pupil numbers in the Middle Schools
- School funding follows the child so resulting significant financial impact
- Forecast further reduction in pupil numbers will increase the financial impact

Questions were then invited.

Below is a summary of the questions and issues that were raised by the staff.

Question	Response
Regarding the projected number of year 4 pupils who are due to transfer into the school in September 2014, have the second preferences been taken into account?	Admission preferences indicate that every child who has requested a place at a Dunstable Middle School will get their first preference so second preferences will not

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	need to be considered.
The letters that have been sent out to parents of current year 6 students regarding admissions have been misleading and parents have raised their concerns with staff. If the letter had been properly written we would not be losing so many pupils. The school should have been privy to any letters that were due to be sent out to our parents.	<p>The School Admissions service has a duty to advise parents of a change to a transfer point. We therefore needed to advise parents that there will be no coordinated year 9 transfer into Manshead or Queensbury from September 2016.</p> <p>The letters invited parents to contact the Admissions helpline. Many did contact us and we were able to assist them.</p>
What are the Council's pupil numbers based upon? We have had 38 new starters since September but have lost year 6 pupils because the letter said that parents would lose places	The forecast numbers for year 5 from September 2014 are based upon the number of applications we have received for transfer. Based upon these numbers, forecasts have been made for subsequent years. It is these low numbers that have impacted upon the schools budget from September 2014.
Who is looking after staff and their welfare? Morale is currently OK but will get worse.	<p>Bedford Borough Council, under contract to the governing body, is the school's HR provider The Diocese is the employer of the staff. With the support of Central Beds Council, the Schools HR provider and the Diocese we will ensure that staff are supported and appropriate policies and procedures followed should the Council decide to move to statutory notices.</p> <p>Trade Unions and Professional Associations are included in all consultation processes and staff are encouraged to contact their trade union for advice and support.</p>
If the Council is not the school's employer, would it benefit the Council financially to close the school?	No. The Redundancy and Reorganisation Policy of the Council outlines that the Council will contribute towards the cost of redundancy compensation payments for employees in Foundation and VA schools.
The Council is scaring parents by saying that the school will close. Parents want to keep their children at Ashton but do not know what to do. It is very unsettling, having this hanging over us.	The Council is not saying that the school will close. This is a consultation and the decisions made regarding the proposed closure will consider the results of the consultation and all of the responses received.
Will the Council accept responsibility for the low	The Council's letter to parents was clear

numbers in the school that have arisen as a result of their letters? Will the Council write to parents to apologise and clarify?	and provided contact details for further advice should it be required. The school should refer parents to the admissions helpline number should they need support.
Lower schools have previously handed out literature to their year 4 parents but middle schools have had to fight this year to be heard.	The Council offers consistent support and advice through its admissions service to all school, parents and carers.
Are the primary schools undersubscribed?	Some lower schools that have converted to primary are predicted to have lower numbers for year 5 in September 2014. This is a trend seen elsewhere in the first few years of a school's transition to a new age range but we expect numbers to rise in subsequent years as parents grow in confidence.
Could just one middle school remain open?	There is a 65% surplus of places within the area in years 5-8. There is no demographic demand for these places to be retained in the area.
What about the additional places that will be needed for the older children under the Governments 'raising the participation age'?	Not all will remain in school – young people will have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through college, a training provider, work, volunteering or an apprenticeship. Where new places are required to meet demand for post 16 education in schools these will be commissioned through upper and secondary schools.
What about the new provision that will be needed in Houghton Regis for the new development?	This will be provided either within or adjacent to that development, providing school places local to the new communities in north Houghton Regis, when they are required
Why has the Council decided to change to a 2 tier provision?	Academies and schools within Dunstable and Houghton Regis have brought forward their own proposals to change their age ranges. They were able to justify these proposals and show evidence of parental support to the Council who is the decision maker for Council maintained schools and to the Department for Education for academies.

Did the Council consider the over supply of places when it approved the change of age ranges for the Dunstable and Houghton Regis schools?	The Council allowed maintained schools to bring forward proposals to change their age range in order to give those schools the same opportunities as were available to academies within the area. The supply of places was one of the factors that was considered when decisions were made by the Secretary of State (for academies) and by the Council (for maintained schools).
Are academies allowed to do what they like? Academies appear unaccountable and Council maintained schools are therefore at a disadvantage	Academies are accountable to the Secretary of State who will intervene in any that are underperforming or are significantly undersubscribed and therefore unviable.

At the close of the meeting, staff were encouraged to respond to the consultation.



Notes from public meeting held at Ashton CofE VA Middle School on Monday 3 March 2014

Title of meeting:	Notes from public meeting held at Ashton CofE VA Middle School
Date/Time:	3 March 2014 at 7.00 pm
Venue:	Ashton CofE VA Middle School, High Street North, Dunstable

A presentation was given by officers of Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the proposal to close Ashton CofE VA Middle School and the consultation process that is being undertaken.

Helen Redding, Assistant Director School Improvement

Rob Parsons, Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning

Lydia Braisher, Admissions Manager

The officers advised that the proposed closure of the school was based upon the

- Changing pattern of provision
- Year 5 retained in Primaries, Year 7 transfers to Secondaries
- Reducing pupil numbers in the Middle Schools
- School funding follows the child so resulting significant financial impact
- Forecast further reduction in pupil numbers will increase the financial impact

The officers encouraged everybody to respond to the consultation.

Questions and concerns were invited.

Below is a summary of the questions and concerns that were raised

Question	Response
If the school is to close, can parents reappraise their choices?	Yes, parents can change their preference and submit a late application
This is scaremongering and nobody has been asked to vote for either 2 tier or 3 tier across the town. Nobody has voted for this closure. The council will not listen.	Academies and schools within Dunstable and Houghton Regis have brought forward their own proposals to change their age ranges. They were able to justify these proposals and show evidence of parental support to the Council who is the decision maker for Council maintained schools and to the Department for Education for academies. This not a referendum, there is no voting process. This is a consultation and we encourage everybody to submit their responses.
Parents throughout the town were not aware of the various	All of the schools carried out consultations regarding their proposed changes. They published consultation documents

consultations that were being undertaken by the lower schools when they were looking to convert to primary. We now have a mish-mash of provision with the children stuck in the middle. All of the schools used to work together but not any longer.	and held meetings, as required by the DfE. The consultations were advertised via the local press and the Council's website. All of the schools in Dunstable and Houghton Regis were aware of the consultations.
Why has the Council not driven all of the changes? Academies are competing for our children. Feeder schools are in partnership with other schools. The mess within the town is due to the lack of partnership working between schools.	The Council is no longer able to drive system wide change and schools are now largely in control of their own destinies. The Council has not been the decision maker for the changes that have happened in academies, but the Council decided to give our maintained schools the same freedoms that were available to academies. Following recent changes to school regulations by the Department for Education, all maintained schools can now change their age range by up to 2 years without any recourse to the Council. The Council retains responsibility for ensuring the provision of school places.
Why were the parents of year 4 children not advised of this proposal before they were asked to submit their choice for year 5?	Figures from the admission process, which closed on 15 January 2014, were used to confirm the numbers of pupils that were due to move to the school in September. This then gave us the information we needed regarding the future viability of the school.
Have the children from the new development north of Houghton Regis been included in the projected numbers?	This will be provided either within or adjacent to that development, providing school places local to the new communities in north Houghton Regis, when they are required
Vandyke is being expanded – is this to accommodate Dunstable children?	No, Vandyke is an academy and is carrying out this expansion to accommodate pupils as a result of existing housing development in the Leighton Buzzard area.
You are taking away our choice. By forcing children into bigger schools, with much older children, you are forcing them to grow up too quickly.	All of the schools that have proposed an extension to their age range have had to demonstrate how they will manage the increased age range and provide the pupils with a good education. If we have any concerns about a maintained schools ability to subsequently do this, we will intervene. If we have any such concerns about an academy we can take these to the DfE's Regional Commissioner.
The Council's School Organisation Plan is out of date and does not take future generations into account	The School Organisation Plan covers a five year period and is updated each year to reflect changes in school organisation. It looks at trends and likely future demand for school places based upon census data, pre-school aged children in the area and housing development
The rational for the proposed closure is the falling numbers which is affecting the schools	The role of the School Admissions Service is to advise parents when a transfer point is removed. The co-ordinated year 9 transfer point from middle to upper will not be available

financial viability. This fall in numbers is due to the letter that was sent out by the Council. Some parents have chosen not to request a middle school place because of the uncertainty.	for current year 6 pupils after September 2015. The Council's letter to parents was clear and provided contact details for further advice should it be required.
No allowances are being made for second preferences. Priory Academy are reducing their admission number so there will be number of children who come to the school as a second preference.	Priory Academy is a middle combined secondary so has one entry point in year 5. The admission number will be 112 in 2015 but for September 2014 their admission number is 125. In their consultation document under their year group projections Priory projected that they may lose children at the end of Year 6 due to parents wanting an alternative Secondary school who may be able to offer a wider curriculum choice. They expect to have 84 children who continue from Year 6 into Year 7.
Some primaries have very lower numbers for year 5, despite the schools being confident that year 5 children would stay.	Some lower schools that have converted to primary are predicted to have lower numbers for year 5 in September 2014. This is a trend seen elsewhere in the first few years of a school's transition to a new age range but we expect numbers to rise in subsequent years as parents grow in confidence.
Are there enough school places throughout the town?	There are sufficient places across the Town in all year groups. And this will be the situation for at least the next 2 years based upon a forecast of 840 places per year group. This figure of 840 includes an allowance of 10% to allow for parental preferences.
Can the upper/secondary schools accommodate such a large increase in number of pupils?	Where schools have expanded, the Governing Bodies are legally required to provide the number of place's that they have committed to provide.
If parents want a Church of England faith based school, what would be their alternative?	Ashton St Peters Lower and Manshead Upper School are both faith based provisions. All Saints Academy doesn't give priority to pupils based on faith but is sponsored by the Diocese of St. Albans. Manshead School is a voluntary aided Church of England school and gives priority to children on the basis of their parents' faith as part of their admissions criteria.
Lower school parents are not being consulted.	There has been a large amount of publicity regarding the proposals and everybody has been encouraged to respond to the consultations.
You are making my child move from a middle school to a secondary school.	There is still a mix of 2 tier and 3 tier provision in the town. Priory Academy is a Middle combined Secondary school that has an intake at Year 5 and is working in partnership with Dunstable Icknield, Watling and Studham Lower schools; there is also Barnfield Vale who currently has a Middle intake. If the decision is made to close the Middle school, options are available to transfer to alternative schools as part of the annual admissions round or in-year.

Does the Council consider the financial viability of all schools?	The Council reviews the finances of all maintained schools on an annual basis. Schools budgets for 2014/15 have recently been set and sent out to the schools. The funding follows the child therefore those schools that are affected by the loss of year 5 pupils are seeing a decrease in their budget.
The upper/secondary schools are too big. Queensbury has 1200 children. Leave the children in the middle schools where numbers are lower	Schools budgets are determined by the numbers on roll. The budget impacts on the staffing structure and other resources that can be afforded by the school and therefore their ability to deliver the full curriculum. All schools whatever their size are accountable for the progress that their children make. There are very successful large schools in Central Bedfordshire.
Will the Council force the lower schools that have not converted to primaries to close?	No. Dunstable Icknield, Watling and Studham lower schools in the area are working with Priory Academy and other lower schools will consider their options.
Has the Council factored in the Government's initiative for 'raising the participation age'?	Not all will remain in school – young people will have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through college, a training provider, work, volunteering or an apprenticeship. Where new places are required to meet demand for post 16 education in schools these will be commissioned through upper and secondary schools.
This school nurtures its children - they will not get this in a large upper/secondary.	All schools are judged on the full range of provision that they make which includes their pastoral support for pupils. Large upper/secondary schools have a range of ways in which they provide this pastoral support.
Can we wait until all of the changes in the Town settle down and see what happens?	The proposal is based upon the viability of the school both currently and for the foreseeable future.
Re the projected number of year 4 pupils who are due to transfer into the school in September 2016, have the second preferences been taken into account?	Admission preferences indicate that every child who has requested a place at a Dunstable Middle School will get their first preference so second preferences will not need to be considered.
Why are Councillors not at this meeting?	The Members of the Council's Executive approved the launch of the consultations on 4 February. It is the role of Council Officers to carry out the consultations and report the findings, and all of the responses received, back to the Executive. The Executive Members are the decision makers.
Is this a cost saving exercise? How much would the Council save if the school closes?	The Council would not make a saving - it would incur either an element of or all of the redundancy costs. School funding is ring-fenced for all schools and therefore all money is redistributed among all schools.
Please can we have your assurance that the decision has not already been made to close the school.	As per the decision making process covered within the presentation, no decision has yet been made. This is a consultation to seek the views of all stakeholders.

Ashton Middle's consultation on an alternative proposal ends today – how will this affect the Council's proposal?	The School's Governing Body will decide whether to proceed with their proposal. If the decision is made to proceed, they will have to follow the same process as the Council would – i.e. the second stage which is the publication of statutory notices. Ultimately the Governing Body will submit their proposal, with the results of their consultation, to the Council for determination.
If my child has been offered a place in an upper/secondary school for year 7, can I decide to leave my child at Ashton Middle?	Yes. The offer letters have gone out and parents can decide whether to take up the place in the upper/secondary school or leave their child in their middle school.
Could just one middle school remain open?	There is a 65% surplus of places within the area in years 5-8. There is no demographic demand for these places to be retained in the area.
Are other areas within Central Bedfordshire going over to 2 tier?	The rest of Central Bedfordshire currently remains as 3 tier but we have had approaches from various schools who have wanted to discuss pupil numbers. If schools want to consider changes, they would need to follow due process either as an Academy or as a maintained school as set out in the new School Organisation legislation
The school and the building are 125 years old. It would be a shame to lose all of the history of this school.	The schools building and land are the responsibility of the Ashton Foundation and the future of the site would be matter for them.
Can anyone attend the meeting at the Grove Theatre on 7 May?	Yes, anyone can attend, but you need to register if you wish to speak at the meeting. The instructions regarding how to do this are in the consultation document.
Comment from a pupil. She wants to come to the school. Her brother came here. She has not looked at another school.	You can still come here into year 5 in September. However if the decision is made to close the school you would need to transfer to another school at the end of Year 6.
Comment from union representative	Please feedback to the consultation with the enthusiasm for the school that you have shown today. It is not a losing battle. A proposed change to a school in London was overturned by the Secretary of State because the school had not consulted correctly. Tell the Council's elected members of your views by responding.

At the close of the meeting, everyone was encouraged to respond to the consultation. They were also reminded that they are welcome to attend the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the Grove Theatre on 7 May.

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Appendix D

Report to Council's Executive 27May 2014

Appendix D – Frequently asked questions published on the Council's website

FAQ's for website

Information for parents of children attending Ashton CofE VA Middle School, Brewers Hill Middle School and Streetfield Middle School

Original list -

Does this mean that Ashton Middle/Brewers Hill Middle/Streetfield Middle will close?	<p>No. The Executive have approved the commencement of the consultation on the proposal to close Ashton, Brewers Hill and Streetfield. The consultation will last for 6 weeks and commence on the 24 February and end on the 7 April. Meetings will be held within this period for parents to express their views and ask questions on. Details for the public meetings (one at each of the three schools), are as follows:</p> <p>Ashton Voluntary Aided Middle School – 7pm, Monday 3 March Brewers Hill Middle School – 7pm, Tuesday 4 March Streetfield Middle School – 7pm, Wednesday 5 March</p> <p>There is no requirement to book a place for these meetings.</p>
What happens at the end of the consultation?	The responses to the consultation will then be considered on 7 May by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and at an Executive meeting on the 27 May including any viable alternatives to closure. If a decision is made to proceed to the second stage of the consultation and publish statutory notices for the proposed closure, these will be published from 9 June to 7 July.
What happens next after statutory notices are published?	All interested parties have an opportunity to respond within this period to make their views known to the Council on whether they support the proposal to close or express any comments or concerns they may have. This last for 4 weeks from 9 June to 7 July.
When is the decision taken to either keep the school open or close it?	The Council's Executive will consider representations made (responses, comments, concerns) as part of the statutory notice period and determine whether to keep the schools open or close them. This will be determined at an Executive meeting on the 19 August 2014.
My child is due to transfer into one of the Middle schools this September from their Lower school – what does this now mean for my son/daughter?	All children who are due to start a Middle school in September this year will still have the opportunity to take up their place. If the decision is made to close the School, then your child will need to make an application in September 2015 for a place at a Secondary school in Year 7 in September 2016 as the Middle school would be closed by the end of the academic year in the summer of

	2016.
My child is currently attending Ashton/Brewers Hill/Streetfield – what does this mean for him/her?	<p>If the decision is made to close the school then the following will apply:</p> <p>Child is currently in Year 5 -Can continue at the school and make an application in September 2014 when in Year 6 to transfer to Secondary school in September 2015. Alternatively child could continue into Year 7 in September 2015 but would need to make an in-year application in the summer of 2016 to transfer into Year 8 at an alternative school i.e. Secondary or Priory Academy or Barnfield Vale.</p> <p>Child is currently in Year 6 - Would need to make either a late application for Secondary to start Year 7 in September 2014 or apply in-year for a place in Year 8 in the summer of 2015 to start Year 8 in September 2015.</p> <p>Child is currently in Year 7 - Can continue at the school and make application in September 2014 when Year 8 to transfer to Upper school as normal for September 2015 or make an in-year application for a place in a Secondary school either to start in the academic year of 2014/15 as a Year 7 pupil or at the end of Year 7 to start in Year 8 at a Secondary school.</p> <p>Child is currently in Year 8 - Will transfer to Upper school in September 2014 as per usual process.</p>

Updated 20 March 2014

Generic questions & concerns raised & responses given at staff & public meetings

Regarding the projected number of year 4 pupils who are due to transfer into the school in September 2014, have the second preferences been taken into account?	Admission preferences indicate that every child who has requested a place at a Dunstable Middle School will get their first preference so second preferences will not need to be considered
What are the Council's pupil numbers based upon?	The forecast numbers for year 5 from September 2014 are based upon the number of applications we have received for transfer. Based upon these numbers, forecasts have been made for subsequent years. It is these low numbers that have impacted upon the schools budget from September 2014
The Council is scaring parents by saying that the school will close. Parents want to keep their children at a middle school but do not know what to do. It is very unsettling,	The Council is not saying that the school will close. This is a consultation and the decisions made regarding the proposed closure will consider the results of the consultation and all of the responses received

having this hanging over the schools	
Are the primary schools undersubscribed?	<p>Some lower schools that have converted to primary are predicted to have lower numbers for year 5 in September 2014.</p> <p>This is a trend seen elsewhere in the first few years of a school's transition to a new age range but we expect numbers to rise in subsequent years as parents grow in confidence.</p>
Could just one middle school remain open?	There is a 65% surplus of places within the area in years 5-8. There is no demographic demand for these places to be retained in the area
What about the additional places that will be needed for the older children under the Governments 'raising the participation age'?	Not all will remain in school – young people will have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through college, a training provider, work, volunteering or an apprenticeship. Where new places are required to meet demand for post 16 education in schools these will be commissioned through upper and secondary schools
What about the new provision that will be needed in Houghton Regis for the new development?	This will be provided either within or adjacent to that development, providing school places local to the new communities in north Houghton Regis, when they are required.
Why has the Council decided to change to a 2 tier provision?	Academies and schools within Dunstable and Houghton Regis have brought forward their own proposals to change their age ranges. They were able to justify these proposals and show evidence of parental support to the Council who is the decision maker for Council maintained schools and to the Department for Education for academies
Did the Council consider the over supply of places when it approved the change of age ranges for the Dunstable and Houghton Regis schools?	The Council allowed maintained schools to bring forward proposals to change their age range in order to give those schools the same opportunities as were available to academies within the area. The supply of places was one of the factors that was considered when decisions were made by the Secretary of State (for academies) and by the Council (for maintained schools).
Are academies allowed to do what they like?	Academies appear unaccountable and Council maintained schools are therefore at a disadvantage Academies are accountable to the Secretary of State who will intervene in any that are underperforming or are significantly undersubscribed and therefore unviable.

Updated 7 April 2014

If the school is to close, can parents reappraise their choices?	Yes, parents can change their preference and submit a late application
Parents throughout the town were not aware of the various consultations that were being	All of the schools carried out consultations regarding their proposed changes. They published consultation documents and held meetings, as required by the DfE.

undertaken by the lower schools when they were looking to convert to primary. We now have a mish-mash of provision with the children stuck in the middle. All of the schools used to work together but not any longer.	The consultations were advertised via the local press and the Council's website. All of the schools in Dunstable and Houghton Regis were aware of the consultations.
<p>Why has the Council not driven all of the changes?</p> <p>Academies are competing for our children. Feeder schools are in partnership with other schools. The mess within the town is due to the lack of partnership working between schools.</p>	<p>The Council is no longer able to drive system wide change and schools are now largely in control of their own destinies.</p> <p>The Council has not been the decision maker for the changes that have happened in academies, but the Council decided to give our maintained schools the same freedoms that were available to academies.</p> <p>Following recent changes to school regulations by the Department for Education, all maintained schools can now change their age range by up to 2 years without any recourse to the Council.</p> <p>The Council retains responsibility for ensuring the provision of school places.</p>
Why were the parents of year 4 children not advised of this proposal before they were asked to submit their choice for year 5?	Figures from the admission process, which closed on 15 January 2014, were used to confirm the numbers of pupils that were due to move to the school in September. This then gave us the information we needed regarding the future viability of the school.
Vandyke is being expanded – is this to accommodate Dunstable children?	No, Vandyke is an academy and is carrying out this expansion to accommodate pupils as a result of existing housing development in the Leighton Buzzard area.
You are taking away our choice. By forcing children into bigger schools, with much older children, you are forcing them to grow up too quickly.	All of the schools that have proposed an extension to their age range have had to demonstrate how they will manage the increased age range and provide the pupils with a good education. If we have any concerns about a maintained schools ability to subsequently do this, we will intervene. If we have any such concerns about an academy we can take these to the DfE's Regional Commissioner.
The Council's School Organisation Plan is out of date and does not take future generations into account	The School Organisation Plan covers a five year period and is updated each year to reflect changes in school organisation. It looks at trends and likely future demand for school places based upon census data, pre-school aged children in the area and housing development
The rational for the proposed closure is the falling numbers which is affecting the schools financial viability. This fall in numbers is due to the letter that was sent out by the Council. Some	<p>The role of the School Admissions Service is to advise parents when a transfer point is removed. The co-ordinated year 9 transfer point from middle to upper will not be available for current year 6 pupils after September 2015.</p> <p>The Council's letter to parents was clear and provided</p>

parents have chosen not to request a middle school place because of the uncertainty.	contact details for further advice should it be required.
Are there enough school places throughout the town?	There are sufficient places across the Town in all year groups. And this will be the situation for at least the next 2 years based upon a forecast of 840 places per year group. This figure of 840 includes an allowance of 10% to allow for parental preferences.
Can the upper/secondary schools accommodate such a large increase in number of pupils?	Where schools have expanded, the Governing Bodies are legally required to provide the number of place's that they have committed to provide.
If parents want a Church of England faith based school, what would be their alternative?	Ashton St Peters Lower and Manshead Upper School are both faith based provisions. All Saints Academy doesn't give priority to pupils based on faith but is sponsored by the Diocese of St. Albans. Manshead School is a voluntary aided Church of England school and gives priority to children on the basis of their parents' faith as part of their admissions criteria.
Lower school parents are not being consulted.	There has been a large amount of publicity regarding the proposals and everybody has been encouraged to respond to the consultations.
You are making my child move from a middle school to a secondary school.	There is still a mix of 2 tier and 3 tier provision in the town. Priory Academy is a Middle combined Secondary school that has an intake at Year 5 and is working in partnership with Dunstable Icknield, Watling and Studham Lower schools; there is also Barnfield Vale who currently has a Middle intake. If the decision is made to close the Middle school, options are available to transfer to alternative schools as part of the annual admissions round or in-year.
Does the Council consider the financial viability of all schools?	The Council reviews the finances of all maintained schools on an annual basis. Schools budgets for 2014/15 have recently been set and sent out to the schools. The funding follows the child therefore those schools that are affected by the loss of year 5 pupils are seeing a decrease in their budget.
The upper/secondary schools are too big. Queensbury has 1200 children. Leave the children in the middle schools where numbers are lower	Schools budgets are determined by the numbers on roll. The budget impacts on the staffing structure and other resources that can be afforded by the school and therefore their ability to deliver the full curriculum. All schools whatever their size are accountable for the progress that their children make. There are very successful large schools in Central Bedfordshire.
Will the Council force the lower schools that have not converted to primaries to close?	No. Dunstable Icknield, Watling and Studham lower schools in the area are working with Priory Academy and other lower schools will consider their options.

This school nurtures its children - they will not get this in a large upper/secondary.	All schools are judged on the full range of provision that they make which includes their pastoral support for pupils. Large upper/secondary schools have a range of ways in which they provide this pastoral support.
Can we wait until all of the changes in the Town settle down and see what happens?	The proposal is based upon the viability of the school both currently and for the foreseeable future.
Why are Councillors not at this meeting?	The Members of the Council's Executive approved the launch of the consultations on 4 February. It is the role of Council Officers to carry out the consultations and report the findings, and all of the responses received, back to the Executive. The Executive Members are the decision makers.
Is this a cost saving exercise? How much would the Council save if the school closes?	The Council would not make a saving -it would incur either an element of or all of the redundancy costs. School funding is ring-fenced for all schools and therefore all money is redistributed among all schools.
Are other areas within Central Bedfordshire going over to 2 tier?	The rest of Central Bedfordshire currently remains as 3 tier but we have had approaches from various schools who have wanted to discuss pupil numbers. If schools want to consider changes, they would need to follow due process either as an Academy or as a maintained school as set out in the new School Organisation legislation
Can the lower schools, that have changed their age range, provide the facilities that are needed for the curriculum e.g. science labs?	At the meetings held during the lower school consultations many parents asked whether the lower schools would be able to deliver the full primary curriculum. The schools were able to assure them that they would.
Are the primary schools undersubscribed? Will any of them be closed?	Some lower schools that have converted to primary are predicted to have lower numbers for year 5 in September 2014. This is a trend seen elsewhere in the first few years of a school's transition to a new age range but we expect numbers to rise in subsequent years as parents grow in confidence.
The letters that have been sent out to parents of current year 6 students regarding admissions have been misleading and parents have raised their concerns with staff. If the letter had been properly written we would not be losing so many pupils. The school should have been privy to any letters that were due to be sent out to our parents.	<p>The School Admissions service has a duty to advise parents of a change to a transfer point. We therefore needed to advise parents that there will be no coordinated year 9 transfer into Manshead or Queensbury from September 2016.</p> <p>The letters invited parents to contact the Admissions helpline. Many did contact us and we were able to assist them.</p>
If the decision is made to close the school, can the Governing Body	The Governing Body, Trustees and CofE Diocese can appeal to the Schools Adjudicator within four weeks of the

appeal the decision?	decision being made in relation to Ashton CofE VA Middle School. There is no right of appeal on the determination made by the Schools Adjudicator. The Governing Bodies of Brewers Hill Middle and Streetfield Middle Schools, as community Schools, have no right of appeal.
If the decision is made to close the school, and the teachers all leave, who would support the children and what would happen to their education?	The Council would work in partnership with the school to support the process and to provide support to the children. The Council would also commission any additional support that is required.
What would happen to the staff if the school closes?	With the reduced budget that the school have for 2014/15, the school's Governing Body will have to consider its staffing budget with effect from September 2014, irrespective of the outcome of the closure proposal. If the school faces closure, the Council will provide HR support to the school and to the staff.
How will the decision be made regarding the proposal? What will be the criteria?	The Council is required to follow the guidance produced by the Department for Education for decision makers. This includes consideration of all of the responses to the consultation.
What would happen if the schools that are extending their age ranges are not able to provide the places that they have committed to provide?	The Council would hold the Governing Body to account to provide the places.
Historically, the Council has a poor record of forecasting pupil numbers. How accurate is the current forecast?	The forecast for pupil numbers is key to the Council's proposal. The forecast numbers for year 5 from September 2014 are based upon the number of applications we have received for transfer. Based upon these numbers, forecasts have been made for subsequent years. It is these low numbers that have impacted upon the schools budget from September 2014.
Have all of the schools in Dunstable been subjected to the same level of financial scrutiny?	The Council reviews the finances of all maintained schools on an annual basis. Schools budgets for 2014/15 have recently been set and sent out to the schools. The funding follows the child therefore those schools that are affected by the loss of year 5 pupils are seeing a decrease in their budget.
Will a decision be made on the proposal to close all 3 Dunstable Middle Schools at the same time?	A separate consultation is being carried out for each of the 3 Dunstable Middle Schools. A separate decision will be made for each proposal.
Can the school come forward with an alternative proposal?	The Council will consider an alternative proposal however it will need to be viable and be able to demonstrate demand from potential future parents.
Did the Council require other	All schools were required to show a level of parental

schools, which were proposing a change of age range, to provide the same level of support?	support.
Could the final decision regarding the proposed closure be delayed until September?	The national offer day for middle school places in 16 April. Children will start year 5 on 3 September. There is no ideal time to carry out this process and we cannot delay the decision beyond August.
What would happen to the redundant school site? Would it be used for housing?	No discussion has been had regarding the future use of the site. The Council would be required to get permission from the Secretary of State if it wished to dispose of the site. The site would also have to be offered as possible site for a 'free school'
Has the decision already been made to close the 3 middle schools? Is there a political agenda to rid the Council of their control of all schools?	No decision has been made; this is the consultation stage for the proposal. There is no plan to rid the Council of its control. The Council has not been the decision maker for the changes that have happened in academies, but the Council decided to give our maintained schools the same freedoms that were available to academies.
Are middle schools in other areas of Central Bedfordshire still viable?	The changes that have happened in Dunstable and Houghton Regis have not happened in other areas of Central Bedfordshire. For example, Robert Bloomfield Academy is a 840 place middle school in Shefford that is full and there are no concerns regarding its viability.
Will all of the views that are being put forward be considered by the Members?	The Council is capturing the views from both the staff and the public meetings and all of these, plus the responses to the consultations, will be considered by the Committee Members.
Who came up with the proposal to close the middle schools?	The Council monitors the viability of all maintained schools in Central Bedfordshire. Council officers put forward the option for consulting on closure to the Council's Executive.
Why have you given so much support to the new primaries?	The Council gives support to all of its maintained schools. Academies are answerable to the Secretary of State. Academies and schools within Dunstable and Houghton Regis have brought forward their own proposals to change their age ranges. They were able to justify these proposals and show evidence of parental support to the Council who is the decision maker for Council maintained schools and to the Department for Education for academies. However, following recent changes to school regulations by the Department for Education, all maintained schools can now change their age range by up to 2 years without any recourse to the Council. The Council retains responsibility for ensuring the provision of school places.

<p>You are using our children as guinea pigs, they will get lost in the system if the middle schools close.</p>	<p>If the middle schools close the Council will work with the schools to support them as they transfer.</p>
<p>You should not close the school until 2018, which would allow the children who come into the school at year 5 in September 2014 to complete their middle school education.</p>	<p>It will be up to Members to determine whether the school should close, and if so, the date of the closure.</p>
<p>If, after the closure of the 3 middle schools, there were not enough school places in Dunstable, would the Council provide transport to schools outside of the town?</p>	<p>There are sufficient places in all of the year groups.</p>

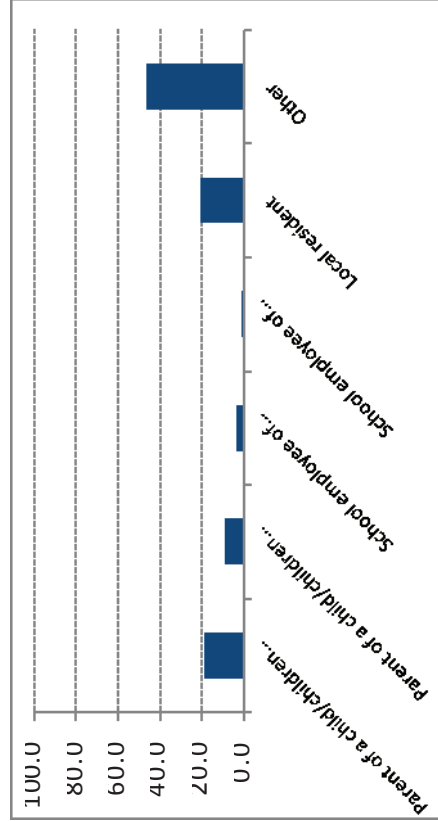
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Appendix E

Brewers Hill Final
Results Based on 291
responses

Q 1 -Are you a:

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Parent of a child/children at Brewers Hill Middle School	55	18.9	18.9
Parent of a child/children at another school in the area	26	8.9	8.9
School employee of Brewers Hill Middle School	11	3.8	3.8
School employee of another school in the area	3	1.0	1.0
Local resident	60	20.6	20.6
Other	136	46.7	46.7
Total	291	100.0	100.0



Q 1. a -Please specify:

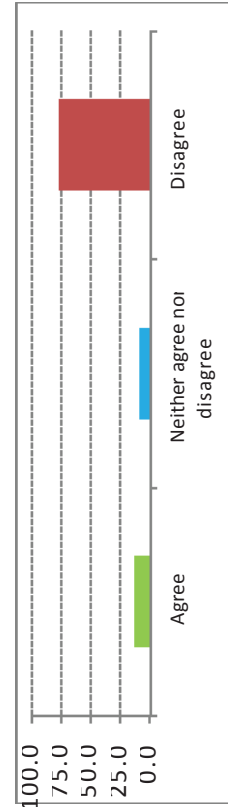
	Frequency	Percent
Valid		
Also parent of a child at Q u e e n s b u r y	1	0.8
Ashton	1	0.8
beec roft school my daughter is due to start at brewers in s e p t e m b e r 20 14	1	0.8
Brewers Hill Middle School	1	0.8
child	14	11.4
child at B H M S	1	0.8
child going to be going to brewers hill	1	0.8
ex pupil	3	2.4
ex-pupil-now at Q u e e n s b u r y Academy	1	0.8
Former teacher at the school	1	0.8
foster carer of a child at brewers hill and another child at another school	1	0.8
grandparent	3	2.4
I am an ICT Trainer/assessor who spent several months training and assessing the learning support staff	1	0.8
it went to the school and loved it.	1	0.8
Potential pupil	1	0.8
Previous Teacher at Brewers Hill	1	0.8
pupil	85	69.1
pupil at Brewers Hill	3	2.4
Teacher	1	0.8
Worked at the school until 20 0 7	1	0.8
Total	123	100.0

Q2 -If you are the parent of a child/children currently at another school, or the employee or governor of another school, please tell us which school

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Ashton Middle	1	3.7
Beecroft	6	22.2
Dunstable Lower School	1	3.7
Greenleas	1	3.7
Houghton Regis Primary School	1	3.7
Lancot	2	7.4
Lancot Lower	10	37.0
Lancot Lower & Streetfield Middle	1	3.7
Priority Queensbury	1	3.7
Queensbury	1	3.7
The Chiltern School	1	3.7
Totternhoe Lower School	1	3.7
Total	27	100.0
Missing	264	
Total	291	

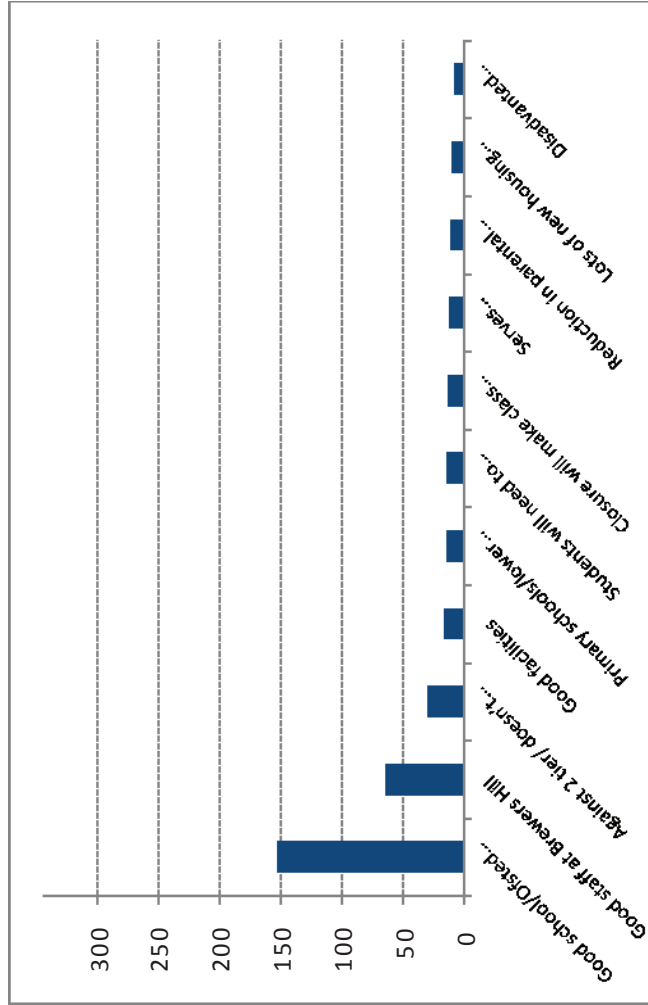
Q3 -Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Brewers Hill Middle School

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Agree	40	13.7	13.9
Neither agree nor disagree	25	8.6	8.7
Disagree	223	76.6	77.4
Total	288	99.0	100.0
Missing	3	1.0	
Total	291	100.0	



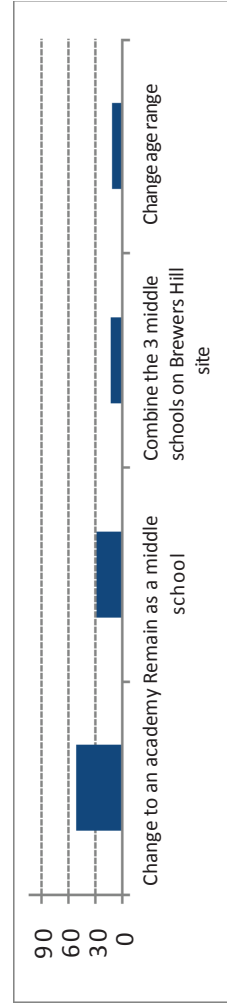
Q4 -Please give your reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Brewers Hill Middle School

Topic	Frequency
Valid	153
Good staff at Brewers Hill	64
Against 2 tier/doesn't want child mixing with 16y olds	30
Good facilities	16
Primary schools/lower schools don't have the facilities needed	14
Students will need to travel further to get to school	14
Closure will make class sizes bigger	13
Serves community/Good reputation in the community	12
Reduction in parental choice	11
Lots of new housing coming to the area will mean a need for new school places	10
Disadvantaged children don't attend	8



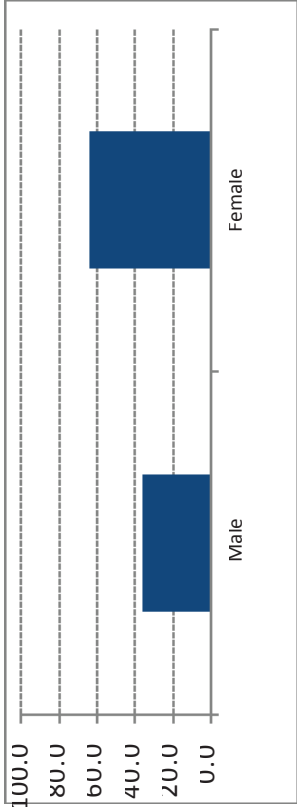
Q5 -Please use the space below to suggest any alternatives to closing the school or make any other comments you would like to make about this proposal.

Topic	Frequency
Valid	51
Change to an academy	28
Remain as a middle school	13
Combine the 3 middle schools on Brewers Hill site	12
Change age range	12



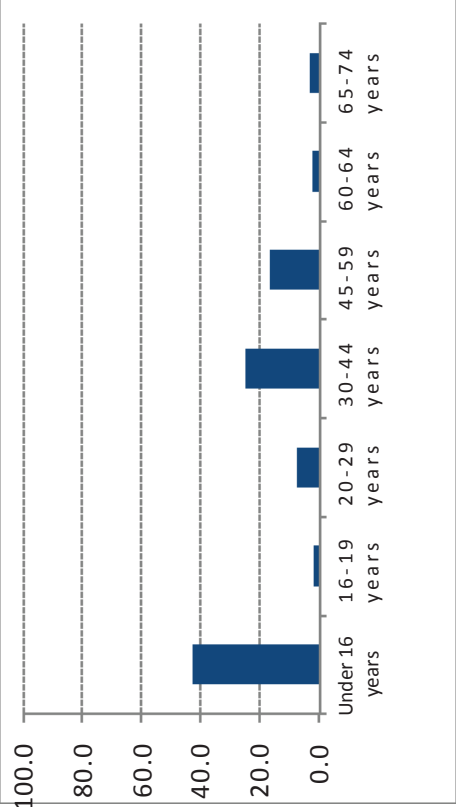
Q6 -Are you

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Male	103	35.4	35.9
Female	184	63.2	64.1
Total	287	98.6	100.0
Missing Total	4	1.4	
	291	100.0	



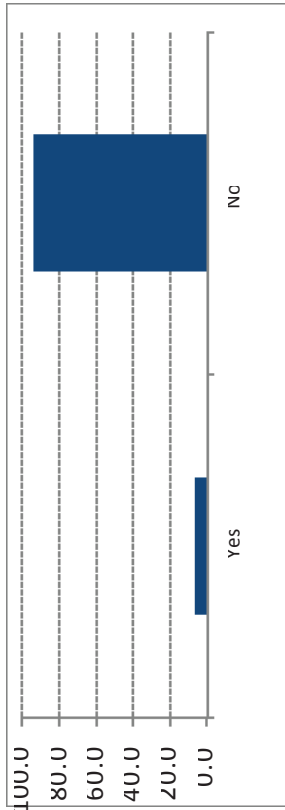
Q7 -What is your age?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Under 16 years	122	41.9	42.7
16-19 years	5	1.7	1.7
20-29 years	22	7.6	7.7
30-44 years	72	24.7	25.2
45-59 years	48	16.5	16.8
60-64 years	7	2.4	2.4
65-74 years	9	3.1	3.1
75 years +	1	.3	.3
Total	286	98.3	100.0
Missing Total	5	1.7	
	291	100.0	



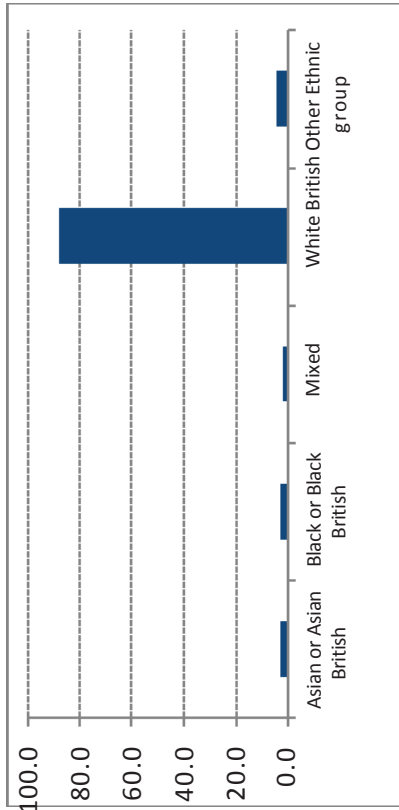
Q8 -Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Yes	17	5.8	6.3
No	255	87.6	93.8
Total	272	93.5	100.0
Missing Total	19	6.5	
	291	100.0	



Q9 -To which of these groups do you consider you belong?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Asian or Asian British	8	2.7	2.8
Black or Black British	8	2.7	2.8
Mixed	6	2.1	2.1
White British	247	84.9	87.9
Other Ethnic group	12	4.1	4.3
Total	281	96.6	100.0
Missing Total	10	3.4	
	291	100.0	



Q9. a -If other, please specify:

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
African	1	.3	9.1
Greek	1	.3	9.1
None supplied	1	.3	9.1
Notdisclosed	1	.3	9.1
Notsupplied	1	.3	9.1
Polish	1	.3	9.1
Romanian white	1	.3	9.1
Traveller	1	.3	9.1
Undisclosed	1	.3	9.1
White Irish	1	.3	9.1
white, blackcarribean	1	.3	9.1
Total	11	3.8	100.0
Missing	280	96.2	
Total	291	100.0	

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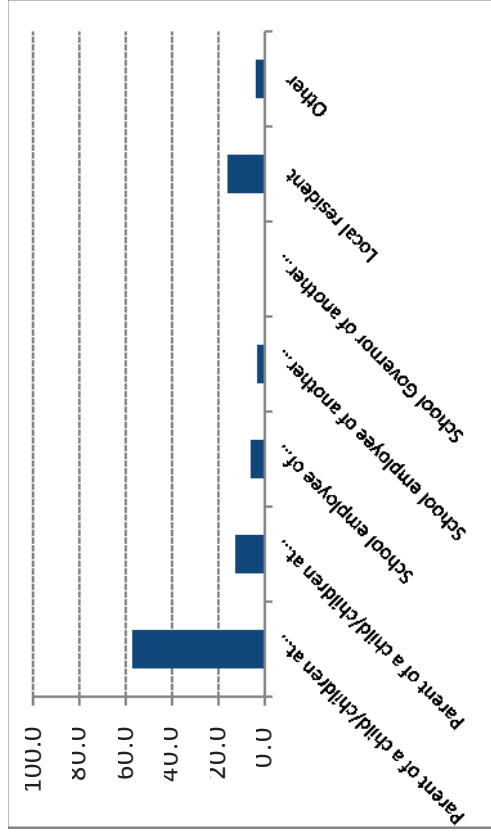
Appendix F

Streetfield Final
Results Based on 220

responses

Q1 - Are you a:

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Parent of a child/children at Streetfield Middle School	126	57.3	57.5
Parent of a child/children at another school in the area	28	12.7	12.8
School employee of Streetfield Middle School	14	6.4	6.4
School employee of another school in the area	7	3.2	3.2
School Governor of another school in the area	1	.5	.5
Local resident	35	15.9	16.0
Other	8	3.6	3.7
Total	219	99.5	100.0
Missing	1	.5	
Total	220	100.0	



Q1.a - Please specify

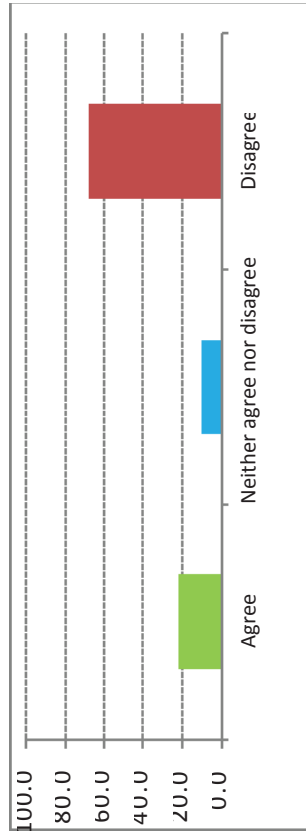
	Frequency
Valid	
Acting Headteacher	1
Former Streetfield teacher.	1
grandmother	1
Grandparent	1
Headteacher	1
Nana	1
Older sister of a pupil	1
residents	1
School employee and governor of school	1
in central beds	
Teacher	1
Total	10
Missing	
Total	210
	220

Q2 - If you are the parent of a child/children currently at another school, or the employee or governor of another school, please tell us which school.

	Frequency
Valid	
Ardley Hill Academy	1
Ashton	3
Barnfield Vale	1
Beecroft	1
beecroft acadamy	1
Dunstable Icknield Lower	1
Hadrian	1
Kensworth	2
Kensworth Lower	1
lark rise	1
Manshead	3
Manshead School	1
not disclosed	1
Priory	2
priory academy	1
Priory Academy	1
St Augustines	1
St Augustines Academy	1
st Christophers Academy	1
St Mary's Caddington	1
St Marys	1
Watling Lower School	1
Total	28
Missing	
Total	192
	220

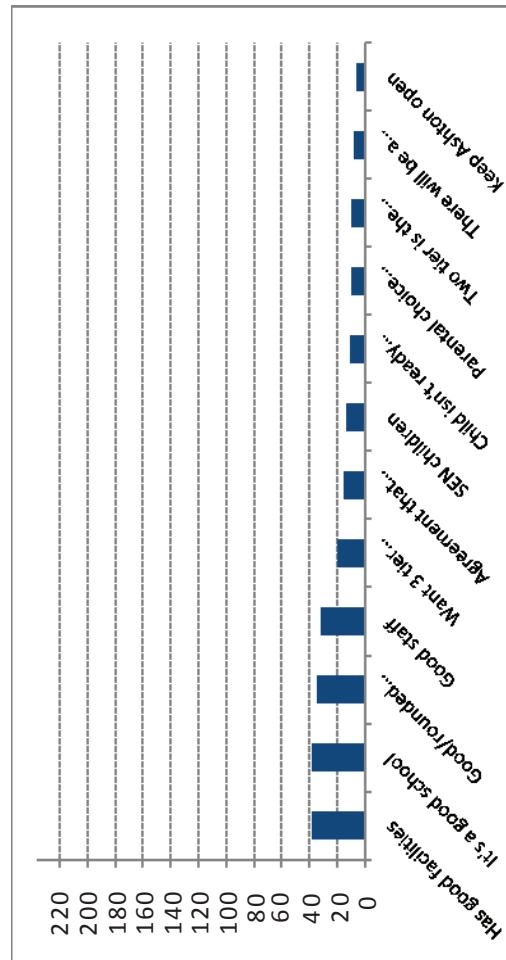
Q3 - Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Agree	48	21.8	21.9
Neither agree nor disagree	23	10.5	10.5
Disagree	148	67.3	67.6
Total	219	99.5	100.0
Missing	1	.5	
Total	220	100.0	



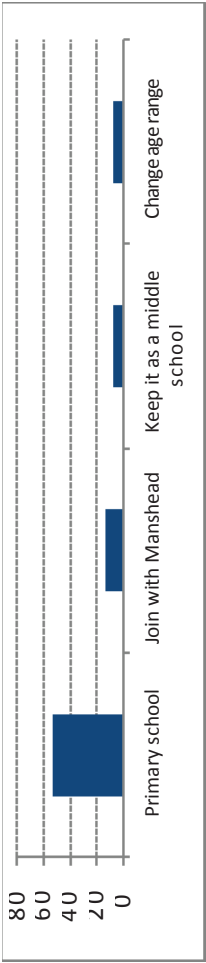
Q4 - Please give your reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School.

Topic	Frequency
Valid	
Has good facilities	38
It's a good school	38
Good/rounded education	35
Good staff	32
Want 3 tier system	20
Agreement that school isn't viable	15
SEN children	13
Child isn't ready for secondary school	11
Parental choice is being taken away	10
Two tier is the way forward	10
There will be a need for more school places	8
Keep Ashton open	6



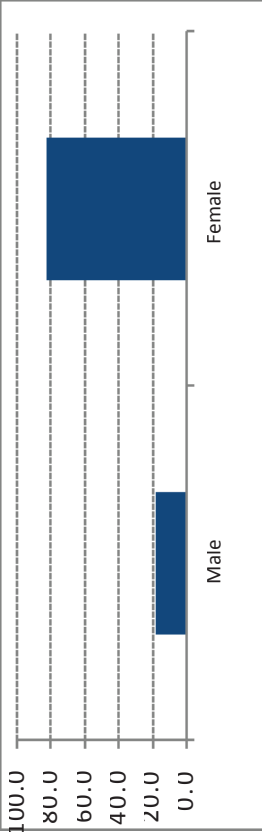
Q5 - Please use the space below to suggest any alternatives to closing the school or make any other comments you would like to make about this proposal.

Topic	Frequenc
Valid	
Primary school	53
Join with Manshead	13
Keep it as a middle school	7
Change age range	7



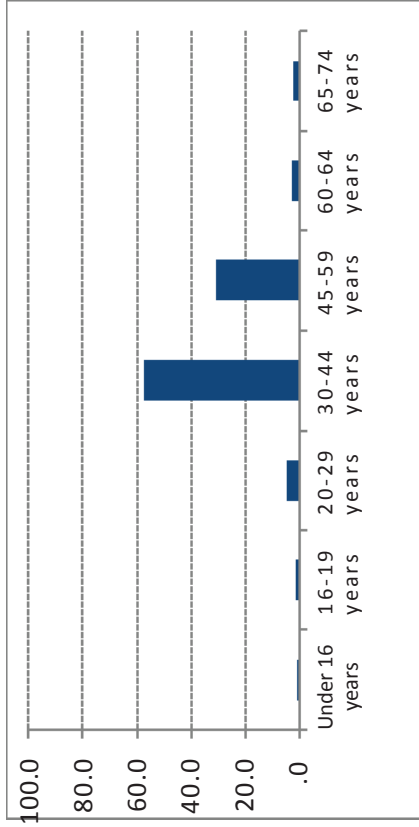
Q6 - Are you

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Male	38	17.3	17.8
Female	175	79.5	82.2
Total	213	96.8	100.0
Missing	7	3.2	
Total	220	100.0	



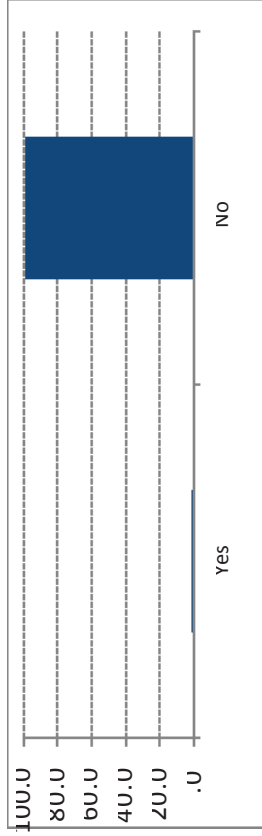
Q7 - What is your age?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Under 16 years	2	.9	.9
16-19 years	3	1.4	1.4
20-29 years	10	4.5	4.6
30-44 years	125	56.8	57.3
45-59 years	67	30.5	30.7
60-64 years	6	2.7	2.8
65-74 years	5	2.3	2.3
Total	218	99.1	100.0
Missing	2	.9	
Total	220	100.0	



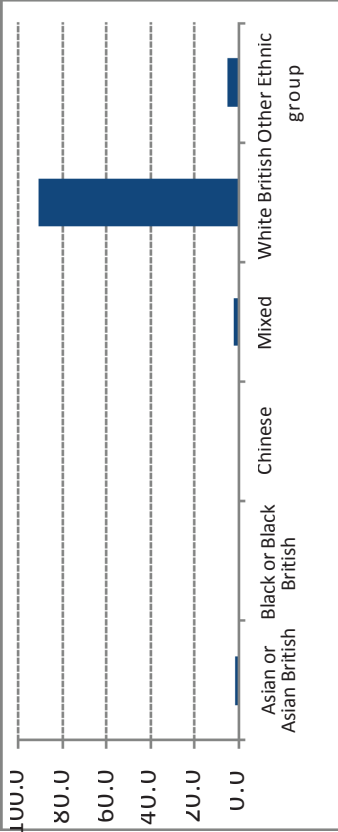
Q8 - Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Yes	2	.9	1.0
No	206	93.6	99.0
Total	208	94.5	100.0
Missing	12	5.5	
Total	220	100.0	



Q9 - To which of these groups do you consider you belong?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Asian or Asian British	3	1.4	1.4
Black or Black British	1	.5	.5
Chinese	1	.5	.5
Mixed	4	1.8	1.9
White British	194	88.2	90.7
Other Ethnic group	11	5.0	5.1
Total	214	97.3	100.0
Missing	6	2.7	
Total	220	100.0	



If other, please specify

	Frequency
Black african	1
Filipino	1
Irish	1
Not disclosed	1
Not specified	1
Polish	2
white african	1
white irish	1

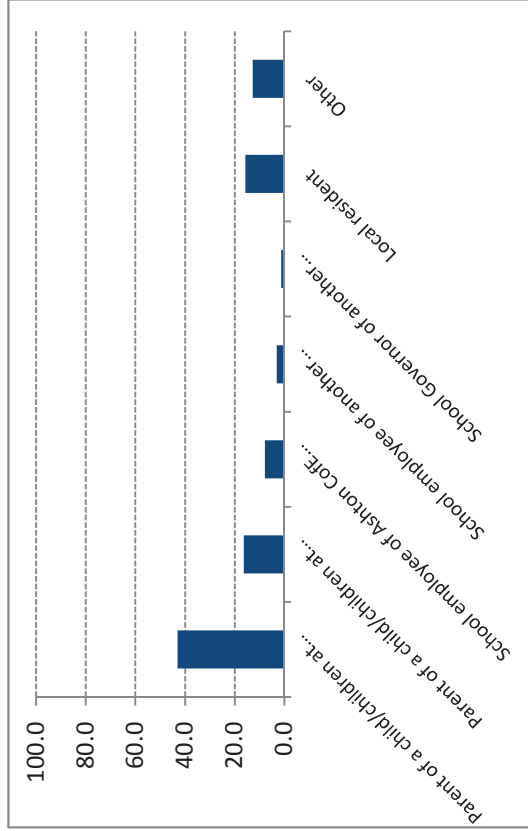
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Appendix G

Ashton CofE VA Final Results Based on 167 responses

Q1 - Are you a

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Parent of a child/children at Ashton CofE VA Middle School	71	42.8	43.0
Parent of a child/children at another school in the area	27	16.3	16.4
School employee of Ashton CofE VA Middle School	13	7.8	7.9
School employee of another school in the area	5	3.0	3.0
School Governor of another school in the area	2	1.2	1.2
Local resident	26	15.7	15.8
Other	21	12.7	12.7
Total	165	99.4	100.0
Missing	1	.6	
Total	166	100.0	

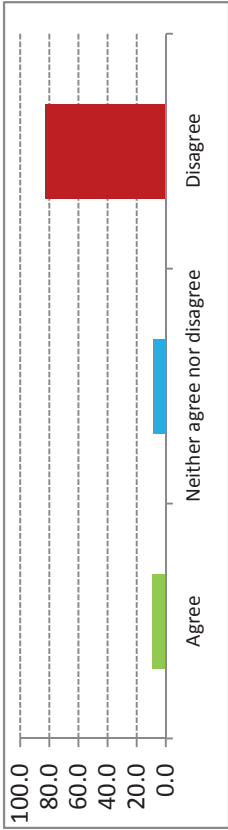


Q2 - If you are the parent of a child/children currently at another school, or the employee or governor of another school, please tell us which school

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Ashton St Peter's Lower School	5	3.0	16.1
Currently at Hadrian Academy, but hoping to move on to Ashton	1	.6	3.2
Dunstable Icknield lower school	2	1.2	6.5
Hadrian Academy	2	1.2	6.5
I have a daughter a Lancot School, who I would wish to attend Ashton Middle	1	.6	3.2
Lancot	2	1.2	6.5
Lancot Lower School & Westfield Nursery	1	.6	3.2
Lancot School	1	.6	3.2
Manshead Upper school.	3	1.8	9.7
parent of a child and Governor at Ashton St Peters Lower School	1	.6	3.2
Parent of child at Ashton St Peter's Lower	1	.6	3.2
Priory Academy	4	2.4	12.9
Priory and Manshead	1	.6	3.2
Queensbury	1	.6	3.2
St Christophers Academy	1	.6	3.2
St vincent's	1	.6	3.2
Streetfield	1	.6	3.2
Watling Lower weatherfield academy	1	.6	3.2
Total	31	18.7	100.0
Missing	135	81.3	
Total	166	100.0	

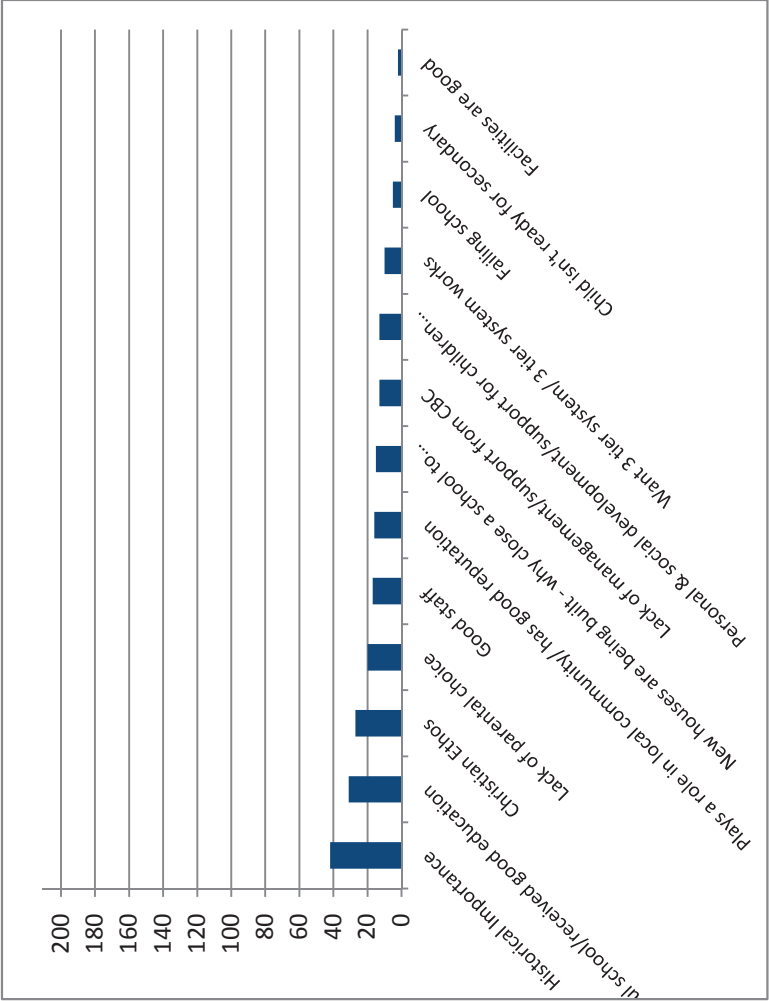
Q3 - Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Ashton CofE VA Middle School

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Agree	15	9.0	9.0
Neither agree nor disagree	14	8.4	8.4
Disagree	137	82.5	82.5
Total	166	100.0	100.0



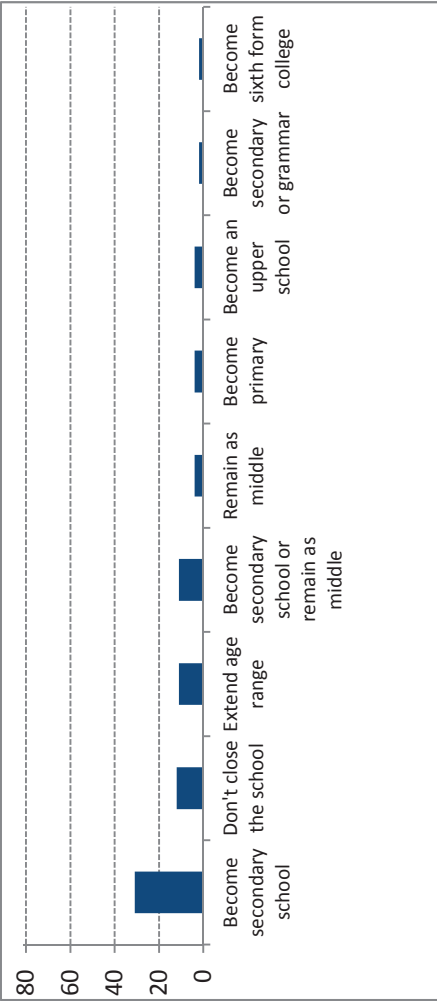
Q4 - Please give your reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Ashton CofE VA Middle School.

Topic	Frequency
Historical Importance	42
Successful school/received good education	31
Christian Ethos	27
Lack of parental choice	20
Good staff	17
Plays a role in local community/ has good reputation	16
New houses are being built - why close a school to build another	15
Lack of management/support from CBC	13
Personal & social development/support for children at Ashton	13
Want 3 tier system/ 3 tier system works	10
Failing school	5
Child isn't ready for secondary	4
Facilities are good	2



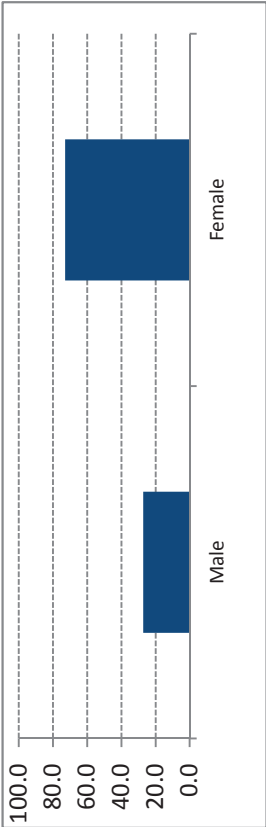
Q5 - Please use the space below to suggest any alternatives to closing the school or make any other comments you would like to make about this proposal.

Topic	Frequency
Valid	
Become secondary school	31
Don't close the school	12
Extend age range	11
Become secondary school or remain as middle	11
Remain as middle	4
Become primary	4
Become an upper school	4
Become secondary or grammar	2
Become sixth form college	2



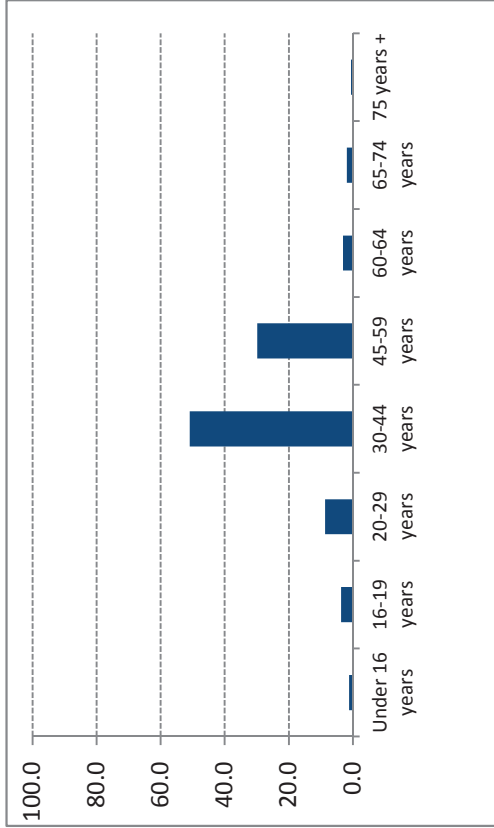
Q6 - Are you?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Male	44	26.5	27.2
Female	118	71.1	72.8
Total	162	97.6	100.0
Missing	4	2.4	
Total	166	100.0	



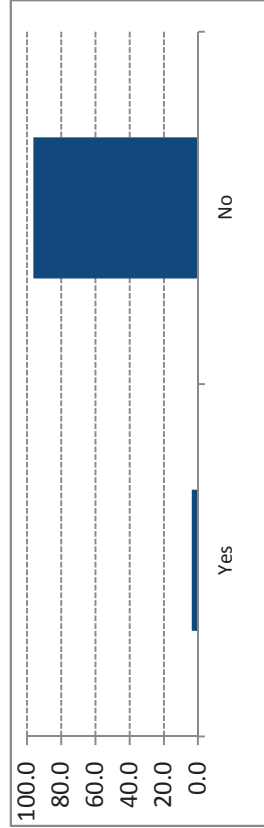
Q7 - What is your age?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Under 16 years	2	1.2	1.2
16-19 years	6	3.6	3.7
20-29 years	14	8.4	8.7
30-44 years	82	49.4	50.9
45-59 years	48	28.9	29.8
60-64 years	5	3.0	3.1
65-74 years	3	1.8	1.9
75 years +	1	.6	.6
Total	161	97.0	100.0
Missing	5	3.0	
Total	166	100.0	



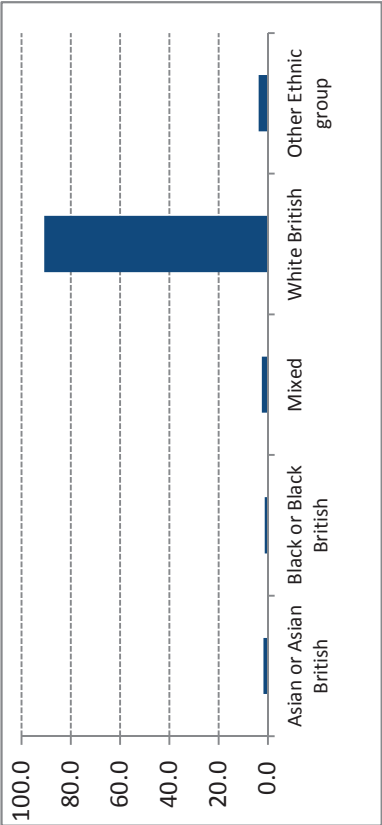
Q8 - Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Yes	6	3.6	3.7
No	155	93.4	96.3
Total	161	97.0	100.0
Missing	5	3.0	
Total	166	100.0	



Q9 - To which of these groups do you consider you belong?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid			
Asian or Asian British	3	1.8	1.8
Black or Black British	2	1.2	1.2
Mixed	4	2.4	2.5
White British	148	89.2	90.8
Other Ethnic group	6	3.6	3.7
Total	163	98.2	100.0
Missing	3	1.8	
Total	166	100.0	



Q9a - Other
not supplied
Not supplied
Romanian
white english
white european

Appendix **H**

**Brewers Hill
Middle School
Second
Consultation
&
Questionnaire
(2014)**

School Context

Brewers Hill has operated as a Community Middle School within Dunstable serving the North Dunstable community. The School plans under the Academies Conversion Programme to convert by August 2014 to Academy status, as Brewers Hill School.

Why convert to an Academy?

The Governors and Staff at Brewers Hill are committed to improving the educational provision for the children and families of Dunstable; to provide an educational provision that is at least good that is at the forefront of educational developments in the region through the development of an innovative school structure and curriculum that is responsive to local need thereby improving the opportunities and success of the area's children and young people. The move to becoming an Academy not only provides the school with access to the generic academy benefits of greater operational flexibility and scope for more innovative curriculum delivery; but also enables the school to develop and grow.

Over the last five years the school has maintained in size despite a fall in the local demographic and contrary to the cohorts in other local middle schools most of which have fallen dramatically. The School is led by a stable and established leadership team and experienced and committed governors.

Our Vision and Ethos

Our aim is to build upon the existing strengths of the school to deliver an 'outstanding' all-through educational pathway for Dunstable's children. The new Academy will provide a healthy, safe and caring environment, with excellent teaching and learning and a focus on exceptional student behaviour, progress and attainment. In response to the changing local educational environment Brewers Hill School will develop over time into both a centre for Early Years / Primary education, as well as building upon its existing curriculum strengths of mathematics, science, physical education and technology to create a new 11-18 age group, Key Stage 3, blended academic vocational provision. We would wish to extend our age range to year 13 (18 years old) from September 2015 as well as commencing the primary provision at the same time.

Consultation process

Following the confirmation by the Ministerial approval of the Academy Order which was granted in December 2011, the school has already consulted widely about its ambitions but because of the delay in being granted Academy Status is required to do so once more.

This paper is a summary of the proposed consultation process, and is in direct response to comments from parents asking for a 4-18 provision. The Academy is committed to undertaking a robust consultation process starting in February 2014 and concluding May 2014. The School is committed to reflecting the needs of its community; and as part of this process the school management team will be holding a series of open evenings and one-to-one meetings which will offer converting and prospective parents, converting staff, local residents and affected educational authorities the opportunity to discuss and inform the on-going development, educational vision, policies, procedures and admissions arrangements.

To complete the survey online please access the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yof2YA4i6km7CLO - Jecq5SxiEYjvvBsiiAT78F007Q/>

The new Academy will be able to provide a continuity of middle school provision alongside its transition to a Primary and Key Stage 3 model, with the provision planned to continue until the academy order is approved. We would then apply to change the age range from September 2015. The School can confirm that it will continue to offer Year 5 middle school places for entry as long as there is demand from parents to do so. This will be alongside admissions at primary and secondary ages. This is in response to the 'mixed economy developing in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area with a commitment to continue this provision through for the full four middle school years and beyond if that is the choice of parents. The introduction of primary provision will be undertaken in a phased approach, with initially single phase primary provision being available, rising over time to a three phase primary roll. The Academy plans to utilise its existing facilities creating a dedicated area for Nursery and Early Years provision, as well as retaining its specialist areas, enabling it to provide a unique primary based curriculum model with the advantage of specialist teachers and facilities as the pupils move to key stage 3 and key stage 4 and sixth form.

The new Academy will work closely with secondary and higher education providers to allow a real and quality level of choice for pupils at the point of transition either at the end of key stage 2 or the end of key stage 3. **After the outcome of the first consultation we have listened to the majority and this new provision, delivered at the Academy site, will provide education for pupils 13-18 which is in addition to the current site age range.** Developed in partnership with the region's key local employers, the curriculum will enable young people to access and attain high levels of academic and vocational qualifications directly matched to the skills and competency needs of the region's employment growth areas. The Key Stage 3 provision will bridge the gap between the end of Primary and the Year 10 Key Stage 4 entry point. The provision will cater for students with a broad range of academic ability, offering a robust educational base whilst enabling the students to experience a unique blend of academic and vocational education, linked to local Key Stage 4 provision.

The Brewers Hill motto is 'Achievement for All'; that everyone has the capability of achieving great things, the all- through 4 to 18 pulls together the key components of success, offering smaller than average class sizes, targeted support and mentoring, specialist teaching and resources.

The new Academy will further build up its ethos of supporting all pupils developing lively and enquiring minds with an ability to challenge and argue rationally. The Academy will work to utilise its existing facilities more effectively, enabling it to develop the new range of provision.

The new Academy will aim to:

Offer smaller than average class sizes.

Offer a unique all-through model.

Allow for a real choice of points in pupil transition, as well as offering an extended time in one location.

Have a planned and tailored approach to each individual pupil learning needs.

Have an emphasis on life skills including the importance of courtesy and respect.

Focus on sports, ICT, maths, technology and science as key subjects to stimulate pupil engagement and attainment.

Provide specialist science and technology areas, equipped to provide distinctive opportunities in the primary curriculum model.

Offer drama, dance and creative arts programmes which will also be distinctive in the primary provision.

Provide an environment that is safe and enjoyable, with excellent learning spaces, where children of all abilities and varied cultures can achieve their full potential and enjoy learning

This, coupled with a belief in smart, functional school uniform, blurs the lines of social and ethnic background and forges a strong sense of unity and common purpose as a platform for achievement.

Academy Admissions

The new Academy will continue to draw its pupils from within a combined catchment area defined by the postcodes associated with its existing catchment area. The application process for the new Brewers Hill School for September 2014 onwards will continue to be at year 5; once we have approval for the adoption of an alternative model it will be in accordance with Central Bedfordshire Authority's co-ordinated admissions arrangements at primary and secondary level. These will be made on the common Application Form provided and administered by the Central Bedfordshire LA.

Consultation on the Funding Agreement

The Funding Agreement is the document that sets out the obligations of the Trust to the Secretary of State for Education in running the School. It states that the Secretary of State will fund the Academy Trust to establish, open and maintain the new Academy, providing that the school delivers a balanced and broadly based curriculum, provides education for pupils of different abilities and that it draws its students wholly or mainly from the area defined within its admissions procedures. Your completion of the associated new Academy questionnaire will support the school's leadership team in formalising the Funding Agreement with the Department for Education.

Further information can be found on the School website as follows:
www.brewershillmiddle.co.uk

Questionnaire:

Please take the time to read our consultation outline and complete this questionnaire. Your feedback is very important to us. Please send completed questionnaires to:

Brewers Hill School - Academy Consultation Team, Aldbanks, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 1AJ

You can enter your feedback online by following the link on the school home page or at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yof2YA4i6km7CLO - Jecq5SxiEYjvvBsiiAT78F007Q/>

The Brewers Hill School consultation process will conclude on: 15th May 2014

Q.1 Do you support the proposal for Brewers Hill School to convert and open as an Academy as described in our consultation document?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't Know

☐

Q.2 Would you consider sending your child to the Brewers Hill School's provision (4-18yrs)?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't Know

☐

Please use the space below to give any further comments:

About you

☐

Parent / Guardian / Carer

☐

Member of staff at Brewers Hill

☐

Teacher / Governor of a local school

☐

Local resident

☐

Other : _____

Age of your child

☐

Under 4

☐

4 – 11

☐

11 – 16

☐

No child

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Signature:

Appendix I



Acting Headteacher:
Mr. D. Tinch

Streetfield Middle School
Dunstable Road
Caddington
Beds
LU1 4BB

Tel: 01582 661342

Fax: 01582 477870

Email: office@streetfield.beds.sch.uk

Website: www.streetfield.beds.sch.uk

**A PREPARATORY DOCUMENT ON OUR
PROPOSAL TO REORGANISE**

**STREETFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL,
DUNSTABLE ROAD, CADDINGTON,
BEDFORDSHIRE, LU1 4BB**

FROM 9 - 13 YEARS

TO BECOME

STREETFIELD LYCEUM

4 – 11 YEARS

**With the addition of Nursery Provision for
6 months – 4 years**

**to provide feedback to the Council's
consultation regarding the closure of the
school.**

PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to ask for your views regarding our proposal to close Streetfield Middle School from 9 -13 to re-open as a 4 - 11 years, purpose built Primary School and to include Nursery Provision for 6 months – 4 years on the same site. This will enable us to contribute an alternative, viable proposal in response to the Council's consultation regarding the closure of the school.

As part of this consultation we would also like to propose renaming Streetfield Middle School as 'The Streetfield Lyceum'.

BACKGROUND

Streetfield Middle School provides well for its pupils. 50% of our pupils come from outside our catchment area from Dunstable, its surrounding areas and villages. We also provide a 6 pupil specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

We believe that, given the complicated way in which the town has changed age ranges generally, our current children and future generations of children and families would benefit from the stability of a primary school on the same site/campus as the likely destination secondary school (Manshead Secondary School).

Our proposal provides a very clear 'learning journey' path for parents, tidies up transfer and transition issues and brings them into line with the primary/secondary model being adopted elsewhere in the town.

Contextual Position

There has been much change in the organisation of schooling in Dunstable, with a significant number of schools now being Academies and a move to a two-tier system of education.

- St. Mary's Catholic Lower School, Hadrian Academy, St. Christopher's Academy and Barnfield Vale Academy were granted permission to become 4-11 primary schools from September 2013. All Saints Academy, a 13-18 upper school was granted permission by the Secretary of State to extend its age range to 11-18 from September 2013.
- Ardley Hill, Lark Rise and St. Augustine's Academies, Kensworth VC and Ashton St. Peter's lower schools were granted permission to become 4-11 primary schools from September 2014.
- Manshead Upper and Queensbury Academy were granted permission to become 11-18 secondary schools from September 2014.

PROPOSAL

The Governing Body is requesting that Central Bedfordshire Council consider its request to change the age range structure of the school to enable it to provide primary schooling for pupils from 4 – 11 years together with nursery and pre-school provision aged 6 months – 4 years.

The proposed process will begin in September 2015. It provides for a three year transition programme for those pupils who joined the school expecting a 'middle school 9-13 experience'. Pupils who enrol in September 2014 (and those who enrolled in 2013, 2012 and 2011) can remain in a middle school environment at Streetfield if that is their wish. From September 2018 Streetfield will have fully converted to a 4-11 primary school with nursery provision for 6 months – 4 years.

It is proposed that there would be the following stages of implementation starting in September 2014:

The figures/numbers used for 2013/2014 all years and 2015 Year 6, 7 and 8, 2016 Years 7 and 8 and 2017 Year 8 – are based on projected numbers provided by CBC .

Projections for Years 7 and 8 from 2016 onwards are subject to change with regard to in- year admissions and exit to secondary schools.

Year	September 2013	September 2014	September 2015	September 2016	September 2017	September 2018
Nursery- Pre- School 6 mth – 4 years			30-45	30-45	30-60	30-60
ASD provision	Cadunfield Class - The ASD Provision is for 6 pupils age appropriate to the school. Currently it is for age 9 -13 this would move to 5-11 from 2018. The number is reflected in the PAN for each year group - 4+ -Year 6 – so it does not appear separately because often the cohort is not evenly spread across all year groups.					
Early Years 4+			60	60	60	60
Year 1			60	60	60	60
Year 2			60	60	60	60
Year 3			60	60	60	60
Year 4			60	60	60	60
Year 5	78	22	60	60	60	60
Year 6	86	78	22	60	60	60
Year 7	85	29	26	22		
Year 8	114	85	29	26	22	
TOTAL	363	214	437	468	442	420

- September 2014 – It is estimated that around half of our current Year 6 pupils will move to secondary school at the end of the school year. (Though CBC data indicates more than half may transfer – the fact remains that the collection of this data did not allow for parents changing their minds or double booking – so it is unclear if CBC numbers are accurate.) The remaining Year 7 children will complete their middle school education in the current setting.
- September 2015 – Open enrolment for Nursery, Early Years and Years 1-6. Current Year 5 children to remain in present setting and move into Year 6. Remaining Year 7 pupils and Year 8 pupils continue their middle school education.
- September 2016 – Remaining Year 7 and 8 pupils continue their middle school education if they so wish. Pupils in Year 6 will transfer to secondary school.
- September 2017 - Remaining Year 8 pupils complete their middle school education and transfer to their chosen secondary provider.
- September 2018 - Streetfield Lyceum has pupils from ages 6 months – 11 years only.

Throughout this transition period 2015 - 2018:

We will continue to take children who have moved to the area from another school or who do not have a school provision through the usual mid phase admissions process providing we do not exceed our admission number.

OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSAL

- To significantly improve the learning journey for pupils from 6 months to 18 years by ensuring the continuity of provision that two-tier systems bring on a single campus.
- To improve the academic performance of all pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 and thus at GCSE (or equivalent) by being wholly responsible and accountable for the learning and teaching of reading, writing, communication and maths in addition to general subjects and social, emotional and behavioural development.
- To significantly improve the 'personal development' outcomes for children.
- To provide a unique and innovative learning journey using state of the art, well equipped and fully functioning specialist facilities and teaching for science, sport, food, textiles, design, art, wood, metal, plastics, electronics and computing, that will combine the best of Primary and Middle School models for learning.
- To sustain high standards of education and maintain children's wellbeing by offering secure transition from primary to secondary providing secure continuity potentially from 6 months to 18 years – on one campus.
- To enable more collaborative and positive partnerships to ensure high quality, localised educational provision.
- To offer all pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 an exciting and innovative curriculum provision that meets their developmental and academic needs.

- To improve the quality of available parental choice so that a primary and secondary education from nursery to age 18 can be achieved on the same campus and to ease the difficulty of parents transporting children of different ages to and from school.

We believe that this move will also:

- Help to raise standards and improve outcomes by the end of Key Stage 2.
- Ensure that we provide specialist attention and expertise to groups of children who are talented, able and gifted or who have special educational needs, are vulnerable, or are in some way under performing at the time that they most need it – Early Years and Key Stage 1.
- Provide stability, consistency and continuity for children in their primary years, through our ethos, curriculum, teaching and learning organisation.
- Ensure our school is based around Dunstable community's needs.
- Provide equal access for all pupils to the highest quality primary school education regardless of faith, creed or culture.
- Provide specialist teaching primary education for all children.
- Improve transition for children on transfer.

Special Educational Needs

Changing age range will have a positive impact for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and for vulnerable learners which will build on the current good practice already established in our school. This is because:

- We have the expertise in early intervention, resources and teaching pedagogy to support children who find learning difficult.
- We believe that our professional knowledge of how children learn will enable us to provide effective intervention.
- We will continue to support the provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- We will continue to support our 'Learning Centre' (Inclusion Centre) for pupils with social and behavioural difficulties.
- Pupils in the ASD and Learning Centre make good progress as recognised by Ofsted in our last inspection (December 2013).
- Our exceptionally effective and positive transition programme for pupils in Year 8 is easily transferable to Year 6.

SCHOOL CAPACITY

Streetfield Middle School currently has an admissions number of 130 pupils per year group from Year 5 to Year 8, 520 pupils in total. We also provide a 6 pupil specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder whose numbers are included in this figure.

We propose to change our PAN to 60 per year group (2 form entry age 4-11) with the addition of places to provide a nursery and pre-school provision. The 4-11 part of the school would have a maximum capacity of 420 pupils in the original main brick built footprint of the school. The reduction of the PAN from 520 to 420 would enable the temporary classrooms, that were introduced in 1997 – 2003 to accommodate a sudden influx of pupils experienced at the time, to be used for the Nursery and Pre-School provision we are proposing.

The school has enough available classrooms, utilities and facilities to cater for the age range proposed. There will be no need for significant capital spending on new buildings.

The proposal would involve the refurbishment of some classrooms, playground and toilets to meet the needs of younger children. We have a rolling programme for refurbishment maintenance and this will take into account furniture, utilities and equipment.

We will be organising imaginative and innovative ways to manage the differing needs regarding lunchtimes, playtime and arrival and departure times.

Any building /refurbishment work required for these changes would be subject to the normal planning permission process, which would include consulting local residents, the Highways Agency and other interested parties.

The cost for refurbishment will be covered by re-designating the rolling programme for general repairs and replacement of furniture and utilities in the budget.

TRANSITION

In implementing this proposal we would continue to look to provide opportunities and continuity for all children in our community and beyond. If pupils stay with us throughout the primary phase we will support the transition at age 11 to the secondary school of their parents' choice. Our aim is to provide the best education possible and to be fully committed to the raising of standards through high quality teaching and learning.

We have analysed our present staffing structure and expertise and we have considered the transitional arrangements accordingly.

EXTENDED SERVICES

The proposal will give the opportunity for joint extended school provision reflecting the needs of the community and the aspirations of school leaders, including:-

- Transition support for pupils, schools and families.
- Shared training for parents and staff.
- A range of after-school activities.
- A commitment to wrap around care with breakfast clubs and after school clubs that fit the needs and aspirations of busy parents.
- Holiday activities.
- Workshops to support adult learning and encourage family learning by developing a Parent Centre that will enable parents to share and learn from each other and to further their own aspirations in the wider world of 'learning for life'.
- Support for vulnerable families and pupils.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Remain a 9 - 13 Middle School?

Not viable – pupil numbers would be too small to provide an adequate curriculum.

Become 9 - 16? Or 11 - 16?

Not viable - expert research has shown that for a viable curriculum to operate at age 14 - 16 then the staffing structure requires around 900 pupils

Why? There is a viable 11-18 provision 50 metres across the road.

Closing Streetfield as an Educational Institution altogether?

The school is in exceptionally good, robust and usable condition, whole roof refurbishment is currently being completed as is the final round of replacement doors and windows. It should remain as an education institution. Its facilities are not suitable for students over the age of 14.

The Process

The alteration of type of school must follow a prescribed democratic decision making process. The following table outlines the indicative timeline to change Streetfield Middle School.

In addition we will commission an independent enquiry as to general parental preferences regarding our proposal to ensure the viability of our plans. As well as this document, you are very welcome to enquire for further details directly via our dedicated email address: consultation@streetfield.beds.sch.uk

You are invited to provide written responses to the consultation – see attached and our website for details.

You are also invited to meetings as part of this consultation. Please see the attached schedule for consultation.

A consultation meeting will be held on 3rd March 2014 at 7.00 pm with the Governors of the school to discuss the proposal.

Action	Start Date	Completion date
Consultation starts	Monday 24 th February 2014	Monday 24 th March 2014
Meeting with staff	Wednesday 26 th February 2014, 4.00 p.m.	
Meeting with parents, community and other stakeholders	Wednesday 5 th March 2014 , 7.00 p.m. in the school hall	
Governing Body consider outcome of consultation and produce a report for Central Bedfordshire Council	By Friday 4 th April 2014	
Governing Body submit their report to Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the possible viable alternative to the proposed closure of the school	Friday 25 th April 2014	
Meeting of the Central Bedfordshire Council's Executive to consider the outcome of the Council's consultation on the proposed closure of the school and other viable alternatives that have been submitted	19 th August 2014	
Proposed implementation	with effect from 1st September 2015	

STREETFIELD LYCEUM

EXPLORE DISCOVER ENQUIRE APPLY

A new kind primary school for Dunstable

4 -11 years

Nursery and Pre-School 6 months – 4 years

Breakfast and after school clubs and activities

“Putting children and childhood first”





Our Philosophy

Explore Discover Enquire Apply

The way we learn – the way we grow

From the time that we are born we **explore** our world through the way we look, listen, touch, taste and smell.

This is the way we **discover** new things.

Our exploration and discovery prompt us to **enquire** and ask questions.

The answers encourage us to **apply** what we have learned to new situations.

This is the way we learn. This is the way we grow.

Any parent will recognise these characteristics in their own child's growth and development.

Greek Philosopher Aristotle studied at Plato's Academy. He did not accept that we are empty vessels who just need to be filled with facts and knowledge provided by a teacher. So he set up his own school – The Lyceum.

He taught his students to go out and about and methodically investigate and describe the world in a logical, scientific and creative way – to **explore, discover, enquire and apply**.

He believed that there are no limits to what can be studied and, therefore, no limits to what we can learn. So do we. This informs our ethos, aspiration and methodology at Streetfield Lyceum.

Every child a successful learner!

What can parents expect?

An understanding of how your child learns and grows and...

... a wide-ranging, adventurous, creative and cultural educational experience.

No child is an island complete unto himself or herself:

- Your child has talents that demand to be identified and nurtured
- Your child has an eagerness to learn all about the world
- Your child wants to know more
- Your child wants to make friends
- Your child wants to be liked by other children
- Your child wants to feel good about him/herself
- Your child needs attention
- Your child needs order
- Your child needs structure
- Your child needs routine
- Your child is special
- Your child is a 'unique individual'
- Your child is part of society
- Your child is not alone

Streetfield Lyceum will provide your child with:

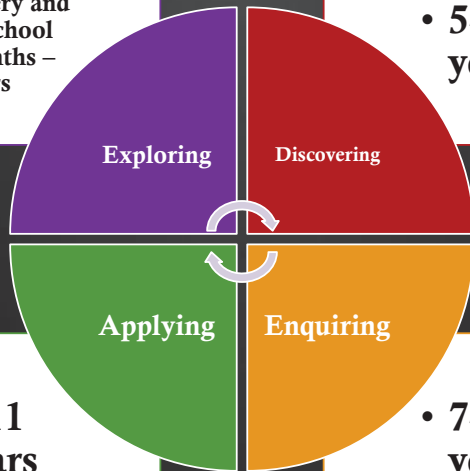
- Opportunities to
 - Succeed
 - Learn from mistakes
 - Achieve
 - Try and try again
- Qualified teachers
- Exciting teaching and facilities
- Quality learning in and outside the classroom
- Nurture and care
- Regular but non-intrusive assessment
- Extra curricular activities
- Cultural experiences

Streetfield Lyceum will enable your child to:

- Learn to the best of their ability
- Learn how to become the kind of person that others want to be with
- Be the best that they can be and thrive

The Streetfield Lyceum Model

• Nursery and
Pre School
6 months –
5 years



• 5-7
years

• 9-11
years

• 7-9
years

The 'four stages of
learning' that your
child experiences.

The 'four stages of
learning' that
Streetfield Lyceum
is modelled upon.

Lyceum Learning

Nature versus Nurture?

Streetfield Lyceum promotes life-long learning
for all children and their families.

As any parent with more than one child knows,
in nature:

Children do not learn in the same way;

Children do not reach milestones in physical
development, social development, talking,
reading, writing, numbers in the same way at
the same time;

Children grow and develop naturally at different
rates.

This is the way of nature.

Streetfield Lyceum is a nurturing school.

Nurture is the key to ensuring that your child
becomes a confident and natural learner unafraid of
making a mistake and ready to learn from that
mistake.

Nurture is the key to ensuring that your child can
'catch-up', 'keep up' and 'get ahead' at those
different times when your child will face personal
challenges to achieve his/her personal best.

Nurture is the best way to help your child recognise
his/her natural strengths and weaknesses and to
move forward.

At Streetfield Lyceum Nurture supports Nature.

Your child can and will become a successful learner.

Your child will find
that learning is not
always easy all of
the time.

Streetfield Lyceum's model of learning will help your child to achieve her/his potential by making sure that he /she is offered different styles of teaching and learning that mirror your child's learning needs.

These needs will change as your child grows through nursery to early years and from there to infants and finally towards independent learning in the lower and upper junior setting.

By the time your child reaches Year 6 she/he will be prepared academically, socially and emotionally to become a confident, self-reliant and independent learner equipped for the challenge of secondary school and the teenage years.

Every child will be a successful
learner.



Streetfield Lyceum, although a primary, has all of the fully-equipped facilities found in any good secondary school with the specialist teaching to match: Food, Textiles, Art and Technology Workshops, Computer and Music suites, Gym, Science Labs, Hall and Dining Room. Hot meals are cooked and served everyday from the very large school kitchen.

How will Streetfield Lyceum identify and meet your child's needs?

By combining excellent teaching with our sound understanding of the way children grow, develop and learn best in line with the national curriculum.

Exploring
What is this?



Nursery and Early Years

(6months - 4 years)

Discovering
Can I do this?



Key Stage 1

Infants

5-7 years

(Years 1 and 2)

Enquiring and Applying
Yes, I can and I will!



Key Stage 2

Lower and Upper Juniors

7-11 Years

(Years 3 to 6)

Through organised and free play:

- Communication and language development
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy development
- Mathematical development
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Art and design
- Computing
- Design and technology
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical education
- Religious education

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Art and design
- Computing
- Design and technology
- Modern foreign languages
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical education
- Religious education

How does Streetfield Lyceum 'join up' your child's educational experience?



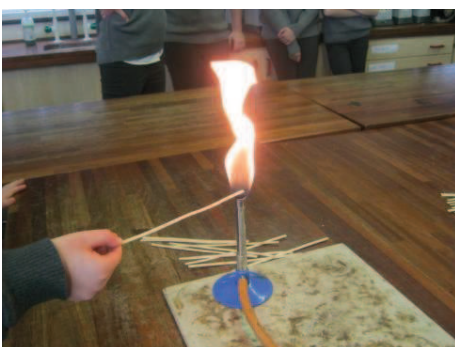
Teaching and Learning – child-centred from the outset

- We start where your child starts and build from there
- We identify any gaps in learning and close them – quickly
- We challenge your child to aim high and higher still
- We expect your child to exceed her/his and your expectations.



“Working Together to Achieve Success”

- With parents
- With the wide variety of local authority services
- With our local community and schools.



Excellent, fully equipped and functioning facilities that enable:

- Your child to explore, discover, enquire and apply new skills and knowledge with specialist teaching
- Your child to prepare for a seamless transition to the secondary schooling that is available on the same campus (Manshead).



A multi-faith creed and culture ethos that:

- Celebrates diversity and all that we have in common
- Identifies and overcomes barriers to learning and well-being
- Promotes an optimistic and positive outlook
- Encourages a love of life-long learning.

STREETFIELD LYCEUM

“Working Together To Achieve Success”

The British field poppy is our emblem. It grows on our site and in surrounding fields.

In Classical Greece it was regarded as a symbol of the promise of resurrection. In some far eastern cultures it is a symbol of peace and wisdom.

In our time it has become associated with remembrance, particularly on the battlefields of Europe.

It is a hardy perennial, thriving especially well following upheaval and change...

Much like Streetfield.

Streetfield Lyceum

Dunstable Road, Caddington, Bedfordshire. LU1 4BB

Telephone: 01582 661342

Email: office@streetfield.beds.sch.uk

Website: www.streetfield.beds.sch.uk



Streetfield Middle School

DUNSTABLE ROAD, CADDINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU1 4BB

PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS
TO CHANGE FROM A
MIDDLE SCHOOL (9 - 13 YEARS)
TO BECOME

STREETFIELD LYCEUM (4 – 11 YEARS)

With the addition of Nursery Provision for
6 months – 4 years

to provide feedback to the Council's consultation
regarding the closure of the school

D. Brown (Chair of Governors)

Signed:Date:

D. Tinch (Acting Headteacher)

Signed:Date:

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

1 - Name of Proposer

(Local Education Authority or Governing Body)

Governing Body

2 - School Name

Streetfield Middle School

3 - School Address

Dunstable Road

Caddington

Beds

LU1 4BB

4 - Description of proposed prescribed alteration

To change from a 9-13 middle school to a 4-11 primary school with additional provision for Nursery (6 months – 4 years) and a provision for 6 statemented pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder age 5 -11 years.

5 - The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented - If they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage

According to LA Data:

- September 2014 – It is estimated that around half of our current Year 6 pupils will move to secondary school at the end of the school year. (Though CBC data indicates more than half may transfer – the fact remains that the collection of this data did not allow for parents changing their minds or double booking – so it is unclear if CBC numbers are accurate.) The remaining Year 7 children will complete their middle school education in the current setting.
- September 2015 – Open enrolment for Nursery, Early Years and Years 1-6. Current Year 5 children to remain in present setting and move into Year 6. Remaining Year 7 pupils and Year 8 pupils continue their middle school education.
- September 2016 – Remaining Year 7 and 8 pupils continue their middle school education if they so wish. Pupils in Year 6 will transfer to secondary school.
- September 2017 - Remaining Year 8 pupils complete their middle school education and transfer to their chosen secondary provider.
- September 2018 - Streetfield Lyceum has pupils from ages 6 months – 11 years only.

Throughout this transition period 2015 - 2018:

We will continue to take children who have moved to the area from another school or who do not have a school provision through the usual mid phase admissions process, providing we do not exceed our admission number.

6 – Consideration of consultation and representation period - evidence of demand for the proposed alteration, including details of consultation(s) carried out, meetings held and responses received.

The consultation period started on 24th February 2014 and closed on 24th March 2014.

- Streetfield held meetings with staff (6/1/2014), parents (28/1/2014, 5/3/2014) to discuss the proposal and it was adopted by governors (3/2/2014).
- The consultation was advertised in Central Essentials No.192 dated 13th February 2014 together with a link to the school website to access the consultation document.
- The following documents were published on the school's website:-
 - *Letter (24/1/2014) sent to all our current and prospective parents regarding the Consultation and inviting them to a meeting on 28th January 2014 at the school.*
 - *Our "So ..." booklet explaining the background behind the Consultation*
 - *The presentation made at the parents' meeting on 28th January 2014 describing our plan for the future of Streetfield.*
 - *The letter sent to all parents on 31st January 2014 detailing our plans for the future*
 - *Our consultation document*
 - *The link to our on-line questionnaire.*
- Every child in the school was issued with a paper copy of the Consultation Document (14/2/2014) and questionnaire (24/2/2014) to take home.
- Reminders to complete the survey have been sent out to parents via Newsletters and email.
- The proposal and survey were placed on the Schools Learning Platform for parents, governors and staff to access.
- The Consultation Document and survey were advertised on the Dunstable and District NCT website to invite expectant parents and parents of young children to take part so that the school could see if there was a demand for the Nursery, Early Years and future provision as well as current school age education.
- Flyers for the consultation and survey link were distributed through the Dunstable and District NCT Nearly New Sale goodie bags on 1st March 2014 to reach other/expectant parents who were not members of the NCT.
- Staff distributed flyers advertising the consultation and survey to playgroups and to friends and families with young children in the area.
- A half page advert was placed in the Dunstable Gazette on 26th February 2014 regarding the public meeting at the school on 5th March 2014 inviting people to come and find out what our plans were for the future.

Special note about our Consultation and the LA consultation process

Having listened to advice from Officers and learning that the consultation is NOT a referendum nor a vote and that what matters most is what people have to say, we made the following decisions regarding the process for both the LA and our own consultation:

- We would **not** ask pupils to contribute by filling in consultation forms (we are confident that we could get them to say whatever we wanted – but the fact is they are not the decision makers and their view can only be about what they currently experience, or have experienced, and this is about the future).
- We would remain open and transparent with parents – give them all the information and allow for a free contribution. (Whilst we encouraged everyone to take part we did NOT go out and pursue contributions.)
- We split the way our own consultation could be responded to into two methods using the same questionnaire and using an independent survey provider:
 1. The paper copy was issued to each family currently in the school and to all staff
 2. The online version was for members of the public and the local community.

This seemed to be a fairer way of ascertaining genuine views rather than engineering a skewed result.

The statistical details of our survey are under Section 8 – ‘Demand’

The written comments received from parents and the general public are as follows:

Parent and general public comments on Survey to become Streetfield Lyceum in 2015
I think it should stay as it is three tier as kids understand from lower school to middle that they are growing and when going up to upper it is for growing into an adult.
I would like to know more detail before commenting on my own children but in principle I think this is a good idea. Streetfield has the potential to offer primary school education an outstanding boost with their resources and staff. This should be explored.
Our lower school cannot offer science labs, art dept, gym/sport, cookery dept etc that Streetfield could offer as a lower/primary school 4-11 years, R-Y6. We would be looking elsewhere when our youngest reaches Y4 and current lower if Streetfield cannot be an option. We want Streetfield to be a primary, our eldest at Manshead and youngest on same complex.
Unfortunately my child won't be at Streetfield in 2015 as he is currently in Year 8. However, as a parent of a current pupil who has made wonderful progress during his time at Streetfield I would still like my views on the future of the school to be heard. The closure of Streetfield would be a massive loss to the children and parents of Dunstable and the surrounding villages.
I do not know if I will leave my son in Years 7 & 8. He is happy at the school but I will see how my eldest suits Manshead and how my 10 year old performs at Streetfield.

My children are leaving the school this year. I would like to thank Streetfield staff for their fantastic teaching. I cannot fault the school at all. I wish you all the very best for future years and hope you are able to take Streetfield as a primary school as you are proposing.
Streetfield is an amazing school. The staff are equally amazing. My child since being in Streetfield, currently in Y6, has made a dramatic amount of progress. He has grown into a lovely young man and that is because of Streetfield. Their new plans will only encourage more children to develop into smart, proud, caring, well-educated young people - there is not a school like it for miles. Our community needs this school.
I only have one child currently in Y5 but I think the new proposal proposed by Streetfield is a fantastic idea which will solve many families' problems having their children on one site. If the proposal had been available earlier, I would have had no hesitation in sending him to the new provision being offered. I think it will be an asset to the town.
Good luck with the battle.
I feel Streetfield would offer a fantastic opportunity as a primary school for my daughter. It has great facilities and an excellent site. Space for a new primary would not be limited unlike some of the local lower schools that have changed to primary. I would be happy to transfer my daughter in 2015 especially as my oldest son will be at Manshead and therefore on the same campus which would be easier for getting both to and from school.
I would prefer that Streetfield go up to Year 8. I am not 100% happy for my child to go to Manshead at Y7 but I do understand that things are changing. I would find the after school facility very useful.
Although my daughter is in Y8 I still support Streetfield as I have a son in Y5.
My child is in Y6 so have decided to make for a secondary school if Streetfield had changed early he may have stayed. Good luck with future plans.
The education and social skills that my child has achieved whilst studying at Streetfield have been valuable and allowed him to deal/cope with all the changes that have been created with the uncertainties of Streetfield. I personally would have preferred for my child to continue with his education at middle school and would recommend Streetfield as a great school.
As a parent of a child with special needs I chose this school even though I live in Houghton Regis. I would be very worried if the LA lose this expertise to the detriment of our children. Streetfield support our family's and child's needs fantastically and I would not want him to go anywhere else.
I would be glad if Streetfield changed into a primary school. It has a lot to offer their students. I would send my three youngest to the school as I would hopefully have my other two daughters attending Manshead along with my eldest who by then will be attending 6th form.
Our child is currently in Y6 due to his SEN issues he would not be able to emotionally deal with a secondary at this stage and will be staying at Streetfield until the end of Y8. We would use breakfast and after schools as well as holiday provision.

Streetfield is a great school.
If I had children of primary school age I would love for them to attend Streetfield as a primary as I feel that the opportunities that they have to offer would be wonderful. The convenience of all children accessing the same site would be great.
I support Streetfield and I would send my 3 children to this school as I believe it has so much to offer its students as well as its parents.
Would much rather see the school kept open as a middle school.
Streetfield is a wonderful school with an inclusive ethos which has helped my son like school. I think that Streetfield needs to work with the other schools on the site to provide a 2-18 education option (along the lines of CVS). I think the fact that one school is a Catholic school, one a community school and one C of E school will make this complicated. Surely a joined up approach including safeguarding, family worker etc. is what is best for children and their families?
As a parent who has recently moved to Dunstable because of the original layout of the three tiered school system I am bitterly disappointed to witness the changes. Mixing 12 year old children with 18 year old (children) does not fill me with confidence in that younger children will be exposed to behaviours of young encourageable adults. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
I believe the governors and SMT are acting in the best interests of the present and future pupils.
I am very happy for my child to continue his education at Streetfield as it is. I do not feel need for any changes. It is a well equipped school with some great teachers.
If the LA close the school what provisions will they put in place for children that attend the ASD unit? There is very little provision for children with learning disabilities in Bedfordshire as it is.
I have one daughter who will be leaving Streetfield this year to go to Manshead School. However if I had more children I would send them to Streetfield. It is an excellent school and my daughter has thrived there.
I support Streetfield in becoming a primary school because it has the specialist equipment and facilities to support children in all Key Stages. The staff at the school are dedicated to helping all children whatever their background. All staff encourage children no matter what level of learning by supporting and encouraging.
I hope a fantastic school (that Streetfield is) is allowed to survive and thrive. I am unhappy that schools such as Ardley Hill that do not have facilities for Year 5 & 6 children are seen as a suitable solution by the council. I want my child at Streetfield to make use of all the current facilities. New houses, 60 and 80 (proposed) are being built next to the school. New residents will need a school. Streetfield will need to remain an educational establishment. The council can't sell the site for development, when it is situated between two other schools.
My daughter is in Y6 so some of the questions don't apply to my situation. She is really happy at Streetfield and wants to stay until Year 8. I have my concerns regarding the numbers for Year 7 in September 2014 and worry about her education, but I am also concerned that she isn't ready to go to a secondary school in September 14 and requires more nurturing to prepare her for the transition in September 2016.

<p>My child will leave Streetfield in July 2015 as she will be in Year 8 and my second daughter is already in a primary school. However, Streetfield would have been a choice as they have most definitely been a great choice for my eldest daughter who is doing extremely well (level 5/6 in Year 7) and loves going to school. It saddens me that Streetfield have been 'forced' into this situation and hope the LA can see what a valuable part of Dunstable community it really is and fully support it becoming a primary.</p>
<p>I think the way the school is at the moment should be left as it is works well and plenty of other schools around. Interrupts children and most importantly education especially children who have difficulties to change.</p>
<p>We currently have a child in Year 7 at Streetfield and have selected Streetfield as our school of choice for our youngest child to transfer to in September 2014 when he moves into Year 5. We have been thrilled with Streetfield from our eldest son's first day and haven't looked back since. He embraces everything that is on offer to him with such enthusiasm and pride it overwhelms us. He has such pride in his school it is breathtaking and Streetfield's ethos has meant that he has been given the opportunity to grow not just on an academic level but also on a personal one too. If it had been possible to transfer our youngest son to Streetfield any earlier we would have done so in a heartbeat, that is how strongly we support this school. The proposed change in age range from a middle to a primary are extremely exciting and will mean that Dunstable will finally have a primary school that will lead the way in the town! We do not have any younger children to follow our second son, but if we did we would have no hesitation in placing them at this new primary school also. Dunstable currently has lower schools trying to cram in extra classes into schools buildings that are not designed for that purpose, whereas Streetfield already has the facilities ready and waiting with plenty of space both inside and out to accommodate both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children with very little need for adaptation. Infant and junior pupils who attend this school would benefit from food tech rooms, an art studio, design tech rooms, science labs and exceptional sports facilities that are not available at the majority of the lower/primary schools in Dunstable. With the new housing currently being built on Streetfield's doorstep and the increasing numbers of primary school children needing places we believe Streetfield's new primary school would be perfectly placed and there would most definitely be a demand for places at this school. The vast majority of pupils who attend Streetfield naturally progress through to Manshead and with Manshead now being a secondary school this natural progression would be able to continue with children leaving Streetfield at Year 6 to join Manshead in Year 7. For those parents who have children in nursery, primary and secondary age groups having both schools on one site would be extremely advantageous both to the parents but also to the local traffic network as it would lessen the travelling around our town, by removing journeys to various different schools locations, a 'win win' situation on many levels! We know that Streetfield is the best place for our younger son to be in September and we truly hope that the school gets the opportunity they deserve to continue to provide a fantastic school experience to the children of Dunstable.</p>
<p>If you change my daughter will be moved to your school.</p>
<p>The proposal put forward is fantastic and would be a breath of fresh air for Dunstable a much needed provision. For years I have had to juggle childcare from when my children were young, as babies and starting school, travel times and childcare availability impacted on work commitments, so having a good facility like this on one campus would alleviate so much pressure and problems for parents. I would not hesitate to use this facility and don't think I would look at any others.</p>

7 – Education standards and diversity of provision - the effect that this proposal would have on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area and also on the local community

Diversity of Provision:

The location of the school serves a diverse community and provides for two quite distinct geographical and socio-economic areas.

The impact will be to provide an extremely rich and vibrant community that will encourage and promote social mobility and raise the aspirations and expectations of all pupils and parents.

It is also on the same campus site as a Roman Catholic primary school and a Church of England secondary school.

As a non-denominational school that provides for every creed and culture, Streetfield will complement not compromise the denominational aspirations and provision of the partner schools and their parents.

Educational Standards

The proposed provision dovetails with Government and Ofsted pronouncements about the joining up of pre-school opportunities with formal schooling at 4+.

The ability to provide high quality and tightly focussed broad learning opportunities for children from 6 months to 11 years has never been more important.

As the current curriculum changes and evolves Streetfield will be at the forefront – as a new provision staff will not have to ‘unlearn’ past practice – instead we will be able to focus intently upon the new teaching, learning and assessment curriculum expectations and aspirations from the outset.

The specialist provision and, specialist teaching, that we will provide will be second to none in the town and surrounding villages.

The school houses purpose built, fully maintained, fully equipped (and independent from general classrooms) facilities such as:

- Art
- Food
- Textiles
- and Design rooms

together with a very large, single purpose

- Gym
- two Science Labs
- two Computer Suites
- Music Room and two individual music practice rooms
- Modern Language specialist rooms.

We also have a fully functioning large, and well equipped school kitchen that can provide hot meals for

up to 500 pupils on a daily basis.

Extensive school grounds that include:

- play spaces for up to 500 children and can be easily adapted for the new proposed age ranges
- sport and play fields that will allow for every type of team, athletic field and track sport available with specialist sport teaching
- the sport premium is accruing to provide for Outside Adventurous Activities suitable for all age ranges 6 months to 11 years in a specially designated area of the school grounds.

8 – Demand

General Comments:

It is not clear what the impact of the new housing at Eleanor Gardens and proposed new housing adjacent to the campus site will have upon pupil numbers but it is unlikely to decrease them.

In the normal evolution of housing estates the ‘fallow’ period of lower pupil numbers that has beset Downside as the estate has grown up, is beginning to ease.

It looks likely that there will be an increase in younger families over the next 5 -10 years but this is notoriously difficult to pin down – it should however be an important consideration given past experiences.

In the meantime the additional choice offered to parents with the increased number of primary schools should encourage us all to raise standards further.

Specific Comments

There are two separate consultations:

1. The LA proposal to close Streetfield Middle School
2. Streetfield’s proposal to restructure as Primary School

How we conducted our consultation is detailed in section 6

The LA consultation documents handed in at the school and the online responses are now with Officers of the LA.

What follows below is our consultation regarding the proposed change from a middle school to a primary school in two sections:

1. The broad interpretations of our findings from the survey.
2. A chart showing the actual data.

1. Broad Interpretations of our findings from our consultation;

There is significant demand and support for:

- An all through 6 months–11 years and 11-19 years provision on the same campus site that includes

Streetfield providing:

- Nursery
- Early Years
- 4-11
- Wrap around care – breakfast
- Wrap around care – after school
- Provision for children during the school holidays

There is little support (5%) for the closure of Streetfield altogether with 95% against.

2. Statistical Evidence from the consultation:

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRES TO STREETFIELD'S CONSULTATION TO BECOME A LYCEUM

	Question	Paper	On Line	Total	% of people who answered the question
1	Would you send your child to Streetfield if we provide the following from September 2015?				
a	Nursery	42	65	107	
b	Early Years	43	73	116	
c	Infants	48	74	122	
d	Junior	82	88	170	
e	Kids Club (including breakfast)	53	79	132	
f	Kids Club (including tea)	66	81	147	
g	Kids Club Provision during School Holidays	56	79	135	
	TOTAL Nursery - Junior	215	300	515	
2	Does the fact Streetfield is a separate school from Manshead Secondary School (but on the same campus) make it more likely that..				
a	Your transport issues will be easier to manage if your children are of both secondary and primary age?	Y - 77 N - 19	Y - 99 N - 21	Y - 176 N - 40	Y - 81% N - 19%
b	Your child's transfer and transition from primary to secondary will be easier?	Y - 90 N - 7	Y - 104 N - 18	Y - 194 N - 25	Y - 89% N - 11%
c	You will feel more confident that your child's education is less likely to be disrupted by the other changes in the Dunstable area? Yes	Y - 81 N - 11	Y - 103 N - 18	Y - 184 N -	Y - 83% N - 17%

				40	
3	With all the consultations that are going on at the moment				
a	Do you support Streetfield's Plan to become a 4-11 Primary with additional nursery provision and Kids' Clubs from 2015?	Y - 103 N - 3	Y - 108 N - 15	Y - 211 N - 18	Y - 92% N - 8%
b	Do you agree with the proposed timetable for change?	Y - 83 N - 4	Y - 99 N - 20	Y - 182 N - 24	Y - 88% N - 12%
c	Do you support the LA's proposed plans to close Streetfield altogether from 2016?	Y - 5 N - 96	Y - 6 N - 118	Y - 11 N - 214	Y - 5% N - 95%
4	Will you send your child to Streetfield in 2015?				
	Nursery	11	23	34	
	Early Years	6	28	34	
	Year 1	5	14	19	
	Year 2	9	11	20	
	Year 3	6	14	20	
	Year 4	10	7	17	
	Year 5	21	7	28	
	Year 6	31	15	46	
	TOTAL	99	119	218	
5	Where do you live?				
	LU1	1	12	13	
	LU4	0	4	4	
	LU5	48	35	83	
	LU6	54	58	112	
	MK45	3		3	
	Elsewhere	1	14	15	
	Blanks	2		2	
	Total	109	123	232	
26/03/2014					

9 – School size - details of the number of pupils in school at the date of publication of this proposal, the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration

Current school population (27/3/2014)

Year	No. Pupils
5	76
6	87
7	83
8	111
Total	357

Total school capacity 520.

The proposed process will begin in September 2015. It provides for a three year transition programme for those pupils who joined the school expecting a 'middle school 9-13 experience'. Pupils who enrol in September 2014 (and those who enrolled in 2013, 2012 and 2011) can remain in a middle school environment at Streetfield if that is their wish. From September 2018 Streetfield will have fully converted to a 4-11 primary school with nursery provision for 6 months – 4 years.

It is proposed that there would be the following stages of implementation starting in September 2014:

The figures/numbers used for 2013/2014 all years and 2015 Year 6, 7 and 8, 2016 Years 7 and 8 and 2017 Year 8 – are based on projected numbers provided by CBC .

Projections for Years 7 and 8 from 2016 onwards are subject to change with regard to casual in-year admissions and exit to secondary schools.

Year	September 2013	September 2014	September 2015	September 2016	September 2017	September 2018
Nursery- Pre-School 6 months – 4 years			30-45	30-45	30-60	30-60
ASD provision	Cadunfield Class - The ASD Provision is for 6 pupils age appropriate to the school. Currently it is for age 9 -13 this would move to 5-11 from 2018. The number is reflected in the PAN for each year group - 4+ - Year 6 – so it does not appear separately because often the cohort is not evenly spread across all year groups.					

Early Years 4+			60	60	60	60	
Year 1			60	60	60	60	
Year 2			60	60	60	60	
Year 3			60	60	60	60	
Year 4			60	60	60	60	
Year 5	78	22	60	60	60	60	
Year 6	86	78	22	60	60	60	
Year 7	85	29	26	22			
Year 8	114	85	29	26	22		
TOTAL	363	214	437	468	442	420	

10 – Proposed admission arrangements (including post-16 provision)

Central Bedfordshire Council, acting as the Local Authority, is the admission authority for all community schools including Streetfield Lyceum.

The following criteria will apply (in the rank order shown) to decide the order in which places will be allocated when there are more requests from parents/carers than the number of places available:

1. All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after';
2. Children living in the Dunstable and surrounding villages in Central Bedfordshire with siblings at the school;
3. Children living in Dunstable and the surrounding villages;
4. Other children with siblings in the school;
5. Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school site to the child's home address.

11 – National Curriculum

As a maintained school we will be following the revised National Curriculum that comes into force from September 2014 onwards. We will also incorporate any changes to early years and nursery education as suggested by Ofsted and adopted by the DFE.

12 – Equal opportunity issues

Streetfield Lyceum will be an equal opportunities school for all children aged between 6 months and 11 years.

The ethos of the Lyceum will remain unchanged as it works to:

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination that can cause barriers to learning and thus life chances
- Advance equality of opportunity for all pupils and families to ensure secure foundations for current and future learning
- Narrow and close gaps in prior attainment and achievement
- Foster good relations with all who are connected with the school to ensure that every child receives a 'top class' and positive educational, academic, social and emotional experience that prepares each and every child for the next stage of their schooling.

13 – Community cohesion

With our planned:

- Nursery 6 months -11 years
- Wrap around care for children before and after school
- 'School Holiday' child provision
- Parent Centre and
- Teacher Centre Resource for all Dunstable schools

Together with our work with charity and local community events and our partner schools our contribution and commitment to community cohesion can be in no doubt.

14 – Travel and accessibility

Transport issues would be eased by parents being able to deliver and collect their children on one educational site rather than crossing town, especially during morning rush hour, to visit different sites.

In the event that demand from villages continues then we would negotiate travel arrangements with the LA school transport services in the first instance.

15 – Capital

No new building costs would be incurred.

Some classrooms and toilets would need to be adapted to suit a lower age range and a new play area created for younger children.

The land and premises are each appropriate, fit for purpose and available for immediate use and implementation.

16 – School premises and playing fields

There is exceptional and suitable outdoor space that both enables the pursuit of all sporting activities and all pupils to play outside safely each day.

Though non statutory, there are sufficient facilities for sports pitches, games courts and athletic facilities on both hard and soft groundings.

17 – Changes to special educational need provision – the SEN improvement test

Streetfield currently has a very high proportion of SEN pupils at all stages and in addition:

- Specialist Provision for pupils with ASD.
- It is well regarded in the local community, with Assessment and Monitoring, Social Care, CAMH, for its commitment and effectiveness with children from a wide range of backgrounds.

It also has an enviable inclusion record for pupils with:

- ASD
- Emotional and Behavioural Issues
- Learning Needs including Literacy and Numeracy

One of the consequences of this success is high pupil mobility and unfortunately this has resulted in a disproportionately large number of children not able to reach national standards in reading, writing and maths by the end of Year 6.

Our proposal will enable us to redress this imbalance from a much earlier age.

Through our intended nursery, early years provision and parent centre we will be able to

- accurately identify needs earlier
- work in closer collaboration with parents at a crucial stage of child development and
- use our expertise to narrow and close the gaps for these vulnerable pupils.
- Whilst offering a broad and balanced curriculum that enables each child to thrive.

Furthermore, with our planned provision for ASD pupils aged 5 -11 we will be better able to meet the academic, social, emotional, transfer and transition needs of those ASD pupils in Dunstable which is now subject to primary and secondary transfer points. It is a facility that is sorely needed in the town.

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