

Copies of e mail responses to the Statutory Notices regarding the Future of Special Schooling in the South of Central Bedfordshire:

Glenwood School (received 22.07.11):

'The staff, governors and Leadership team at Glenwood School unanimously support the merger of all three schools and if three is not possible, the merger of Hillcrest and Glenwood to become an Area Special School. This represents the views of 10 governors and 72 staff'

Hillcrest School (received 22.07.11)

The Future of Special Schooling in the South of Central Bedfordshire

'Following the publication of statutory notices, I am writing to confirm the views expressed by the Hillcrest Governors and staff during first period of consultation.

Hillcrest Governors and staff feel strongly that it is the best interest of children and young people, with special educational needs, in our area to merge, Hillcrest, Weatherfield and Glenwood schools to become a single area special school. We would like to confirm that the reasons for this view, presented in our previous responses and in the Governors presentation to the meeting of the executive on 31st May 201, remain the same.

Should it not be possible to proceed with the merger of all three schools the Governors and staff would strongly support the creation of an area special school formed by the merger of Hillcrest and Glenwood schools alone.

I would be very grateful if you would forward the content of this email to the executive for their next meeting'

Yours sincerely

Peter Skingley

Headteacher
Hillcrest School

Ivel Valley School

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Head Teacher: Ms Julie Mudd



22/07/2011

Dear Edwina,

Proposal to create a single area special school in the south of Central Bedfordshire

I am writing on behalf of the school and the governing body to express our support of the statutory proposals to merge Glenwood, Weatherfield and Hillcrest Schools.

We strongly believe that this is the best way forward and would provide an equitable service for all pupils with SEN across Central Bedfordshire. To have alternative systems in place for pupils with the same range of needs in two different areas of the same authority does not make sense to us at all.

We consider that the future of special schooling in Central Bedfordshire is the creation of two area special schools as all headteachers and their governing bodies signed up to in the first place.

In the event of Weatherfield not being a party to the merger, we would equally support the merger of Glenwood and Hillcrest to create an area special school.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Julie Mudd
Head Teacher



13 VI: 2011

Edurna Grant

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services
Central Bedfordshire Council

Dear Edurna Grant,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal to merge Weatherfield Special School with Hillcrest and Glenwood.

- I do not agree that it will provide improved provision for the pupils. Any merger (due to closure of Weatherfield) that takes place will take away complete control from the staff at Weatherfield for their pupils. At present it is run like a large family where everyone knows everyone, and individual needs can be met - something that is so lacking in a large school environment in 'mainstream'. If Weatherfield, Hillcrest and Glenwood are left as separately run schools there is
- no reason why pupils cannot share some of the facilities in another school, as appropriate; or why orders for equipment cannot be co-ordinated to save money. I also fear that a merger would ultimately lead to re-opening one large school on a new site - something totally unsuitable for children who particularly need a small familiar environment.

I cannot understand why meetings and consultations with questionnaires were carried out, and then the views of the majority (particularly regarding Weatherfield) are ignored. Is local Government not meant to reflect the electorate's views?

Yours Sarah Woodriff (Mrs.) Whose son benefited so much from Weatherfield