



Proposal to close Streetfield Community Middle School, Caddington

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Central Bedfordshire Council intends to close Streetfield Community Middle School, Dunstable, Road, Caddington, Bedfordshire, LU1 4BB, phased from September 2015, with full closure from September 2016.

The proposed closure of Streetfield Community Middle School is due to the changing pattern of provision within the area which has impacted upon the future financial and educational viability of the school.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: The Information Manager, Central Bedfordshire Council, Room DC2, Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 1LF, telephone 0300 300 5700. It can also be viewed on the Council's website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, by Monday 7 July 2014, any person may support, object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council via the on-line facility on the Council's website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices or by post to Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5TQ.

Signed: Edwina Grant

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

9 June 2014

**Statutory proposal for school closure –
Streetfield Community Middle School**

Dated – Monday 9 June 2014



1 - Name of Proposer

Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling House
High Street North
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 1LF

Contact officer – Sue Barrow, Information Manager
Email: Sue.barrow@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 0300 300 5700

2 –Name of school

Streetfield Community Middle School

3 - School Address

Dunstable Road
Caddington
Bedfordshire
LU1 4BB

4 - Implementation

The proposed closure of Streetfield Community Middle School would be phased from September 2015, with full closure from August 2016.

The timeframe and process for the phased closure would be as follows. This would be subject to review based upon the actual numbers at the school.

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 5	No new pupils are admitted.
Year 6	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. If no application is received by the end of May a place at the nearest Secondary school with places will be allocated.
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 2016). 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.
Year 8	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). 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.

5 – Objectives and reason for closure

The proposed closure of Streetfield Community Middle School is due to the changing pattern of provision within the area which has had an impact on the pupil numbers to be admitted to the school and the future financial and educational viability of the school.

There is a significant level of surplus places for Years 5 to 8 in the Dunstable area, of between 63% and 65% and the reducing roll within Streetfield Community Middle School will impact upon the financial viability of the school, which will subsequently impact upon the education standards at the school.

The proposed closure of Streetfield Community Middle School supports the Council's need to manage the supply of school places in the Dunstable area.

Further information can be found within the reports to the Council's' Executive dated 4 February 2014 and 27 May 2014. These are available on the Council's website - www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/executive

6 – School size, pupil numbers and admissions

Streetfield Community Middle School provides school, places for Years 5 to 8, boys and girls. It has a capacity of 520 and a published admission number (PAN) of 130

The table below shows the numbers on roll as at 9 April 2014 and the projected numbers on roll for September 2014 and 2015.

The projected numbers are based on a number of assumptions –

- All primary schools retain all of their Year 4 pupils into Year 5.
- All of the Year 5 pupils transfer into Year 6 in 2015
- A similar percentage of the parents with Year 6 children in 2014/2015 make a secondary application to a local secondary school for September 2015.
- All pupils in Year 7 in 2014/2015 stay on into Year 8 in September 2015, although parents could make an in year application into Year 8 in any of the local secondary schools.

Year Group	Current	Projected September 2014	Projected September 2015
5	76	23	0
6	87	76	23
7	83	28	24
8	111	83	28
Total	357	210	75
Capacity	520	520	520
% surplus places	31%	60%	86%

7 – Displaced pupils & the effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The tables at section 4 show the arrangements for managing student applications to a secondary school or academy in Dunstable or Houghton Regis. The displaced pupils would therefore be accommodated within other schools and academies in the town.

8 – Impact on the community

It is acknowledged that the additional services that the school provides can have an important impact on public health and be of benefit to the local community. These services will become increasingly unviable as the pupil numbers at the school fall significantly. The Council will continue to ensure that, where appropriate, services are expanded at schools and academies in the area that are increasing their capacity as a result of a change in age range.

It is also acknowledged that schools have an important role under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work alongside a range of other agencies to ensure safety in their local communities. The Council will work with the school's governing body to ensure that community safety issues are considered and appropriate measures are put in place to mitigate any risks.

9 - Balance of denominational provision

N/A.

10 – Travel

The balance of local provision would be sustained in primary and secondary provision in the immediate area that serves the local community, which would not impact on increased traffic.

11 - Education standards and diversity of provision

Parents and carers have a right to express a preference for a particular school whereas choices are defined by viable and popular schools that are capable of being sustained in the local area, which Streetfield Community Middle School is not. The significant reduction in pupil numbers would inevitably impact upon the ability of the school to raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.

12 - Demand

The Council's forecasts require a minimum total number of 840 places in each year group would currently allow for parental preferences to be accommodated while also balancing the negative impact of inefficient over supply of places across the area. This does not take account of new school provision which will be needed as a result of the proposed North Houghton Regis extension, which will provide the required additional local education infrastructure as part of that development but which is not currently forecast to be required before 2017 when new primary and secondary places may be required.

The table below illustrates the number of school places that are available across the area, in Years 5-8, on the basis of changes to age ranges in the area that have now been implemented.

Year	5	6	7	8
School planning need	840	840	840	840
Number of places available	1366	1366	1382	1382
Number of surplus places	526	526	542	542

13- Proposed admission arrangements

If the proposal to close Streetfield Community Middle School is approved, an application to vary the existing admission arrangements for September 2015 will be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator and there will be no year 5 transfer to the school in September 2015 and beyond.

After September 2015 the new secondary schools in the area will focus on a single point of entry in the normal admissions round at Year 7 and therefore the Year 9 transfer point will have been removed after that date.

14 - School premises and playing fields

If the proposal to close Streetfield Community Middle School is approved the Council would be required to obtain 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'.

15 - Equal opportunity issues

Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to foster good relations in respect of the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

If the approval to close Streetfield Middle School is approved, the Council would be required to re-commission the Specialist Autistic Spectrum Disorder Provision, which is currently at the school. In doing so the Council would have regard to guidance and a specific SEN improvement test which also includes consideration of the broader needs of disabled pupils. Further detail of this test is provided at section 23.

16- Capital

N/A

17 - Schools to be replaced by provision in a more successful/popular school

N/A

18 - Schools causing concern

N/A

19 – Early year’s provision

N/A

20 – Rural Primary Schools

N/A

21 – Maintained nursery schools

N/A.

22 – Provision for 16-19 year olds

N/A

23 - Special educational needs (SEN) provision

Children with Special Educational Needs at Streetfield Community Middle School are currently able to access specialist support, in school, from the Specialist Autistic Spectrum Disorder Provision.

If the proposed closure of Streetfield Community Middle School is approved the Council would be required to re-commission this provision. In doing so the Council would have regard to guidance and a specific SEN improvement test that must set out how the alternative arrangements are likely to lead to an improvement in the standard and quality of the provision. This would be subject to a separate consultation and statutory proposal which would ensure that parental representations are taken account of.

24 – Consultation concerning this proposal

Members of the Council's Executive, at their meeting on 4 February 2014, approved the initiation of consultations regarding the proposed closure of Streetfield Community Middle School, to be phased from September 2015, with final implementation in August 2016.

The consultation was launched on Monday 24 February and ran for 6 weeks until Monday 7 April 2014. The consultation was widely publicised via the local press and as follows; -

Copies of the consultation document were provided to –

- The Governing Body of the school
- The staff of the school
- The parents and carers of the school

And copies of the consultation document were made available to –

- The Member of Parliament for Dunstable
- Dunstable Town Council
- Neighbouring local authorities to Central Bedfordshire Council
- Local Roman Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Board
- The Members of Central Bedfordshire Council
- All schools and academies within Central Bedfordshire
- Trade Union representatives
- Voluntary Sector organisations
- Central Bedfordshire's Children's Trust Board

Copies of the consultation document were also available from Dunstable Library.

Seven press releases were issued advising of the consultation and the meetings that were to be held

An on-line response facility to the consultation was available on the Central Bedfordshire Council website. Responses could also be submitted by post.

During the six week period, two meetings were held at the school; the first for school staff, governors and union representatives and the second for parents, carers and the general public. The presentation that was given at the meeting is attached at [Appendix A](#).

Notes of both meetings which include the concerns and questions that were raised are attached at [Appendix B](#).

In total, 220 responses were received in response to the Streetfield Community Middle School consultation. The results of the consultation are available at [Appendix C](#).

Members of the Council's Executive, at their meeting on 27 May 2014, determined to progress to the publication of statutory notices and final representation period to close Streetfield Community Middle School, to be phased from September 2015, with final implementation in August 2016.

The reports to the Council's Executive are available on the Council's website - www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/executive

25 – Procedure for responses; support, objections and comments

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (i.e. by Monday 7 July 2014), any person may support, object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director Of Children's Services via the Council's on-line facility at

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices

or by post to Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director Of Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5TQ.

Appendix A

**Consultation on the proposed
closure of
Streetfield Middle School from
August 2016**



Introductions

Helen Redding
Assistant Director School Improvement

Rob Parsons
Head of School Organisation, Admissions and Capital
Planning

Lydia Braisher
Admissions Manager

Council responsibilities

Statutory duty:

- To ensure that there are sufficient and suitable places for those who want them
- Promote high educational standards
- Ensure fair access to educational opportunity
- Promote the fulfilment of every child's potential

The ability to restructure provision and close maintained schools is one power of the Council

Council proposals to close a maintained school



- Decisions taken by the Council, not DfE
- Statutory five stage process must be followed
 - Consultation 6 weeks
 - Publication of legal notices
 - Representation 4 weeks
 - Determination within 2 months
 - Implementation
- Must ensure that those affected have opportunity to feed in comments

Council proposals to close a maintained school



- Factors for the decision maker
 - Process followed?
 - **Consideration of all views submitted**
 - Impact on education standards and diversity of provision
 - Demand
 - School size
 - Admission arrangements
 - Equal opportunity issues
 - Community cohesion and community services
 - Travel and accessibility
 - Capital, premises and playing fields

Rationale for this proposal

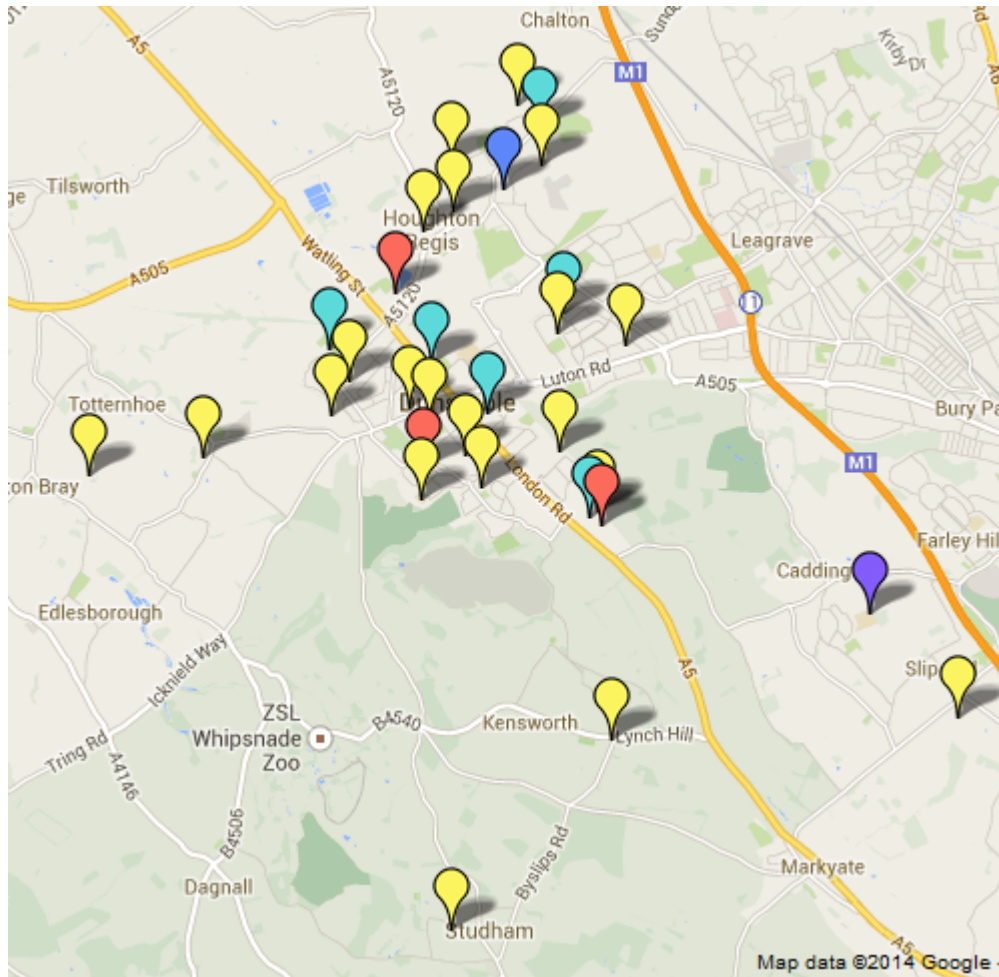
- Changing pattern of provision
- Reducing pupil numbers in the Middle Schools
- Year 5 retained in Primaries, Year 7 transfers to Secondaries
- School funding follows the child so resulting significant financial impact
- Forecast further reduction in pupil numbers will increase the financial impact

Impact of changes

- Falling pupil numbers from September 2014 with reduced admissions to Year 5 and transfers to Year 7 in Secondary

National Curriculum Key stages	EYFS	KS1		KS2				KS3			KS4		KS5	
School Years	(R)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3 tier	Lower School ages 4 to 9				Middle School ages 9 to 13				Upper School ages 13 to 18					
2 tier	Primary School ages 4 to 11							Secondary School ages 11 to 18						

Three tier education in Dunstable and Houghton Regis



Lower Schools 5-9 year olds



Lower/Middle School 5-13 year olds



Primary School 5-11 year olds

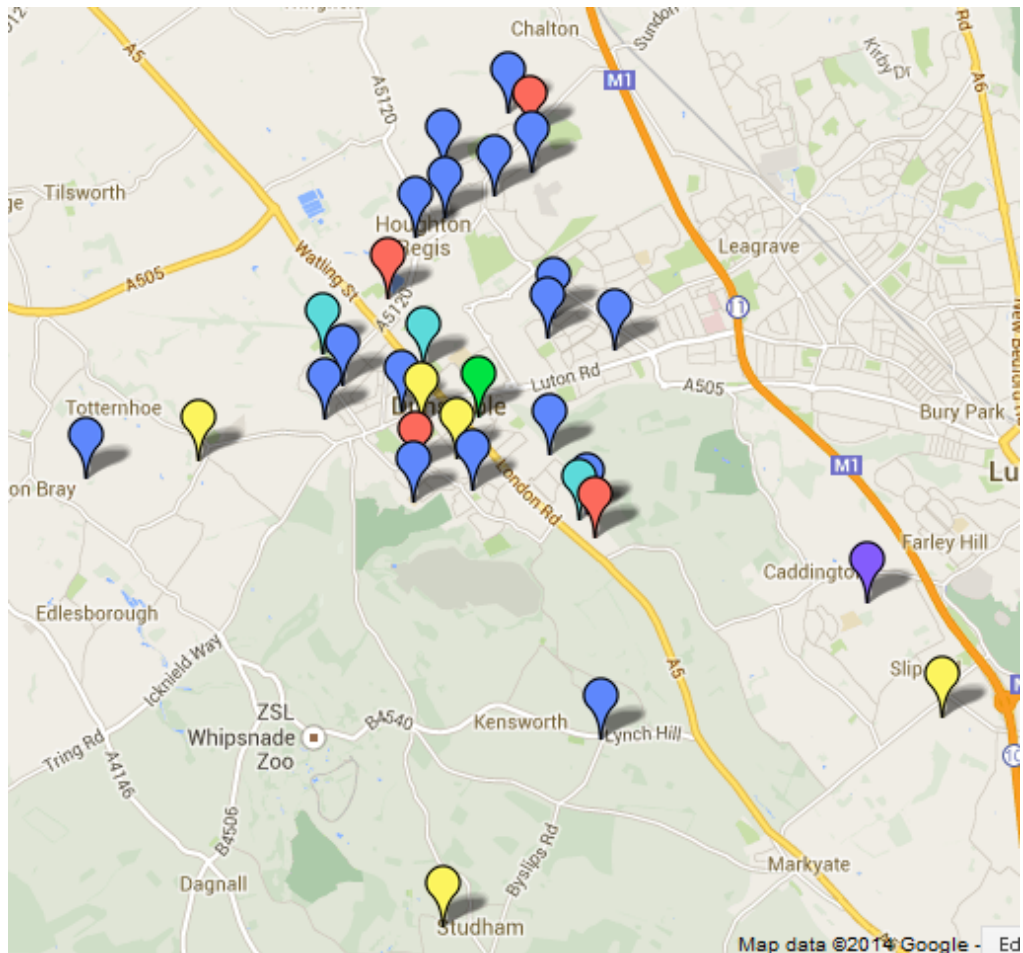








Middle School 9-13 year olds



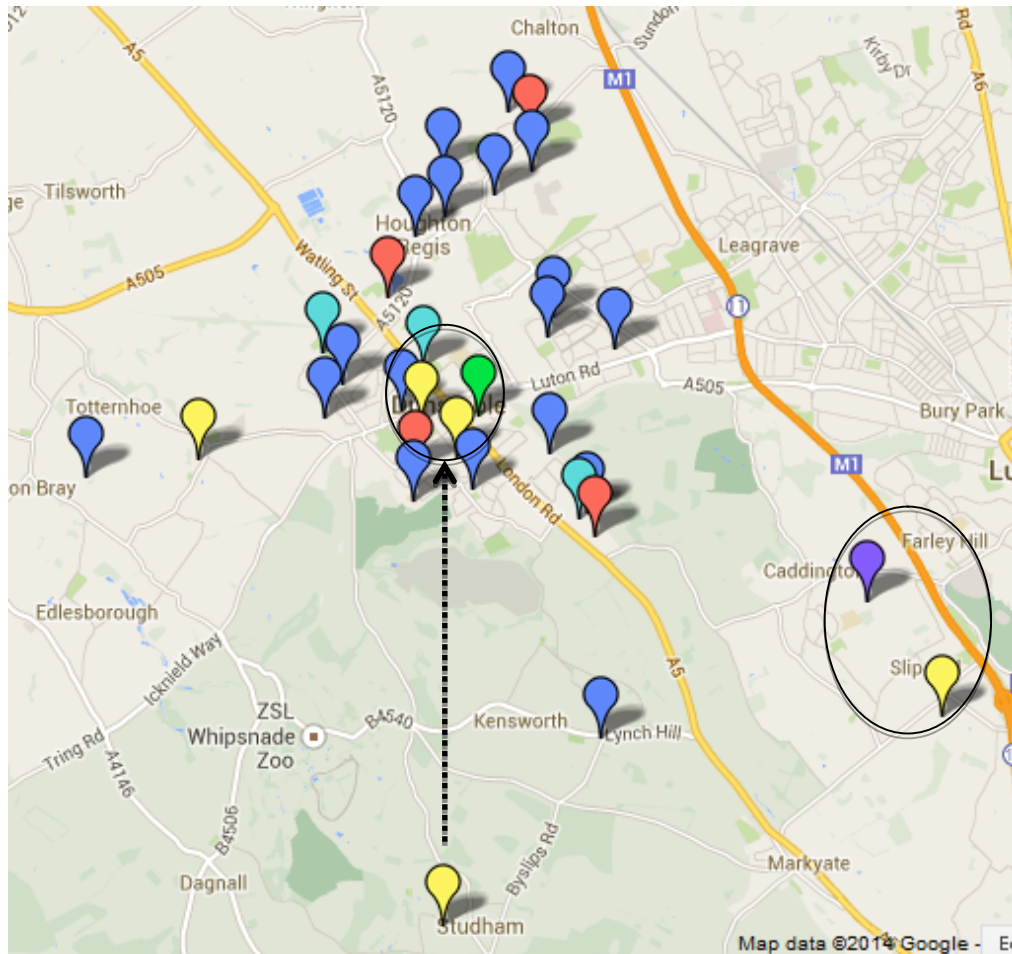
Upper School 13-16/18 year olds







Future pattern of provision



-  Lower Schools 5-9 year olds
-  Lower/Middle School 5-13 year olds
-  Primary Schools 5-11 year olds
-  Middle Schools 9-13 year olds
-  Secondary School 9-16 year olds
-  Secondary Schools 11-16/18 year olds

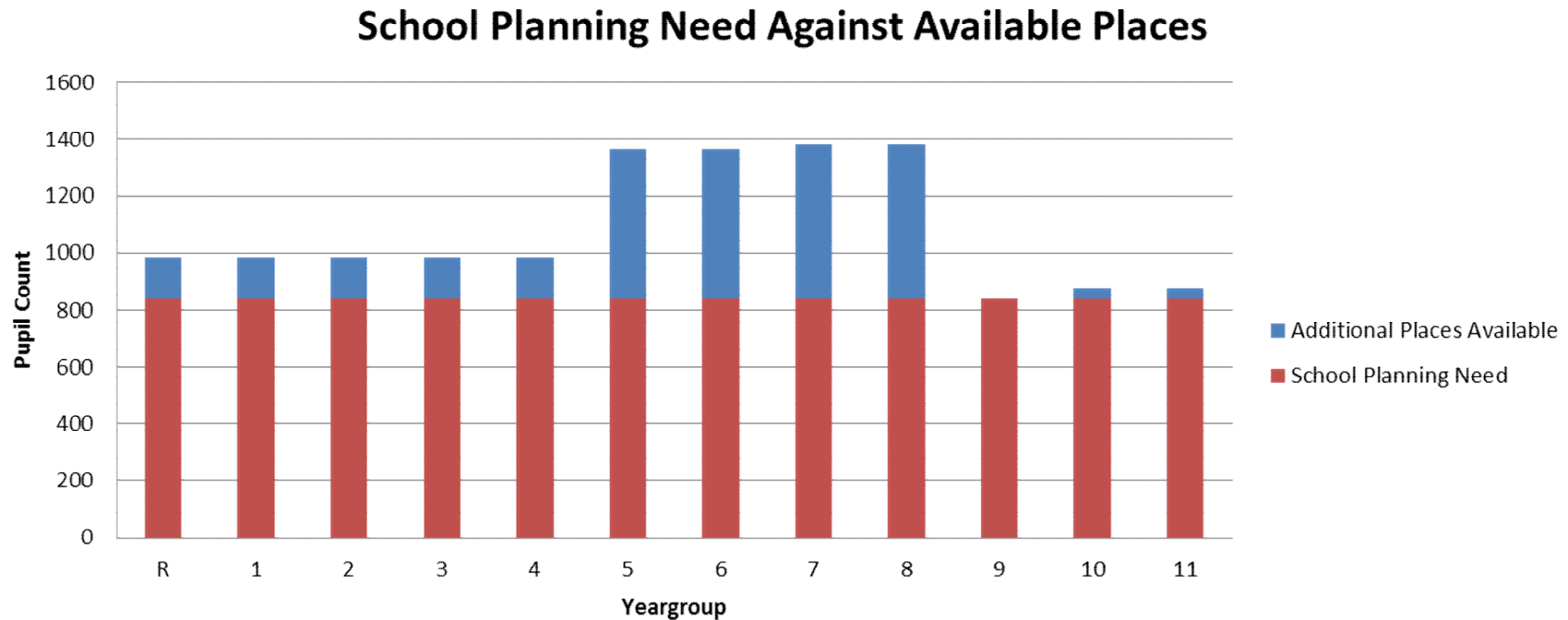
Future pattern of provision



-  **Lower Schools 5-9 year olds**
-  **Lower/Middle School 5-13 year olds**
-  **Primary Schools 5-11 year olds**
-  **Middle Schools 9-13 year olds**
-  **Secondary School 9-16 year olds**
-  **Secondary Schools 11-16/18 year olds**

Impact of changes

- Oversupply of places in Dunstable and Houghton Regis



Impact of changes on Streetfield Middle School

- Current number on roll 363 vs 520 places
- September 2014 - 214 pupils vs 520 places
- September 2015 – 77 pupils vs 520 places
- 2013/14 to 14/15 budget implication is a decrease of £410k (24.3%)

The role of the School Admissions Team

Has a statutory duty to:

- To process and co-ordinate admission applications in the area
- To provide information on the admissions process and the entry points available to children in the area

Children due to start Year 5

- All children who are due to start the Middle school in September this year can take up their place.
- If the decision is made to close the School, then an application will need to be made 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.

Children currently at the school

If the decision is made to close the school, the following admission options will apply to children currently at the school:

Children who will be in Year 6 in September 2014	Will need to make an application in September 2014 to transfer to Secondary school in September 2015. Or: 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.
Children who will be in Year 7 in September 2014	Can make either a late application for Secondary to start Year 7 in September 2014 or continue at the school in Year 7 make an in-year application for Year 8 or continue in Year 8 and apply in-year in the summer of 2016 to start Year 9 in September 2016.
Children who will be in Year 8 in September 2014	Can continue at the school and make application in September 2014 to transfer to Upper school as normal for September 2015 or make an in-year application for a place in a Secondary school to start in the academic year of 2014/15 as a Year 8 pupil.

Council proposal – timeline

- Executive approval to commence consultation: 4 February 2014
- Statutory consultation: 24 February 2014 to 7 April 2014
- Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Wednesday 7 May 2014
- Executive consideration of responses to consultations and decision to publish statutory notices **if required**: 27 May 2014
- Representation period: 9 June 2014 to 7 July 2014
- Determination by Executive: 19 August 2014

Consultation Document

- Available from School, Council, Local Library, Council website.
- Responses either on-line (preferably) or via post
- Closing date – Monday 7 April 2014
- Frequently asked questions

- **Your questions**

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.

Central Bedfordshire Council

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

Telephone 0300 300 8000

Email customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

<p>Historically, the Council has a poor record of forecasting pupil numbers. How accurate is the current forecast?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Why are Councillor Versallion and the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services Edwina Grant not at this meeting?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>The Head teacher apologised for advising staff that these two people would be at the meeting.</i></p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Information regarding parental choice is available on the School Admissions website and via our telephone helpline.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<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>
<p>Have all of the schools in Dunstable been subjected to the same level of financial scrutiny?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Are academies allowed to do what they like? Academies appear unaccountable and Council maintained schools are therefore at a disadvantage</p>	<p>Academies are accountable to the Secretary of State who will intervene in any that are underperforming or are significantly undersubscribed and therefore unviable.</p>

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. Prioxy 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.

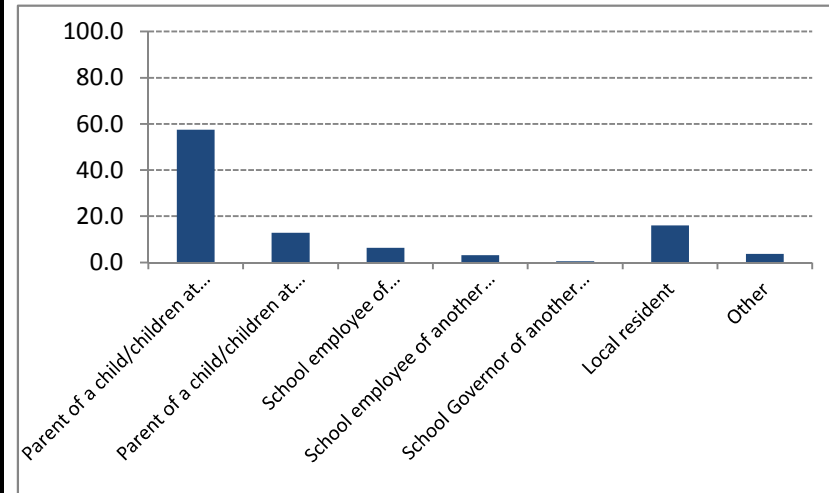
He advised of the alternative proposal that the school is currently consulting on, in response to the Council's proposed closure; this is to change the range of the school from 9-13 years to 4-11 years, with the addition of Nursery provision for 6 months -4 years. He encouraged everyone to respond to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

Appendix C

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

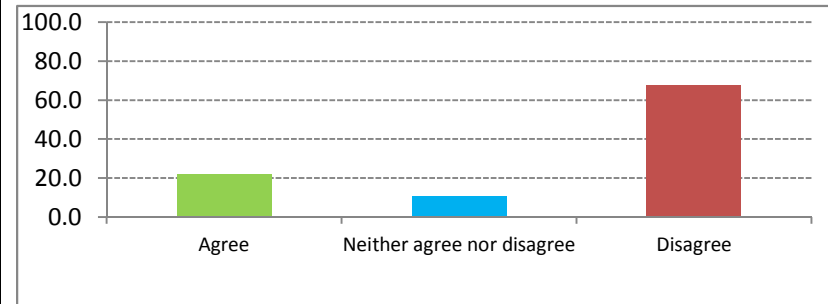
		Frequency
Valid	Acting Headteacher	1
	Former Streetfield teacher.	1
	grandmother	1
	Grandparent	1
	Headteacher	1
	Nana	1
	Older sister of a pupil	1
	residents	1
	School employee and governor of school in central beds	1
	Teacher	1
	Total	10
Missing		210
Total		220

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 Ickniel 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	192
Total	220

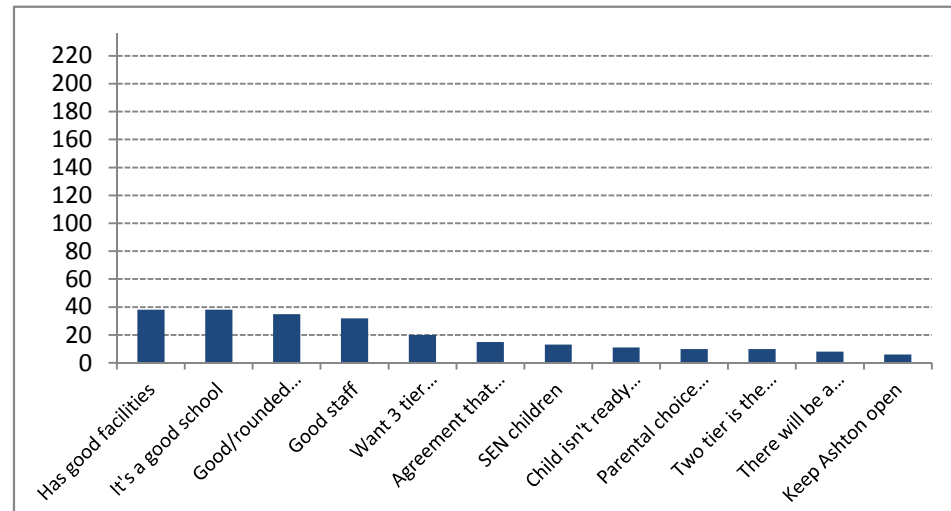
Q3 - Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School

		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	



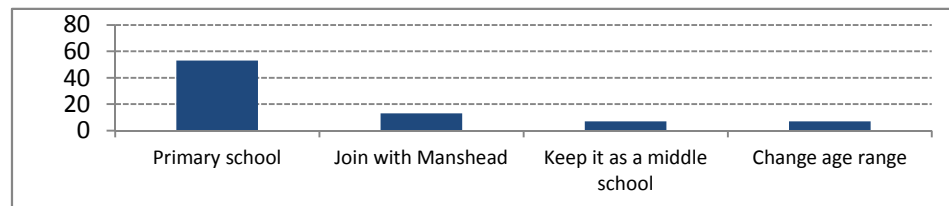
Q4 - Please give your reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School.

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



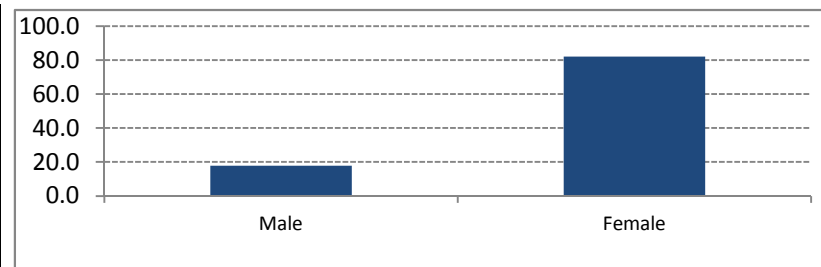
Q5 - Please use the space below to suggest any alternatives to closing the school or make any other comments you would like to make about this proposal.

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



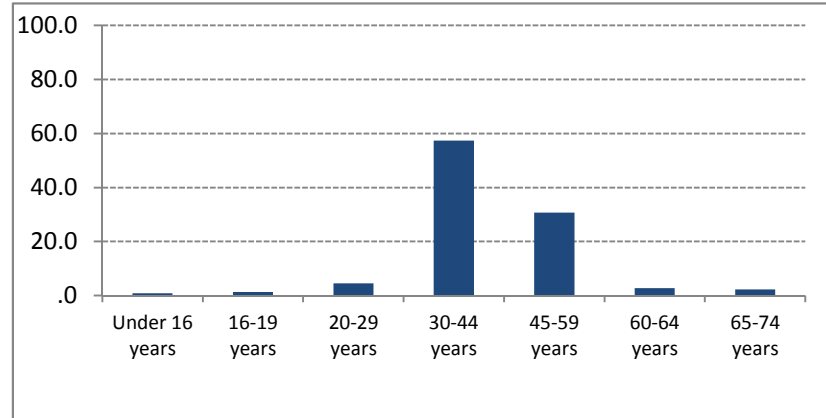
Q6 - Are you

		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	



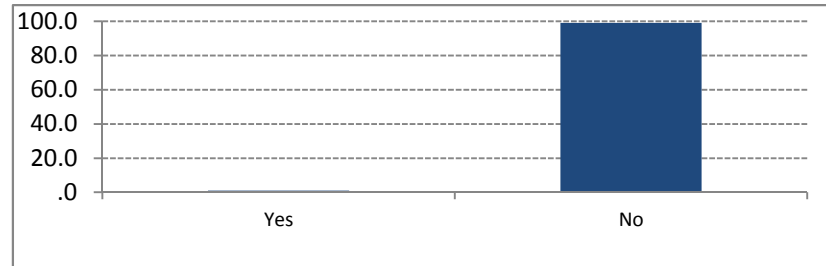
Q7 - What is your age?

		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		



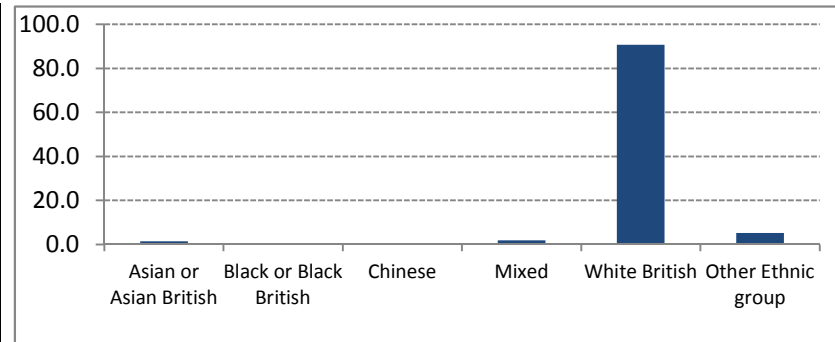
Q8 - Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

		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