

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 28th January 2014

Title of report: Report on the outcomes of the statutory consultation on the proposals affecting Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?	Yes – September 2013
Is it eligible for “call in” by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Alison O’Sullivan (17.01.14)
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	David Smith (17.01.14)
Is it signed off by the Assistant Director - Legal & Governance?	Julie Muscroft (20.01.14)
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Cath Harris and Cllr Peter O’Neill : Children’s Services

Electoral [wards](#) affected: Almondbury and Dalton

Ward councillors consulted: All councillors have been sent a consultation document and a covering letter as part of this process.

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of the report

The report sets out the outcomes from the statutory consultation on proposals to develop an all-through school for 3-16 year old pupils, including nursery provision, to serve the Almondbury area.

The report seeks a decision on the way forward in light of the information received

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2. Summary

A 7 week statutory consultation has been carried out with all key stakeholders to gather views about the Kirklees LA proposal to develop an all-through school for 3-16 year old pupils, including nursery provision, to serve the Almondbury area to be achieved by bringing together Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School.

From over 3000 consultation documents circulated, just under 400 responses have been received from parents and carers, governors, staff, pupils, residents and other respondents. Meetings have been held with governing bodies and staff as well as drop-in sessions for parents and other interested parties.

The main conclusions drawn from the consultation are that –

- pupil responses see the positive benefits and opportunities, governor and staff responses on balance support the proposals and parental responses oppose the proposals, the largest number of which come from parents of pupils at Almondbury Junior School;
- supportive comments emphasise the opportunities for young people, cohesive and inclusive practice and benefits for the community;
- no new matters have come to light that challenge the educational rationale for the proposals;
- the majority of comments questioning or opposing the proposals concern important building, organisational and operational details that would be fully resolved during the planning stage before implementation;
- there are questions about the financial motivation for the proposals as well as the future of Almondbury Junior School site if it were to become available for alternative use as a result of the all-through school proposals;
- building parental and community confidence should be major considerations in deciding and implementing changes to the educational provision in the Almondbury area.

Following the consultation, the officer recommendations to cabinet members are that

- approval is given for the statutory process to proceed to the next stage of publication of statutory notice and proposals;
- following the subsequent 6 week representation period, the proposals should be brought back to Cabinet for a final decision.

3. Introduction

The proposal to develop an all-through school for 3-16 year old pupils, including nursery provision, to serve the Almondbury area would be achieved by bringing together Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School.

Feedback from the consultation is varied but features three key themes:

3.1. Key theme 1 : Concerns over younger children and older children mixing together in shared facilities

The LA and the schools are working to develop detailed plans which would ensure facilities were entirely suitable for all ages. This would include a separate, dedicated area for junior-age children (Key Stage 2) with a separate entrance and separate facilities.

Children of all ages would have their own spaces and the school environment would be both safe and completely appropriate for each age group. For example, in the proposed all-through school, younger children would not share playgrounds, toilets, break times or lunch times with much older pupils. Younger pupils would only use rooms outside of their own junior facilities when this enhanced their learning. Younger and older pupils would only share a mixed space when this was planned in advance to have mutual benefits.

Similar all-through schools in other areas have achieved this very successfully. Consultees who raised concerns can be assured that facilities for the all-through school are being developed in the best interests of the children, to make sure that they have the high quality facilities that are appropriate for their needs.

Infant school pupils would remain on the Greenside site, separated from the junior and secondary facilities.

3.2. Key theme 2: The main purpose of creating the all-through school is to save money for the council

This is not the case. The proposals are about raising standards so that children and young people can access the best possible education and opportunities, helping them to fulfil their potential.

School funding comes via a government grant (the Dedicated Schools Grant) and goes directly to schools, allocated through a formula based mainly on per pupil funding. There would be no financial benefit to the Council if the proposals went ahead.

Creation of the all-through school would require significant investment on the LA's behalf to adapt the current High School facilities and create a high-quality environment for pupils of all ages.

3.3. Key theme 3 : Concerns over leadership of the all-through school

The school would require a leadership team that was best placed to oversee the transition to all-through status and to support the needs of the children. Full details about staffing and leadership would be explored further into the process, if the proposals are approved, but the governing body would review the structure to ensure it maximised this opportunity to raise standards. High standards of leadership and teaching would be of paramount importance.

4. Background

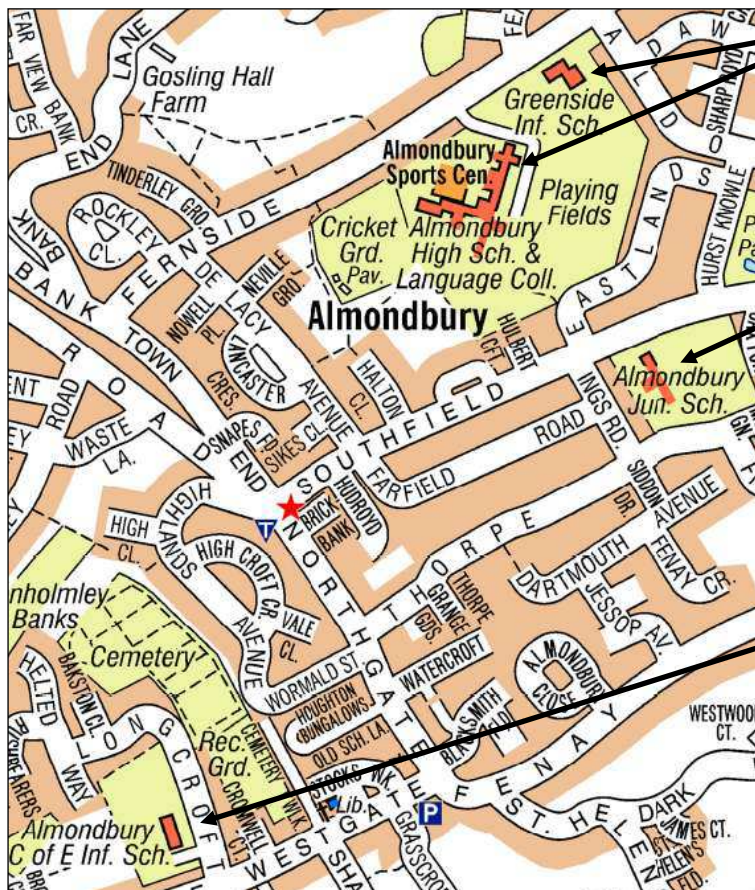
4.1. The educational benefits of all through schools

The establishment of all-through schools is intended to improve the educational standards attained by children through better and more flexible management of learning, without a change of school at ages 7 or 11. Single all-through institutions can establish longer term relationships with pupils and their families, provide more opportunities for staff development and better manage resources to support learning. (See Cabinet Report 16th September 2013).

Having ages 3 to 16 on a single site would take away the need for transfers to new schools and is known to have benefits in a child's education. Similar all-through schools are running successfully in other areas.

4.2. The existing infant, junior and secondary school provision in the Almondbury priority admission area (PAA)

- **Greenside Infant and Nursery School** provides education for 3 to 7 year olds (including nursery provision). The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school is 60. This means the school can admit 60 pupils in each year group from ages 4 to 7. There are up to 52 part time nursery places
- **Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School** also provides education for 3 to 7 year olds (including nursery provision) with a PAN of 50 pupils per yeargroup (ages 4-7). There are up to 52 part time nursery places
- **Almondbury Junior School** provides education for 7 to 11 year olds, with a PAN of 95 pupils per yeargroup.
- **Almondbury High School** provides education for 11 to 16 year olds, with a PAN of 206 pupils per yeargroup.



Greenside Infant and Nursery School and Almondbury High School share a single site on Fernside Avenue

Almondbury Junior School is situated approx 200m from the Almondbury High School building on the other side of Southfield Road which runs close to the southern boundary of the High School site.

Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School is situated approx 1.3 miles from Almondbury High School on Longcroft

4.3. School transfers for children living in the Almondbury area

Parents can express their preferences for schools at all stages of education and would have their choices met if there are places available at the schools. Some parents choose schools outside Almondbury for their children to attend. Equally, other parents living outside Almondbury may preference Almondbury schools. For those pupils who attend schools in the Almondbury area;

- Children aged 3-7 in Almondbury can attend either Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School or Greenside Infant and Nursery School.
- At age 7 they can transfer to Almondbury Junior School for 4 years up to age 11.
- At age 11 they can transfer to Almondbury High School for 5 years of secondary education.

Children who attend schools in the Almondbury area have two changes of school during the school years reception to year 11.

4.4. The proposal to develop an all-through school (including nursery) for 3-16 year old children and young people to serve the Almondbury area

Reference Cabinet Report 16th September 2013: *Report in relation to proposals affecting Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School*

On 16th September 2013 Cabinet received a report which detailed proposals to create an all-through school for 3-16 year olds (including nursery) to serve the Almondbury area by bringing together Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School as part of a wider partnership of local schools

- to cater for pupils aged 3 to 16,(including nursery provision)
- with no transition at ages seven or eleven.
- with PANs of
 - 60 for 4-7 year olds (180 places) (plus up to 52 part time nursery places)
 - 110 for 7-11 year olds (440 places) and
 - 120 for 11-16 year olds (600 places).

'Bringing together' means the joining of two or more schools into one, with a single governing body and headteacher. This was proposed to be achieved through the technical 'closure' of both Greenside Infant and Nursery School and Almondbury Junior School, and the simultaneous expansion of the age range of the High School to form a single all-through school for 3-16 year olds (including nursery).

It was proposed that Almondbury CE(VC) Infant and Nursery School continues, as a close partner school, to cater for 50 pupils per year aged 4 to 7 (150 places in total) plus up to 52 part time nursery places.

It was proposed to retain the current admission numbers of 60 for age 4-7 (infant) pupils and increase the admission number for the age 7-11(junior) pupils to 110 for match the numbers of pupils at the two Key Stage 1 (infant) provisions. The admission number for the 11-16 (secondary) provision was proposed to be reduced to 120 places to better match the number of children and young people needing places now and in future years.

The buildings on the Fernside Avenue site provide some of the best educational facilities in Kirklees. The sports facilities are exceptional and the specialist arts, drama, languages, science and technology provision give first class opportunities to excite and motivate young people. It was therefore proposed to consolidate the all-through school onto the Fernside Avenue site. The existing high school building would be adapted to

make it suitable and appropriate for the wider age range of pupils and junior age pupils would move into the Fernside Avenue building. The existing Key Stage 1 (infant and nursery) accommodation at Greenside Infant and Nursery School would continue to be used for 3-7 year old children, with access to all the facilities in the main building on the site.

The proposed implementation date for the proposals is 1st May 2014. All the pupils who would be attending Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School in May 2014 would automatically become part of the all-through 3-16 school.

Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School would continue to be a very close working partner. All of the children at Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery school would continue to be able to transfer to the proposed all-through school, as currently takes place, at age 7, and the schools would continue to ensure a smooth transition as children move through the system.

Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School is an integral part of the conversations that are taking place to develop these proposals.

The Almondbury Schools' Community Partnership is a strong collaborative group of schools which also includes Dalton School, Lowerhouses CE(VC) J,I and EY School and Moldgreen Community Primary School. The proposal to establish an all-through 3-16 school is intended to strengthen this partnership to provide the best possible opportunities for all local children and young people. The proposed 3-16 school would have additional places for 11 year old pupils from the wider partnership primary schools and would continue to work closely with those schools to ensure a smooth transition from Year 6 to Year 7.

4.5. Cabinet approval for statutory consultation

On 16th September 2013 Cabinet members:

Authorised officers to develop plans for consultation to develop an all-through school to serve the Almondbury area for pupils aged 3 to 16 (including nursery provision), with PANs of 60 (for children aged 4-7), 110 (for children aged 7-11) and 120 (for young people aged 11-16) providing 1220 places for 3-16 olds by linked proposals:

- to change the lower age limit of Almondbury High School from 11 to 3 years and expand the school size from 1030 to 1220 pupil places plus up to 52 part time nursery places.
- to discontinue Greenside Infant and Nursery School and Almondbury Junior School.
- to confirm and actively support Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School as a close working partner of the proposed all through school

Delegated authority to the Director for Children and Adults in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio leads to:

- develop consultation materials on the basis of the proposals
- organise and carry out statutory consultation

Requested officers to report the outcomes of the statutory consultation to Cabinet for further consideration of the next steps.

4.6. Equalities Impact Assessment

An initial Equalities and Community Cohesion Impact Assessment has been carried out on the proposals. The following is a short initial analysis of the likely changes arising from the revised proposals.

- The proposal to bring the schools together and create an all-through 3-16 school is intended and is very likely to have a positive impact for pupils attending the school because the aims are to provide continuity of education in an all-through school from Reception class to the end of Key Stage 4 to support an improvement in educational standards.
- The proposal is intended to have a positive impact on families and the local community as a developing centre of community, educational and recreational facilities.
- No adverse impacts are highlighted as part of this proposal.

There are no changes to the EIA following consultation although this would continue to be revised as appropriate in the light of any decision taken by Cabinet following the statutory consultation.

5. Statutory consultation methodology, 24th September – 11th November 2013

- 5.1.** Consultation documents were written and produced with due regard to 'The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007' and with reference to the detail contained in the cabinet report from September 2013.

Consultation documents were made widely available. Documents were sent to the families of pupils affected by the proposals. Documents were also sent to school staff and via royal mail to the school governors. Copies of the consultation document were also sent to elected members, trade union representatives, faith groups, neighbouring Local Authorities, local partnerships and groups affected within the council. The consultation document was also made available on the Council's website, at each of the events and by request. A complete list of distribution is attached at Appendix A.

During the consultation period more than 3000 documents were distributed either via royal mail, schools or at consultation events. The documents and an online response form was available throughout the consultation period on the Kirklees webpages: www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation

- 5.2.** The consultation material consisted of the document included in Appendix B.- "A consultation about proposals to develop an all-through school to serve the Almondbury area". The consultation document outlined the proposals to develop an all-through school for 3-16 year old pupils, including nursery provision, to serve the Almondbury area. The document detailed the proposals and had a response form that was designed to enable qualitative feedback, and questions to ascertain the type of stakeholder responding.

Response forms could be completed in writing or electronically on the Council website. In addition, individuals were encouraged to feedback any additional views either via email or letter. A 'Freepost' address was available for returning paper forms and/or letters to maximise the opportunities for receiving feedback to the proposals.

- 5.3.** Consultation 'drop-in sessions' for parents/carers and members of the community were held at Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School, Almondbury High School and Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School. The meetings were planned to enable individuals to speak with officers about the proposals in more detail (and in particular about the potential implications for them as individuals and their

families). Parents/carers and members of the community were invited to attend the consultation sessions.

Table 1. Numbers attending drop in consultation sessions	
Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School	16
Almondbury High School & Language College	10
Almondbury Junior School	50
Greenside I & N School	10

Bespoke meetings for staff and governors were held at Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School, Almondbury High School and Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School and notes of those meetings are detailed in Appendix C.

Throughout the consultation period further opinions and questions were recorded via a dedicated e-mail address (school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk), by a freepost address and via telephone (01484 225014).

6. Response to Consultation

Attached at Appendix C is a comprehensive report which details the responses received to the consultation and is organised by stakeholder.

6.1. Analysis of responses received

Table 2 : Count of responses received	
Deputation	1
E-mail	5
Letter	4
On-line form	192
School council / pupil response	3
Response Sheet	174
Total	379

- 396 responses were received via the methods shown in Table 2 above from the range of respondents shown in Table 3 below. (Note: Some respondents are counted more than once if they declare more than one category).

Table 3 Type of respondent			
respondent		number of responses	% of responses
parents / carers		219	55%
pupils	Individual	27	7%
	group	3	1%
governors	Individual	6	2%
	group	1	0%
staff	Individual	36	9%
	group	1	0%
residents		61	15%
others		39	10%
not stated		3	1%
Total		396	

6.1.1. Responses from parents / carers

Table 4 Response rate for parents / carers compared to a possible 1 per pupil response			
School	no of responses	no of pupils	% response rate*
Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School	34	158	22%
Almondbury High School & Language College	11	326	3%
Almondbury Junior School	93	261	36%
Greenside I & N School	11	137	8%
Total response (inc school not stated)	219	882	25%

- Table 4 shows the response rate for parents/carers as a % of a possible 1 per pupil response (*this makes the assumption that each parent response represents a different pupil).
- There is a total of approximately 880 pupils in the 4 schools. 219 represents an overall response rate of 25% where it is assumed that each parent response is equal to one response per pupil.
- The highest response rate is that for Almondbury Junior School parents with 93/261 ie 36% of a possible 1 per pupil response.

Table 5 Responses of parents / carers with pupils at	strongly support	support	neither support nor oppose	oppose	strongly oppose	don't know	total	
							count	%
Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School		1	1	5	27		34	16%
Almondbury High School & Language College	3	1		1	5	1	11	5%
Almondbury Junior School	2	2	4	5	79	1	93	42%
Greenside I & N School		3	2	1	5		11	5%
Not Stated	2	2	4	12	48	2	70	32%
Total	7	9	11	24	164	4	219	
	3%	4%	5%	11%	75%	2%		

- Table 5 shows the distribution of responses from parents / carers
- 93 of the 219 responses (42%) came from parents / carers of pupils at Almondbury Junior School
- The majority of responses received opposed (11%) or strongly opposed (75%) the proposal

6.1.2. Responses from pupils

Table 6 Responses from individual pupils at	strongly support	support	neither support nor oppose	oppose	strongly oppose	don't know	total	
Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School					3		3	11%
Almondbury High School & Language College	3				1		4	15%
Almondbury Junior School		1	2	1	11		15	56%
Not Stated					5		5	19%
Total	3	1	2	1	20	0	27	
	11%	4%	7%	4%	74%			

Responses from individual pupils

- Table 6 shows the distribution of responses from individual pupils
- 15 of the 27 responses (56%) came from pupils at Almondbury Junior School
- The majority of individual responses strongly opposed (74%) the proposal

Responses from groups of pupils

- A DVD response was received from the student council at Almondbury High School. A transcript is included in Appendix C page C49
- The notes of the Almondbury Junior School Council are included in Appendix C page C51
- The text of the pictorial response from the pupils of Greenside Infant & Nursery School is included in Appendix C page C54

6.1.3. Responses from governors

Table 7 Responses from individual governors at	strongly support	support	neither support nor oppose	oppose	strongly oppose	don't know	total	
Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School				1	1		2	33%
Almondbury High School & Language College	4						4	67%
Total	4			1	1		6	
	67%			17%	17%			

- Table 7 shows the distribution of responses from individual governors
- 4 of the 6 responses (67%) came from individuals at Almondbury High School
- The majority of responses from individual governors strongly supported (67%) the proposal
- **A joint response** was received from the Governing Body of Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School which strongly opposed the proposal. (Appendix C page C37)

- The notes of the **consultation meetings** held with the Governing Bodies of Almondbury CE (VA) Infant & Nursery School, Almondbury High School & Language College, Almondbury Junior School and Greenside Infant & Nursery School are included in Appendix C pages C73-C80

6.1.4. Responses from staff

Table 8 Responses from individual staff at	strongly support	support	neither support nor oppose	oppose	strongly oppose	don't know	total	
Almondbury High School & Language College	7	8	1				16	44%
Almondbury Junior School		1		1	5		7	19%
Greenside I & N School				1	7		8	22%
Not Stated		2	2		1		5	14%
Total	7	11	3	2	13		36	
	19%	31%	8%	6%	36%			

Responses from individual staff

- Table 8 shows the distribution of responses from individual staff
- 16 of the 36 individual responses (44%) came from staff of pupils at Almondbury High School & Language College
- The total responses supporting/strongly supporting (50%) was similar to the total opposing/strongly opposing (42%) the proposal

Responses from groups of staff

- A response opposing the proposal was received from the staff at Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School (Appendix C page C39)
- The notes of the **consultation meetings** held with the staff of Almondbury CE (VA) Infant & Nursery School, Almondbury High School & Language College, Almondbury Junior School and Greenside Infant & Nursery School are included in Appendix C pages C81-C89

6.1.5. Responses from other respondents

Table 9 Responses of other respondents	strongly support	support	neither support nor oppose	oppose	strongly oppose	don't know	total	
residents	1	2	3	5	48	2	61	59%
other		2	4	5	27	1	39	38%
not stated					2	1	3	3%
Total	1	4	7	10	77	4	103	
	1%	4%	7%	10%	75%	4%		

- Table 9 shows the distribution of responses from other respondents
- The majority of responses opposed (10%) or strongly opposed (75%) the proposal

6.2. Key themes from the consultation responses

- All responses and notes of meetings are included in full in Appendix C
- The responses and feedback received during the consultation from written responses and consultation sessions have been summarised in the sections below under key themes along with an officer commentary on the issues raised.
- Some responses include helpful advice and information that will be used to support the ongoing process.

6.2.1 The benefits to be gained	
Summary Responses	Officer Commentary
<p>Respondents who supported the proposal and those who were undecided as well as some parents who were opposed could see the proposal as a positive opportunity for young people and the community, strengthening relationships between school and home, bringing consistency of approach, access to specialist facilities and teaching and reducing the stress of transitions. More effective use of resources would focus on learning.</p> <p>Pupil consultation responses highlighted the access to facilities – sporting and academic, more opportunities for friendships and wider opportunities for social and pastoral benefits</p> <p>Of the large number of respondents who opposed the proposal a small number questioned the educational benefits of the proposal and asked whether the needs of a wide age range of pupils be met in a single school. The evidence for all-through schools was queried and it was suggested that the experience of transition could be beneficial and prepare young people for the inevitable changes that occur during life.</p>	<p>Batley Grammar School is a very popular Kirklees school and one example of an increasing number of schools providing all-through provision.</p> <p>There are a number of schools in other areas including Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield and Barnsley where all-through provision is very popular and successful.</p> <p>There is strong evidence that closer working with older age groups can accelerate the learning of even the youngest age groups and vice versa. All-through provision puts children at the heart of the system and ensures progress is built upon year-by-year. Bringing the schools together could improve opportunities for the local community;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Sidwell, Schools Commissioner until Oct 2013 said about all-through schools, “There is the dip (between primary and secondary), which has been endemic in our education system for some time. Children are re- tested in Year 7 as if they’ve never been seen before, rather than having a nice, seamless trajectory from nursery to university.” • NAHT general secretary Russell Hobby said: “I wouldn’t want to see every school as an all-through school, but it is a good option if it is viable.” • All Through Schools – a report from Prof S. Heppell 2011 updated 2012. http://rubble.heppell.net/all_through/default.html • “Are You Dropping the Baton?: From Effective Collaboration to All-through Schools” Dave Harris

6.2.2 Implementation and transition arrangements

Summary Responses	Officer Commentary
<p>Many respondents had questions about the arrangements that would need to be put in place to ensure a smooth transition.</p> <p>The speed of the implementation was questioned by some who suggested that a longer timescale would allow a more secure change with time to develop the new organisation and there was concern that any changes to the building or organisation could have a negative effect on SATs or GCSE examinations.</p> <p>A small number of parents queried whether a new uniform would be required and suggested that would be an additional expense for parents.</p>	<p>The LA would ensure there was the minimum possible disruption to normal school life by carrying out building work during the school holidays where possible and would programme work in close liaison with the school leadership. This would be a high priority. SATs and GCSE preparation and examination time would be protected – enabling pupils to achieve their best possible results would be the top priority at all times. The LA would work closely with contractors and school leadership to ensure effective measures and support are put in place to achieve this.</p> <p>Although the proposal is to move pupils into the adapted building in September 2014, this would not be carried out unless the buildings were ready.</p> <p>If the proposal is approved, a programme of work to involve pupils in planning and preparation for the changes would be put in place to ensure that all pupils were fully engaged in the process and ready for the changes.</p> <p>Parents would also be fully engaged with the process at every stage through regular communications and opportunities to view plans and developments.</p> <p>No decisions have been made about the possibility of a new uniform. This would be decided by the Governing Body of the all-through school who would want to take into account the views of pupils and their families.</p>

6.2.3 Safe drop off and pick up facilities, parking and access

Summary Responses	Officer Commentary
<p>Supporting comments noted that the proposal could bring benefits to families dropping off and collecting more than one child and the Governors of Greenside I&N were keen to improve access around the site to make it as easy as possible for families.</p> <p>Some opposing comments questioned the impact on traffic and congestion in the area around the school should the KS2 pupils be moved to the high school building</p>	<p>The LA would explore different start and finishing times for the primary school children to reduce traffic congestion and different entrance points.</p> <p>If the proposals are approved, the LA would consider road safety issues and ensure that appropriate extra measures are in place before the all-through provision opens. There are a number of tools that have been successfully used to achieve this, for example revised School Travel Plans and discussions with public transport providers to look at transport provision serving local families.</p>

6.2.4 Details about the all-through school building and organisation

Summary Responses	Officer Commentary
<p>Respondents who were undecided and many of those who opposed the proposal expressed concerns about the amount of detail available for parents about the organisation of the all-through school building. Many parents and other respondents were concerned about the possibility of KS2 children mixing with older students for safeguarding reasons including possible bullying and exposure to poor behaviour.</p> <p>Many responses said that the consultation document did not include detailed plans for the building and external spaces and it was unclear how different age groups would be separated. They also said the scale and financing of any adaptations to the high school building was not made clear.</p> <p>Several responses asked whether there was sufficient space within the high school building and whether the provision planned for the high school site would match the very good Junior School facilities including the external areas.</p> <p>Many respondents also queried whether there would be separate start and finish times and separate break and lunch times.</p>	<p>Similar all-through schools in other areas have very successfully achieved the appropriate separation of different age groups, ensuring that all pupils are safe and secure, and are positively using the opportunities for appropriate all-through learning. There has been ongoing work between the LA and the headteachers to develop detailed plans of how the building could be adapted so that it is suitable for all ages should the proposals be approved. This includes a dedicated KS2 suite with a separate entrance and separated play facilities, considerations have been given to lunchtimes, ICT and how pupils could benefit from the opportunity to make use of specialist facilities such as science labs, sports areas like the dance studio and technology areas. Should members approve the proposals, the plans should be available for sharing with pupils, parents, governors, and staff in the near future. The school environment for all pupils would be safe, entirely appropriate to their age group and would not raise any safeguarding issues.</p> <p>In the proposed all-through school, the infant pupils would remain in the current Greenside building and the junior age pupils would receive the majority of their lessons in the allocated Key Stage 2 areas and be able to use facilities in the other sections as appropriate eg when specialised facilities are required. All such activities would be planned and timetabled. Play times and lunchtimes are likely to be staggered. Pupils would be supervised at all times.</p> <p>There is more than enough space in the high school building to accommodate four extra year groups for Key Stage 2 and to continue to provide excellent facilities for all learners and staff. There are no plans to expand the existing building but some internal modifications and improvements would be made to ensure it is entirely appropriate and suitable for each age group, whilst ensuring excellent specialist and sporting facilities. The LA would develop high quality facilities for KS2 pupils that are appropriate for their needs.</p> <p>Capital investment would be needed to ensure that the buildings are fit for purpose for the effective delivery of the Key Stage 2 curriculum. Work is underway to determine the level of investment required. Actual structural alterations are likely to be limited, giving a modest capital funding requirement. The costs of moving furniture and equipment would be determined when the exact scope of the work is agreed (which partly depends on the specification for the work) and it is put out to tender at the procurement stage. Recent experience with similar programmes elsewhere in the LA mean that there can be confidence that the costs are realistic and manageable.</p>

6.2.5 Management, staffing and resourcing of the all through school	
Summary Responses	Officer Commentary
<p>The management of the proposed all through school was questioned by many respondents, suggesting that the leadership and governance of an all through school would require people with a breadth of experience from primary and secondary education and a proven track record in school improvement.</p> <p>Some staff responses expressed concern about the security of their jobs. It was also queried whether staff would be expected to work with children in other age groups.</p> <p>It was also questioned by a few respondents whether resources and staffing would be allocated fairly across all age groups.</p>	<p>If the decision is made to go ahead with the proposals, the existing governing bodies of Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School would continue to govern their separate schools until the implementation date. They would work jointly towards creating the all-through school and preparing for a smooth transition</p> <p>On the date of the implementation of the proposed changes a reconstituted governing body for the all-through school would be required with the range of experience across all key stages.</p> <p>The governing body of the all-through school would review the leadership and staffing structure to ensure that it is fit for purpose for the all-through school. Staff would be organised within the all-through school to support the needs of the children and the community. Any future changes to the staffing structure would be fully consulted on and agreed by the governing body of the all-through school</p> <p>It is anticipated that teachers are likely to work mainly with the age group of pupils that they are most experienced to teach. The all-through school is intended to give all young people the opportunities to learn in more specialist facilities and this would mean that some specialist teachers and support staff (from both junior and high schools) could work with a wider age range of children. High standards of teaching for pupils of all ages would continue to be of paramount importance.</p> <p>It would be imperative that all key stages would be resourced in line with the age weighted funding allocations to the all-through school so that all pupils are enabled to achieve their best at all stages of their education.</p>
6.2.6 The reasons for the proposal	
Summary Responses	Officer Commentary
<p>Many respondents who opposed the proposal questioned the reasons for the proposal.</p> <p>Some respondents queried whether this was the best approach to deal with the Ofsted judgement that Almondbury Junior School required “special measures”.</p>	<p>A school requiring “special measures” receives prompt, targeted support to enable rapid improvement and the school is also expected by the DfE to undergo a “structural solution” of conversion to a sponsored academy or closure. The Kirklees proposed structural solution and targeted support strategy for Almondbury Junior School are set out in the LA plan of action which accompanies the school’s improvement action plan. Both plans have been submitted to Ofsted and the DfE for evaluation</p>

<p>Several respondents asked whether the school was being given enough time to make the necessary changes and improvements.</p> <p>Many respondents suggested that there was an unstated rationale behind the proposal regarding the future use of the junior school site. There was also considerable speculation that the proposal was based on economic not educational reason.</p> <p>Many respondents expressed concern that pupil numbers at the high school had fallen in recent years and that parents had negative perceptions of the school.</p> <p>High school staff were concerned that public perceptions were influenced unfairly by incorrect statements in the local media.</p>	<p>and approval.</p> <p>The proposals for Almondbury Junior School in the Kirklees plan of action are part of the overall proposal for improving all provision in the area, from nursery to age 16 to improve standards of education for current and future pupils and to maximise the efficient use resources available for learning and teaching. All ages would benefit and the work already taking place to improve the KS2 provision would continue. Strong partnership work already takes place and would be strengthened.</p> <p>No plans have been decided for the junior school site from September 2014 and nothing concrete could be determined for the junior school site until such a time as a final decision has been made regarding the next stage of the current proposal. The possible availability of the junior school site would come as a <u>result</u> of the implementation of the proposals not as a causal factor. The proposals are about educational standards, not physical assets. When any LA-owned building is vacant, work will be undertaken to look into possible future uses. The first consideration is to alleviate corporate need. The LA will need to make decisions that ensure best value for money and maximise circumstances where organisations can achieve viability and sustainability.</p> <p>The numbers of pupils at the high school have fallen due to the combination of the lower numbers of secondary age pupils in Kirklees and the impact of parental preferences for other schools which have places that have been available because of lower pupil numbers.</p> <p>The birth rate in Kirklees reduced every year to a low of about 5000 per age cohort in 2001 and since then it has grown steadily to nearly 6000 in 2009. This means that the number of Kirklees 11-12 year olds in 2012 and 2013 were the lowest for many years.</p> <p>The LA projections of pupil numbers show a significant increase in the overall basic need for secondary places over the next few years.</p> <p>Parents express preferences for secondary schools based on many factors including a range of perceptions about schools in a locality. It is important to note that Almondbury High School is currently judged as “good” by Ofsted.</p>
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7. Conclusions to be drawn from the statutory consultation

- 7.1. Consultation Process** - It is concluded that interested parties have had sufficient opportunity to contribute and that all key issues have been captured. The consultation information was pitched at a level to enable wide engagement and support further dialogue with interested parties. There was criticism of the amount of detailed information about the proposed organisation and arrangements of the proposed all-through school.
- 7.2. Educational benefit** - There was a limited response about the educational benefits intended in the proposal with some supportive comments about opportunities for young people, cohesive and inclusive practice and benefits for the community being balanced by more general questions about the evidence for the benefits of all-through provision. The majority of responses opposing the proposal came from parents/carers of pupils at Almondbury Junior School who in most cases did not support sharing a building with Key Stage 3 and 4.
- 7.3.** A common theme of opposition was **concern about KS2 pupils mixing with older pupils**. It was not possible to give concrete details about the physical space and management of the proposed all-through school as this work was at an early stage at the time of the consultation. It is acknowledged that it would have been helpful for consultees to have access to this information. If this had been possible, many of the issues raised through the consultation would have been addressed immediately and many concerns would have been allayed. However, the quality of response has given helpful feedback about the areas of design and organisation that need to be fully addressed. If approval is given to proceed with the proposal this would be a major area of engagement with parents to build confidence as planning and implementation proceeds.
- 7.4.** Some respondents suggest that the proposals are motivated by money-saving reasons or because there are plans for an alternative use of the Almondbury Junior School site.. There is a need for reassurance that these proposals are intended to use all the resources available to make the best local educational provision for the community to enable local children and young people to achieve the best possible outcomes;
- 7.5. Overall conclusions**
- Pupil responses see the positive benefits and opportunities, governor and staff responses on balance support the proposals and parental responses oppose the proposals, the largest number of which come from parents of pupils at Almondbury Junior School;
 - The responses supporting the proposals emphasise the positive opportunities for young people and the community whilst the majority of comments opposing the proposals concern important building, organisational and operational details that would be fully resolved during the planning stage before implementation;
 - It is suggested by consultation responses that the level of parental confidence in the current High School provision could be improved. Current perceptions are not helped by circulation of misinformation about the quality of provision. It is important to note that the High School is rated as “good” by Ofsted. Building parental and community confidence are major considerations in deciding and implementing changes to the educational provision in the Almondbury area.;
 - No new matters have come to light that challenge the educational rationale for the proposals.

Implications for the Council

7.6. Council priorities

Council policies affected by this proposal include the Children & Young People Plan. The proposals would support the Council priorities which are to;

- **Enhance life chances for young people.** Working in partnership to improve health and educational attainment to enable them to reach their full potential. The proposals offer the opportunity to continue to significantly improve and enhance the overall educational opportunities and achievements of young people in Kirklees.
- **Support older people to be healthy, active and involved in their communities.** Focusing on preventative work, while empowering those with long term conditions to live independent lives to the full and be in control of making their own decisions.
- **Business growth and jobs.** Creating the right conditions for business to sustain the Kirklees economy, facilitating investment in skills, jobs and homes and providing pathways into work.
- **Provide effective and productive services.** Ensuring services are focused on the needs of the community and delivering excellent value for money.

7.7. Human Resources implications

There are a number of implications for staff in establishing an all through school. A new structure would need to be established and staff and Trade Unions would need to be consulted on that new structure. Some areas would require detailed work for example leadership and Teaching & Learning Responsibility (TLR) structures. The teaching and support requirements and needs of an all through school are broadly the same and so officers would not anticipate large reductions in jobs and would look to mitigate wherever possible against any reduction in staff.

7.8. Financial Implications

There is no financial saving to the council if the all-through school is created. In fact, there would be a cost to the council resulting from the modifications and improvements required at the current High School building

The three schools involved in the proposal are part of the Public Private Partnership phase1 (PPP1) scheme so that there are potential implications at school level for the revenue funding of facilities maintenance and at LA level for the capital funding of building changes.

In resolving the difficulties associated with phase 1 the Council agreed that the PPP charge to individual schools would reflect the standard cost of facilities management and maintenance across all similar schools, the balance of cost being met by the Council. That budget which sat outside the Dedicated Schools Grant is now in the process of being transferred to the DSG budget and any future costs will then become a charge to the schools budget.

7.8.1. Revenue funding implications

The council receives 2 government revenue grants to fund schools and school related activity.

- The **Education Support Grant** is used by the local authority to fund central administrative functions (which become an academy's responsibility when it leaves the local authority sector) and this would not be affected by the proposals.
- The main **Dedicated Schools Grant** is passed directly to schools, using a locally agreed formula which allocates most funding according to the number of pupils at each school. Schools can use this money to buy services from the local

authority. If the proposals were implemented, this funding would continue to be wholly allocated to all schools according to the pupil-based formula and there would be no saving to the Council

The majority of a school's budget is used to fund staff and premises. The proposals are being made to ensure that the revenue resources available to the schools can be used to provide the best learning opportunities for children and young people in viable and sustainable settings in the Almondbury area. The fixed-rate facilities management costs for schools in the PPP1 scheme give less flexibility for school budgets and so makes it important that school buildings can be fully occupied.

7.8.2. Capital funding implications

Changes to the current High School building would have capital implications and these are currently being evaluated. The full capital implications would be presented to members for approval as part of a report on wider school capital funding, before a final decision on the proposals is sought.

7.9. Information technology (IT) implications

There are no specific IT implications in relation to this report.

8. Consultees and their opinions

The statutory consultation process has engaged with a wide range of interested parties including; families of pupils, school staff, governors, pupils, members of the community, local residents and elected members. Appendix A lists the full range of stakeholders that were provided with the consultation materials shown in Appendix B. The full consultation responses are included in Appendix C.

Should Cabinet decide to progress to the next stage of the process on publication of the statutory proposals there would be a six week representation period when further comments can be made.

9. Next steps

The table below shows what has happened to date and the next steps and indicative timescales involved in proceeding with the proposals should cabinet approve the officer recommendations.

Table 10 Next steps of the statutory process and indicative timescales†	
Activity	Date
Cabinet approval for consultation	16 th September 2013
Statutory consultation	24 th September – 11 th November 2013
Cabinet consider report on consultation outcomes and decide next steps	28 th January 2014
Statutory proposal / notice and 6 week representation period	February-March 2014
Cabinet decide proposals	April 2014
Implement proposals	1 st May 2014

†Timescales are indicative and are subject to change

10. Officer recommendations

Members are requested to;

- Note the feedback received in response to the statutory consultation and the officer commentary that addresses the concerns and issues that have been raised.
- Approve that officers publish the statutory proposal and notice
- Note the proposed next steps and timescales for the subsequent stages of the statutory process
- Request that officers carry out preliminary work with parents, governing bodies and staff to enable a successful implementation, if the proposals are finally agreed, by engaging relevant parties as widely as possible in planning the changes and in building confidence in the future cohesive and inclusive provision in the Almondbury community.

11. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

We, the Cabinet Members for Children's Services, endorse the recommendations set out by officers in the previous section of this report.

We will consider any further material matters that are brought to our attention in advance of, and during, the Cabinet meeting on 28th January 2014 and will make our final, oral, recommendations at the end of the discussion of this item at the meeting

We welcome the responses received as part of the statutory consultation. This has given parents and carers, school staff, governors, young people and a range of other interested parties the opportunity to feedback their views about the proposed changes for the future organisation of schools in Almondbury.

We are particularly pleased to receive the views and comments from the young people at Almondbury High School, Almondbury Junior School and Greenside Infant and Nursery School and thank them for their careful thought and active engagement in this consultative process.

We have taken time to consider carefully all the views that have been expressed and are grateful for those who have engaged and contributed their comments and suggestions. We are keen that the highest quality provision is available fairly to all children to ensure that they have the very best educational experience.

It is for these reasons that we support the officer recommendations in section 10 above.

12. Contact officer

Jo-Anne Sanders. Head of School Organisation, Planning and Admissions

Assistant Director responsible

Gill Ellis. Assistant Director for Learning and Skills

13. Background papers

- Cabinet Report 16th September 2013 : *Report in relation to proposals affecting Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School*

Appendix A : Almondbury Consultation Distribution list

Almondbury Statutory Consultation : Sep-Nov 2013 : List of consultees		
Kirklees Council Officers	Chief Executive – Adrian Lythgo Director for economy skills and the environment – Jacqui Gedman Director for resources – David Smith Director for children and adults – Alison O’Sullivan Director for communities, transformation and change – Ruth Redfern Director for public health – Judith Hooper Assistant director for learning - Gill Ellis Assistant director for personalisation and commissioning – Keith Smith Assistant director for family support & child protection –Paul Johnson Assistant director for well-being and integration – Sue Richards	
Kirklees Learning service	Transformation and Quality Improvement Officers School Governor service	
All Kirklees Councillors	Almondbury Ashbrow Batley East Batley West Birstall & Birkenshaw Cleckheaton Colne valley Crosland Moor& Netherton Dalton Denby Dale Dewsbury East Dewsbury South	Dewsbury West Golcar Greenhead Heckmondwike Holme Valley North Holme Valley South Kirkburton Lindley Liversedge & Gomersal Mirfield Newsome
Dioceses	Diocese Of Leeds Diocese Of Wakefield	
Further Education Collages	Greenhead College Huddersfield New Collage	Kirklees College
Kirklees Human Resources	Head of HR HR manager	
Choice Advice	Parent Partnership	
University	University of Huddersfield	
MPs	Jason McCartney MP Simon Reeve MP	Barry Sherman MP Mike Wood MP
DfE	School Organisation Unit	
Neighbouring LAs	Barnsley Council..... Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council..... Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council..... City Of Bradford Metropolitan District Council..... City Of Bradford Metropolitan District Council..... Leeds City Council..... Leeds City Council..... Oldham Council..... Wakefield Metropolitan District Council..... Wakefield Metropolitan District Council.....	School Organisation School Organisation Director Of children’s Services Director of children’s services Principle research & policy Director of children services Education Leeds Assistant Executive Director Director Of children’s Services School Organisation
The Children’s Trust Board Members	Calderdale & Hudds NHS Foundation Trust Kirklees Active Leisure National Children's Centre Calderdale & Kirklees Careers Primary Pupil Referral Service The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Kirklees University of Huddersfield West Yorkshire Police	West Yorks Fire & Rescue Authority Kirklees College North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group Clinical Commissioning Group Children & Adults Services Locala Community Partnerships Job Centre Plus South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS West Yorkshire Probation Trust
Professional Associations and Unions	AEP ASCL ASPECT ATL GMB NAHT	NASUWT NUT UNISON UNITE VOICE THE UNION

Appendix A : Almondbury Consultation Distribution list

Parents and carers of pupils at	Almondbury High School Almondbury CE (VA) I&N School Almondbury Junior School Greenside I&N School	Dalton JI&N School Moldgreen Community Primary School Lowerhouses CE (VA) JI&EY School
Governors and staff at	Almondbury High School Almondbury CE (VA) I&N School Almondbury Junior School Greenside I&N School	Dalton JI&N School Moldgreen Community Primary School Lowerhouses CE (VA) JI&EY School
All primary schools in a 2 mile radius Head + Governors +staff and display	Berry Brow I&N School Dalton School Farnley Tyas CE(VC) First School Highburton CE(C) First School Hillside Primary School Lepton CE(VC) JI&N School	Newsome Junior School Rawthorpe Junior School Rawthorpe St James CE(VC) I&N School Spring Grove JI&N School St John's CE(VC) Infant School St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
High schools in a 3 mile radius Head + Governors +staff and display	All Saints Catholic College Honley High School King James's School Moor End Academy	Netherhall Learning Campus High School Newsome High School & Sports College North Huddersfield Trust School Royds Hall High School
Early years providers	Early years including private day nursery and child minders within Almondbury ward.	
Libraries	Dalton Rawthorpe Huddersfield	
Health Centres	Dalton Surgery Mill Hill Community Health Centre Waterloo Health Centre Fartown Health Centre	
Community Centres	Almondbury Children's Centre Almondbury South Tenants and Residents Association Almondbury Sports Centre The Quarry Hill Centre The Homestead Air Training Corps Newsome and Lowerhouses Children's Centre Rawthorpe and Dalton Children's Centre	

A consultation about proposals to develop an all-through school to serve the Almondbury area

Please tell us your views on our proposals to develop an all-through school for 3 to 16 year old pupils, including nursery provision, to serve the Almondbury area.

This consultation document tells you the reasons for our proposals and how the decision making process works. Please take time to read it and let us know your views and comments on the consultation response form in the back of this booklet.

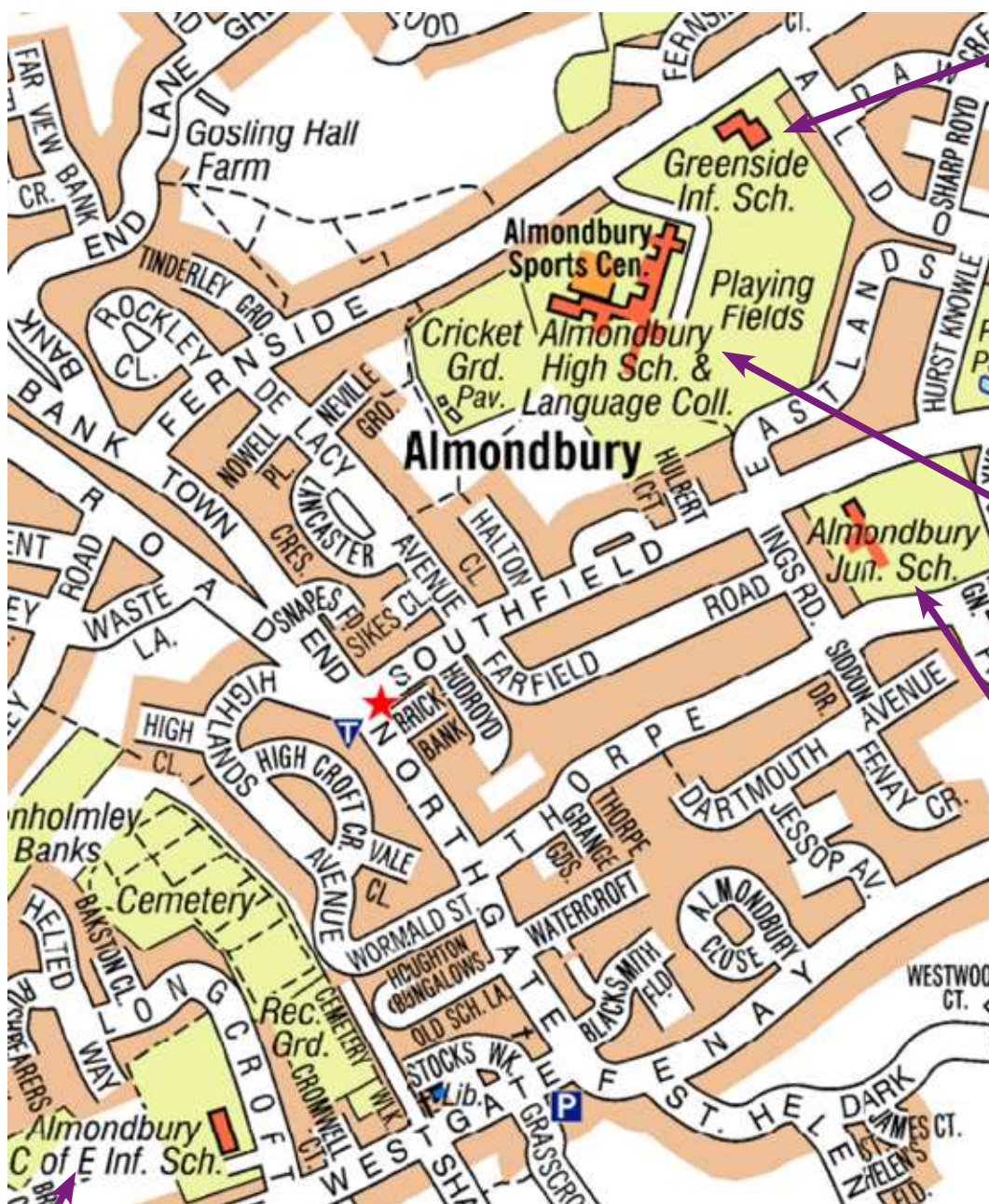
The closing date for responses is
Monday, 11 November 2013

Why are we making these proposals?

The local authority (LA) has been working closely with Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School to develop proposals that provide access to the best possible opportunities for local children by putting them at the heart of the local school system so they can achieve their very best.

It is acknowledged that the proposals outlined in this consultation document would result in change for schools in Almondbury, if implemented. The LA is committed to ensuring a safe and well planned transition without compromising teaching, learning and outcomes for children.

Where are the existing schools serving Almondbury?



Greenside Infant and Nursery School

provides education for 3 to 7 year olds (including nursery provision). Greenside Infant and Nursery School and Almondbury High School share a single site on Fernside Avenue.

Almondbury High School

provides education for 11 to 16 year olds.

Almondbury Junior School

provides education for 7 to 11 year olds. It is situated approximately 200m from the Almondbury High School building on the other side of Southfield Road.

Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School provides education for 3 to 7 year olds (including nursery provision). It is situated approximately 1.3 miles by road from Almondbury High School on Longcroft.

Welcoming your views

We want to know your views about the proposals to develop an all-through school in the Almondbury area by bringing together Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School as well as working very closely, as the schools do now, with Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School*. (*See note below)

- to cater for pupils aged 3-16, including nursery places
- with no transition needed at ages 7 and 11.

Bringing together means joining all three schools into one, with a single governing body and leadership team. Technically, the proposals involve closing Greenside Infant and Nursery School and Almondbury Junior School and lowering the age range of Almondbury High School to form a single all-through school.

If the three schools become one then it is proposed to:

- develop the existing Almondbury High School building in order to accommodate the Key Stage 2 (KS2) (junior school pupils) aged 7-11 years, in a dedicated junior suite
- retain the existing Greenside Infant and Nursery building to accommodate the Early Years Foundation and Key Stage 1 (KS1) (infant and nursery) pupils aged 3-7 years
- strengthen the links with Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School through a collaborative approach as a partner school for Early Years Foundation and Key Stage 1 (infant and nursery) pupils aged 3-7 years.

What pupil places and admission numbers are proposed for the all-through school?

Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

180 pupil places for 4-7 year olds, with an admission number of 60 pupils per year (plus 52 part-time nursery places).

Key Stage 2

440 pupil places for 7-11 year olds, with an admission number of 110 pupils per year, (so that there are enough places for all the children in Key Stage 1 in the all-through school, as well as all those who wish to transfer from Key Stage 1 in Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School).

Key Stage 3 (KS3) and 4 (KS4)

600 pupil places for 11-16 year olds, with an admission number of 120 pupils per year.

* **Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School**, as a partner school, would continue to provide 150 pupil places for 4-7 year olds, with an admission number of 50 pupils per year, as well as nursery provision of up to 52 part-time places. It would continue to be a linked school for admission purposes for pupils transferring into Key Stage 2. A 'Transfer to Junior School' application would need to be completed at the appropriate time.

What would this mean for my child?

The transition tables on pages 3-6 show how the changes would affect pupils each year as they progress through school.

How would the proposed changes affect my child currently attending Almondbury High School?

- May 1, 2014 is the date proposed to establish the all-through school
- It is proposed that pupils aged 7- 16 are educated in the KS2, 3 and 4 building of the all-through school in September 2014

The chart below shows how the changes would affect pupils each year as they progress through school. Find the current year group for your child and follow the row across from September 2013.

Current pupils at Almondbury High School School year beginning:

	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019
Current Year 11 at Almondbury High School							
• Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2014	Almondbury HS KS4	Post 16 choices					
	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18				
Current Year 10 at Almondbury High School							
• Transfer to Year 11 in all-through school in Sept 2014	Almondbury HS KS4	All-through school KS4	Post 16 choices				
• Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2015	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18			
Current Year 9 at Almondbury High School							
• Transfer to Year 10 in all-through school in Sept 2014	Almondbury HS KS3	All-through school KS4	Post 16 choices				
• Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2016	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18		
Current Year 8 at Almondbury High School							
• Transfer to Year 9 in all-through school in Sept 2014	Almondbury HS KS3	All-through school KS3	Post 16 choices				
• Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2017	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	
Current Year 7 at Almondbury High School							
• Transfer to Year 8 in all-through school in Sept 2014	Almondbury HS KS3	All-through school KS3	Post 16 choices				
• Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2018	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18

How would the proposed changes affect my child currently attending Almondbury Junior School?

- May 1, 2014 is the date proposed to establish the all-through school
- It is proposed that pupils aged 7-11 would move into the KS2, 3 and 4 building of the all-through school in September 2014
- It is proposed that pupils aged 7-16 are educated in the KS2, 3 and 4 building of the all-through school from September 2014

The chart below shows how the changes would affect pupils each year as they progress through school. Find the current year group for your child and follow the row across from September 2013.

Current pupils at Almondbury Junior School School year beginning:

	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019	Sept 2020	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023
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Current Year 6 at Almondbury Junior School

- Transfer to all-through school in Sept 2014
- Move to KS2, 3 and 4 building in Sept 2014
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2019

Almondbury Junior KS2	All-through school						Post 16 choices				
	KS3						KS4				
Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18

Current Year 5 at Almondbury Junior School

- Transfer to all-through school in Sept 2014
- Move to KS2, 3 and 4 building in Sept 2014
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2020

Almondbury Junior KS2	All-through school						Post 16 choices				
	KS3						KS4				
Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	Year 13 age 18

Current Year 4 at Almondbury Junior School

- Transfer to all-through school in Sept 2014
- Move to KS2, 3 and 4 building in Sept 2014
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2021

Almondbury Junior KS2	All-through school						Post 16 choices				
	KS2						KS4				
Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18

Current Year 3 at Almondbury Junior School

- Transfer to all-through school in Sept 2014
- Move to KS2, 3 and 4 building in Sept 2014
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2022

Almondbury Junior KS2	All-through school						Post 16 choices				
	KS2						KS4				
Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	Year 13 age 18

How would the proposed changes affect my child currently attending Greenside Infant and Nursery School?

- May 1, 2014 is the date proposed to establish the all-through school
- It is proposed that pupils aged 7-11 would move into the KS2, 3 and 4 building of the all-through school in September 2014
- It is proposed that children aged 5-7 would be accommodated in the KS1 (infant and nursery) building and that pupils aged 7-16 are educated in the KS2, 3 and 4 building of the all-through school from September 2014

The chart below shows how the changes would affect pupils each year as they progress through school. Find the current year group for your child and follow the row across from September 2013.

Current pupils at Greenside Infant and Nursery School

School year beginning:												
	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019	Sept 2020	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Sept 2024

Current Year 2 at Greenside I&N School

- Transfer to all-through school in Sept 2014
- Start in KS2, 3 and 4 building in Sept 2014
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2023

Greenside I&N KS1	All-through school											Post 16 choices	
	KS2					KS3					KS4		
Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18		

Current Year 1 at Greenside I&N School

- Transfer to all-through school in Sept 2014
- Remain at KS1 building to July 2015
- Move to KS2, 3 and 4 building in Sept 2015
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2024

Greenside I&N KS1	All-through school											Post 16 choices	
	KS1					KS2					KS3	KS4	
Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17		

Current Reception at Greenside I&N School

- Transfer to all-through school in Sept 2014
- Remain at KS1 building to July 2016
- Move to KS2, 3 and 4 building in Autumn 2016
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2025

Greenside I&N KS1	All-through school											Post 16 choices	
	KS1					KS2					KS3	KS4	
Reception age 5	Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16		

Current Pre-school 4-year olds in Greenside I&N School PAA

- Start in Reception class of all-through school in Sept 2014
- Remain at KS1 building to end of Year 2 in July 2017
- Move to KS2, 3 and 4 building in Sept 2017

All-through school												Post 16 choices		
KS1					KS2					KS3		KS4		
Reception age 5	Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16			

How would the proposed changes affect my child currently attending Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School?

- It is proposed that the close links that Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School currently has with the 3 schools would remain and the school works in a strong partnership with the all-through school.
- It is proposed that current and future pupils at **Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School** would continue to be educated at the school until the end of Year 2 and then can transfer to Year 3 at the all-through school*. A 'Transfer to Junior School' application would need to be completed at the appropriate time.
- May 1, 2014 is the date proposed to establish the all-through school.
- It is proposed that pupils aged 7-11 would move into the KS2, 3 and 4 building of the all-through school in September 2014. The chart below shows how the changes would affect pupils each year as they progress through school. Find the current year group for your child and follow the row across from September 2013.

Current pupils at Almondbury CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School

School year beginning:													
	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019	Sept 2020	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Sept 2024	
Almondbury CE(VA) I&N KS1	KS2						KS3						KS4
Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Post 16 choices			
Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	

Current Year 2 at Almondbury CE(VA) I&N School

- Transfer to KS2, 3 and 4 building of all-through school at start of Year 3 in Sept 2014*
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2023

Current Year 1 at Almondbury CE(VA) I&N School

- Transfer to KS2, 3 and 4 building of all-through school at start of Year 3 in Sept 2015*
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2024

Current Reception at Almondbury CE(VA) I&N School

- Transfer to KS2, 3 and 4 building of all-through school at start of Year 3 in Sept 2016*
- Transfer to post 16 choices in Sept 2025

Current 4-year olds in Almondbury CE(VA) I&N School PAA

- Start in Reception class of all-through school in Sept 2014
- Transfer to KS2, 3 and 4 building of all-through school at start of Year 3 in Sept 2017*

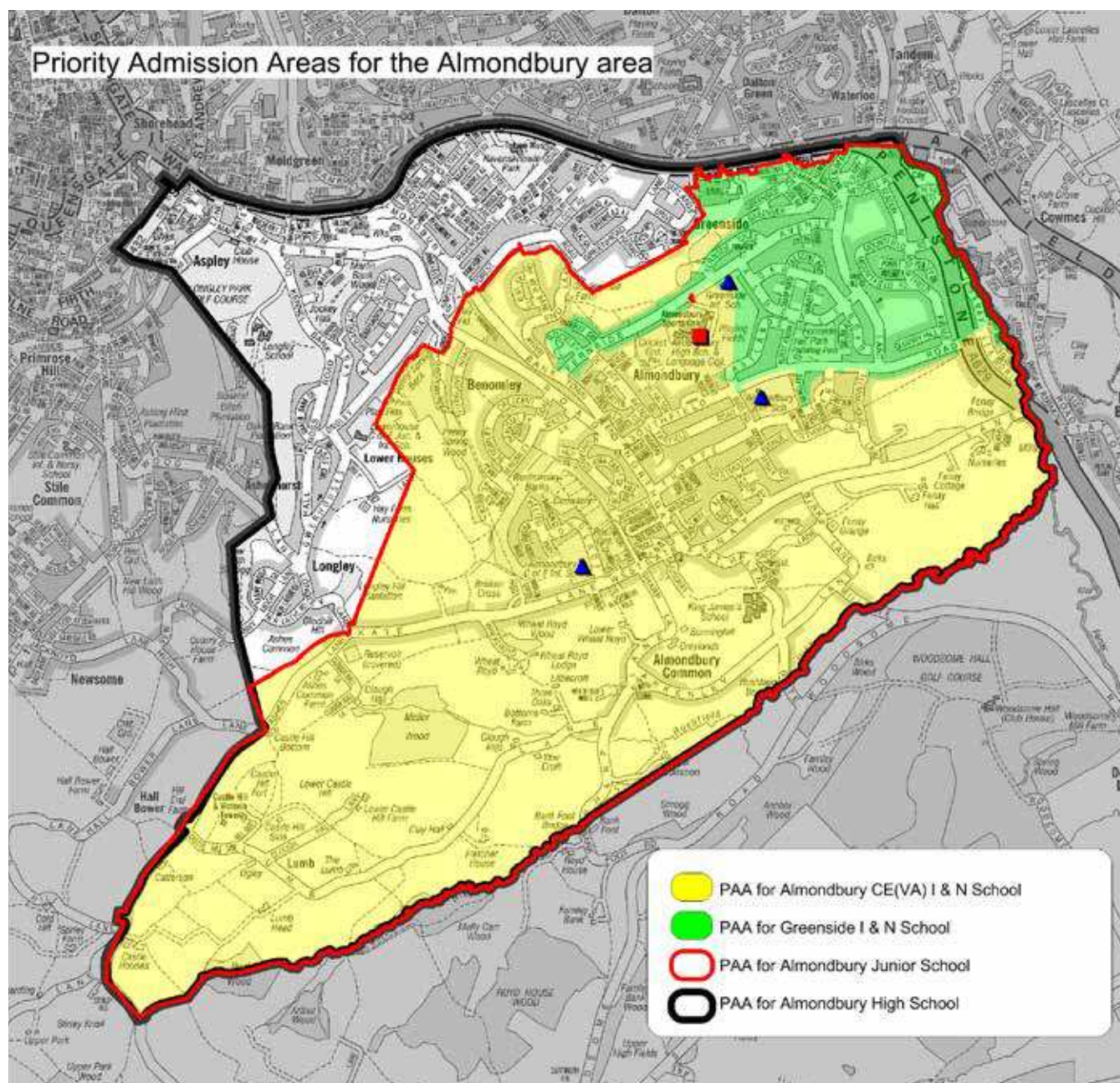
* this doesn't affect parents/carers rights to preference other schools

What would happen to the existing pupils at each of the three schools?

If the proposals are approved all the pupils attending Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School would automatically become part of the all-through school. There would be no need for parents and carers to make an application to transfer into each key stage, as pupils would automatically progress through the school. This does not remove the right of parents and carers to express a preference for places at other junior schools or other secondary schools.

What would be the admissions policy for the all-through school?

As a community school, the all-through school would continue to operate admissions in line with the Kirklees Council policy. Existing Priority Admission Areas (PAAs), sometimes referred to as catchment areas, would stay the same as they are now for each age group. The map below shows the existing PAAs of all of the four Almondbury schools.



How would the priority admission areas for the all-through school work?

Priority Admission Areas are important when a school receives more applications than there are places available. When this happens, a child living in the Priority Admission Area has a greater priority for a school place*. (*Please see note below)

The following table shows how the Priority Admission Areas at the all-through school would work.

Age of pupil	Which children would have priority for a school place?
<p>Age 4-7 years Infant stages Foundation/Key Stage 1 60 places per year group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child joining the school at age 4 would have a guaranteed place through to age 16. Parents would not have to fill in a transfer form at age 7 to continue through to the junior phase or at age 11 to continue through to the secondary phase. If parents/carers wished to express a preference for a different school they would need to complete a 'Transfer to Junior School' or a 'Transfer to Secondary School' application at the appropriate time. • A child living in the green shaded area which is the current PAA for Greenside Infant & Nursery School would have a higher priority for a place at the all-through school. It is proposed that this area would be the PAA for the KS1 phase of the all-through school. • The all-through school could be named as a preference by anyone. The priority for children living in the PAA would be used when more than 60 applications were received.
<p>Age 7-11 years Junior stage Key Stage 2 110 places per year group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child joining the school at age 7 will have a guaranteed place through to age 16. Parents will not have to fill in a transfer form at age 11 to continue through to the secondary phase. If parents/carers wished to express a preference for a different school they would need to complete a 'Transfer to Secondary School' form at the appropriate time. • A pupil attending Almondbury CE(VA) Infant & Nursery School would have a higher priority for a place at the all-through school as the infant and nursery school would continue to be "linked" to the all-through school, but would have to complete a 'Transfer to Junior School' application at the appropriate time. • A child living in the red outlined PAA for Almondbury Junior School would have a higher priority for a place at the all-through school. It is proposed that this area would be the PAA for the KS2 phase of the all-through school. • The all-through school could be named as a preference by anyone. The priority for children living in the PAA would be used when there are applications for more than a total of 110 places per year in the KS2 phase of the all-through school.
<p>Age 11-16 years Secondary stages Key Stages 3 and 4 120 places per year group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child joining the school at age 11 will have a guaranteed place through to age 16 • A child living in the black outlined PAA for Almondbury High School would have a higher priority for a place at the all-through school. It is proposed that this area would be the PAA for the KS3 and 4 phase of the all-through school. • The all-through school could be named as a preference by anyone. The priority for children living in the PAA would be used when there are applications for more than a total of 120 places per year in the KS3/4 phase of the all-through school.

*Note: This does not affect a parent/carer's right to express a preference for any school at normal transfer times for example ages 4,7, or 11 and at other times.

Why create an all-through school?

There are many generally accepted benefits of all-through schools. These benefits include:

- Improved continuity and progress from Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4 through smoother transition. For example, a single school would have common approaches to curriculum planning, assessment, record keeping and target setting. Staff would understand the learning needs of every child and systems would be in place to communicate these to colleagues as the child progresses through the school. Most importantly, the school would have a shared understanding of standards and expectations.
- More flexibility and opportunities to meet individual pupil needs by tailoring learning experiences. For example, Year 3 children who require more experience of the Key Stage 1 curriculum and more able Year 2 children needing the challenge of the Key Stage 2 programmes can be catered for. In a similar way, making provision across Year 6 and Year 7 would help with the learning transition between primary and secondary schooling. It would support children as they come to terms with a wider range of more formal subject teaching and learning.
- A wider range of resources could be shared and common themes developed across the school. This curriculum flexibility can be particularly important for children with special educational needs.
- More opportunities for social development. For example, older children could have some appropriate pastoral responsibility for younger children. This can impact positively on children's self-esteem and on behaviour across the whole school. Vulnerable children and their parents and carers have greater security because staff and provision are more consistent, year-on-year.
- More consistency in policies and practice. Work to improve the school would be led by a single leadership team and governing body. So, for example, approaches to English and maths would be consistent across the age-range.
- Closer contact for parents and carers with school staff over a longer period of time. A more continuous relationship between the school, parents, carers and outside agencies can ensure that all pupils, but particularly those with special needs, are supported effectively from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Year 11.
- More opportunity for children to attend the same school as older or younger brothers and sisters.
- Increased opportunities for staff to work in a larger team. This would help the professional development of staff and provide more opportunities to take on new responsibilities.
- More effective use of buildings, facilities, staff expertise and resources.
- Specialist facilities and teaching such as drama, arts and science would be available for all children.
- A more efficient way of managing school budgets, with fewer costs being duplicated which can maximise resources being spent on teaching and learning.

What would happen to the staff and governors?

Staff would be organised within the all-through school to support the needs of the children and the community. Any future changes to the staffing structure would be fully consulted on and agreed by the governing body of the all-through school.

If the decision is made to go ahead with the proposals, the existing governing bodies of Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School would continue to govern their separate schools until the three schools formally join together. They would work jointly towards creating the all-through school by establishing a joint committee. This committee would be made up of governors from Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School who would be preparing for a smooth transition to ensure that the all-through school makes a good start.

On the date of the implementation, the date that the three schools formally joined together, the governing body of Almondbury High School would be re-constituted. This means it would be the governing body of the all-through school. The governing bodies of Greenside Infant and Nursery School and Almondbury Junior School would cease to exist as a result of the technical closure of these two schools.

What happens next?

This consultation is open between Tuesday 24 September and Monday 11 November 2013. You have until then to express your views in writing, online or in person at the consultation events. Once the consultation has finished, the feedback received will be reported to Kirklees Council's Cabinet (the council's main decision making body), who will decide whether to move to the next stage. This would mean the publication of legal notices and another chance to view the proposals and comment on them before a final decision is made. The following table shows the next steps involved along with indicative timelines and would be dependent upon Cabinet approval to move to each stage.

Activity	Date
6 week statutory consultation (term-time)	September- November 2013
Outcome report to Kirklees Council Cabinet to seek approval to next stage*	December 2013
Publication of legal notices and six week representation period*	December 2013 - January 2014
Decision by Cabinet (within 2 months)*	February 2014
Implementation*	1 May 2014

*Subject to scheduling of Cabinet meetings

Consultation events

All of the following informal 'drop-in' events are open to everybody; families of pupils attending one of the schools, other members of the community and anyone who would like to hear more and discuss the proposals. Officers from the council will be present to answer questions and hear your views. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the events. Anyone who would like some help in taking part in the consultation will be able to receive it. Please come along and see us anytime between the times indicated below.

Date	Venue	Time
Wednesday 9 October 2013	Greenside Infant and Nursery School	3.00pm – 4.00pm
Thursday 10 October 2013	Almondbury High School and Language College	4.15pm – 5.15pm
Monday 14 October 2013	Almondbury Junior School	6.00pm – 7.00pm
Wednesday 23 October 2013	Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School	9.15am – 10.15am

In addition to these events, there will be separate opportunities for consultation with pupils, staff and governors. Kirklees Council wants to know what you think. You can take part in the consultation on our website: www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation

Alternatively, you can complete the response form at the back of this document.

Response form

Please send this form or a letter to:

By post: FREEPOST, Kirklees Council, RTBS-CYHU-LSEC, School Organisation and Planning Team. (Postage is free, you do not need a stamp)

In person: At one of the consultation drop-in sessions or hand it in at one of the schools.

Online: You can also take part in the consultation on our website: www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation

Please make sure you respond by **Monday 11 November** to ensure that your views are heard.

Consultation response form

Do you support or oppose the proposals to develop an all-through school for pupils aged 3-16 years, including nursery provision, in the Almondbury area? Please tick ✓ one of the boxes

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Why have you decided that is your view? Please tell us about it, along with anything else you would like us to consider.



About you

This section asks you for some information that will help us to analyse the results of the survey and to see who has taken part. You will not be identified by any of the information you provide.

I am a: (Please tick ✓ and complete all those that apply to you)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent/carer	Your child's/children's school/s:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil	Your school:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Governor	Your school:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of staff	Your school:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local resident	Please tell us:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Please tell us:

How would you describe your ethnic origin? (Please tick ✓ one box)

White	Asian or Asian British	Other ethnic group
English/Welsh/Scottish/	Indian <input type="checkbox"/>	Arab <input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Irish/British <input type="checkbox"/>	Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Irish <input type="checkbox"/>	Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/>	(Please write in)
Gypsy or Irish Traveller <input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese <input type="checkbox"/>	
Any other White background <input type="checkbox"/>	Any other Asian background <input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please write in).....	(Please write in).....	
Mixed	Black or Black British	
White and Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/>	Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/>	
White and Black African <input type="checkbox"/>	African <input type="checkbox"/>	
White and Asian <input type="checkbox"/>	Any other Black background <input type="checkbox"/>	
Any other Mixed background <input type="checkbox"/>	(Please write in).....	
(Please write in).....		

Please write in your postcode:

(We will not use this information to contact you)

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1.1 Responses from parents / carers from Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School	
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall I support the proposal to develop an all-through school in Almondbury, however there are a number of factors that I feel should be considered/reconsidered as part of the scoping and roll-out of the final plan. 1) Proposal document does not clearly state the reasons for the proposal and the benefits to be gained in the short, medium and longer term. My understanding (after attending various meetings/information gathering) is that the proposal will look to address 3 key issues:- Issues identified in the Junior School Ofsted report that put them into special measures - Under occupancy of the High School facilities - Need to provide improved/additional school facilities for special needs children across the local area(s) 2) Closing of the Junior School and moving pupils to the High School site with subsequent conversion of the Junior School to be used for the special needs school - whilst the overall management of the school would be overseen by the new "Through School" head / principal I do not see the need to move the children from this existing facility which has served them well to date and meets their needs. As the High School will need to be modified etc to provide the required facilities and segregation for the children, this could equally be done to accommodate the special needs schooling and would result in only one group of children being moved rather than 2. The issues with the Junior School are in relation to the teaching staff and management not the facilities. Having the special needs children at the High School campus puts them in the heart of a larger education establishment with additional facilities such as the pool and sports centre. 3) Staffing and Management: greater clarity and comfort needs to be provided to demonstrate that the management/staffing/teaching issues at the Junior School are understood and any additional training and support provided to the staff. In addition, greater clarity on how the governance of the through school will be set up and operate (principle/head role, school board, school governors, head of each section of the school - infant, junior, senior etc). I would want to be sure that the new head had the prior experience and credentials to take on this role - need someone independent to come in and do what is needed without having any prior ties/relationships that could dilute the effect or prevent the necessary changes being implemented. A strong leader is needed. 4) Timing: As I understand, the new school etc is due to be in place and operational from the 2014 autumn term. I think this is not achievable and rushing through this process will have a detrimental effect on the children and the ultimate success of this project. Recruitment of the new head/principle will take a number of months and the changes needed to the high school similarly. I would expect the changes to be implemented over the 12 to 24 months following agreement of the proposal. The first step would be to find and recruit a new head/principle and put the new management/teaching structure in place with necessary procedures around quality of teaching etc to address the issues raised in the Ofsted report. At the same time, the plans for the changes required to the high school to accommodate the new children (eg special needs children) to be developed, agreed and works commenced. Finally, phased introduction of children to the new high school facilities - to be complete by the end of the summer 2015 perhaps, with the through school being in final format etc for Sept 2016. 5) Milestones / targets: to show progress and give confidence to both parents, staff and students identifying some targets / milestones to be achieved would be a great motivator - identification of some "quick wins" that are visible will help bring everyone into the process and bolster the support needed by all parties to make this work. 6) Project management & delivery: need some assurance/visibility of a strong project plan to deliver this vision, including project manager. Communication on progress will be key with all stakeholders - having them on side with open and honest communication will help get this implemented - this new approach to schooling needs to be done "with" the community not "to" the community

Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm concerned about the mixing of young children with teenagers there are no plans on how the school will be split up? Why do my children have to be part of an experiment for the council? Why has nothing been done to lift the standards at the High school to make it a place where parents want to send their children after all there is King James school which is at near enough capacity a mile away. Is there going to be a sensible budget to make the changes needed to the structure. The time scale seems incredibly short why the rush? What other plans have you for the junior school site? The leadership at the junior school is weak as there doesn't seem to be any improvement from the inspection to the follow up visit also I'm not convinced on the leadership of the High School as it has only got a good Ofsted and not excelled and thus not encouraged parents to send their children there. If this merger was to happen I would like to see. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proper segregation of areas of the school (including dining and playground and toilets) so children only mix with children their own age 2. A commitment from the council that standards are going to go up (more monitoring of this would be needed) 3. A Budget that allows all the building alterations to take place properly and in time for the new school year 4. The appointment of a head for the new school that is not part of the existing management structure ideally this person should have experience of both Junior and Secondary and with a proven track record in leading and lifting standards. • As a parent of 2 children I oppose the merger as there is no evidence that this will be of any benefit to either of my children, it will just cause them distress more than anything. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 child will be going into year 6 when this is proposed a very important year to him. I then have another child who will be starting juniors, he has really found it hard to settle in to school that is in a small infants. I feel that the plans are not right sharing the huge dining hall and other areas. I think that the juniors should be getting help like it was told when Ofsted put into special measures instead of just shutting it down. There is no benefit for our children apart from cutting costs. • I haven't got the impression that this has been thought out for the good of the children, it appears that the junior school site is wanted for some other purpose so the only solution is to put them in the same building as the high school pupils. I do not believe that this is a good environment for young children. My son is due to start junior school next year and moving from a small infant school to a huge super school will not be good, I would much prefer for it to be done in the stages it is now. Also the plans for the building don't seem over clear; it may help ease parent's minds if we had detailed plans showing that the young children will have their very own spaces, toilets, playgrounds etc. As these plans have not been shown it gives me the impression that this school is far too rushed and that all this has been decided before firm plans have been put in place. • I would like to make sure that the new head in overall leadership of the 3 existing heads is appointed first with the new governors and ethos, uniform, strategy in place, behaviour sorted at the high school and then a phased plan to incorporate the schools together. If provision needs to be made for a special school then why not include this in the all-through school? Bring everything out into the open and consult on what needs to happen to make viable schooling provision in Almondbury. It feels as if we are only told an element of the story but if you told us the full facts we'd be able to make a decision. One school under a new executive head with provision from 3-16 including specialist education using all schools would be backed by the community. The high school may be easier to adapt than the juniors anyway. Maybe Greenside and juniors could be put in the junior buildings? • As a parent my utmost importance is for my seven year old son's safeguarding. How can you as the educational body and the council guarantee my sons safeguarding from being subject to teenage life? There should be no opportunity for them to be able to meet
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	<p>each other. I understand that there is to be an area sectioned off for the juniors to play in but that should also be inaccessible (the surrounding area) for the high school children when the juniors are in there so no goading or abuse can be heard passed. I can see some positives in the frame work of having a through school but cannot see so much that sharing the building will be able to be successful. The outside spaces are concerns me. What drop off facility's will there be? How will the children be safe? At the moment at drop off they are in the playground and only 2 gates they can go through there are also play ground staff on duty as the children grow there apron strings are cut so there will be some children in the playground on their own awaiting school to start. What safe area will there be for the children to wait as they do now. I understand the proposal is to have the entrance via Eastlands made in to the junior entrance but this leads in to the school with a vast field area to your right and left, will there be a cordoned area for the arrival on foot and cars not allowed? The play areas? The building for the juniors is fantastic. Large rooms for the children with enough space not to be sat on top of each other to enhance their learning and not being distracted and the play areas outside in the playground are fantastic. What will happen to them will they be taken with them? What is the deduction on the site of the play area ear marked for the juniors? Will they be 'caged in?' when the juniors are out playing and IF staged lunches are introduced which for again children's safety need to be done are they going to be like zoo animals being watch whilst playing by the high school children? The educational side I do not have an issue with as, from what I've seen the educational standard in both schools are good and this should not change and steps to maintain this should be put in place to make sure this is not disrupted. What measures will be put in place to protect and to make sure that the transition to the new building, should it go ahead, will not interfere with my sons education. May to September is not a lot of time to get the classes ready and the segregation sorted before the start of term. What guarantee can be given that the children's education does not slip whilst you are still on going with the alterations?</p>
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believe this proposal is money driven rather than education. No details given on how the new building will accommodate and change for the juniors, how lunch times will work, how they will be separated from high school students. Do not believe a super school will change the education for the better in Almondbury and only make matters worse. • No details given in consultation on how this will work. ie funding, building changes to accommodate junior pupils. No details given on why this change is proposed to happen so soon. Why not merge infants with juniors? Why can't the juniors remain where they are? Is the reason that the building is wanted for something else which is the main reason for the proposal? • Will there be clear separation of junior and high school children. How will the younger children be kept separate from the older children? How will break and lunch time be managed? Will there be a separate start and finish time? Which school is Almondbury Juniors paired with at the moment? Why not keep the juniors where they are how gave through schools in similar areas performed? The junior school SAT results for 2013 show improvement will this be taken into account? Is money saving at the heart of decision not education? Is the school going to be rebranded to get rid of the 'stigma' of Almondbury High? • Will there be clear separation of junior and high school children How will the younger children be kept separate from the older children? How will break and lunch time be managed? Will there be a separate start and finish time? How will children cope with the move? Is there going to be a full blueprint for the proposed 'super school'. Is it not the case that a badly managed high school has seen such a drastic drop in numbers that it is no longer cost effective in its current form? Why are the school sites

having to be merged how will the physical changes and managerial changes be ready by May 2014 (or Sept 2014) how will the disruption to the education be kept to a minimum? Why the rush for May? How much money will be invested? How will the start and finish be managed in light of 1000 children arriving? Who will manage the school? Will there be a head for each key stage? Does the secondary head have any experience of infant and junior schools? What process will be followed to choose the head of the 'super school'? Will there be an equal distribution of funding throughout the school? Is there extra funding available for updating facilities at the high school? What is the budget for adapting the school? If no money is saved from move. Why move? What great facilities will the 'super school' offer? What is proposed for the junior school site? (2) Will there be play apparatus built for junior children will the play facilities at the high school match those of Almondbury Junior School? How this affect YR6 will and those children in YR5 SATS How will the new school be of more benefit to children's education? What are the advantages? How can the needs of all the children be effectively met in a single school? Special measures should not lead to upheaval? Why not put the effort into making the junior up to where it needs to be? Federate the schools if necessary but keep the sites as they are. That if schools are merged that investment (financial and otherwise) is put into this new 'super school' to improve education standards especially in the first few years. Those parents are included and listened to in the consultation. For high quality education in Almondbury schools Was Netherhall forced into a campus or did the local community make the de decision? Which school is Almondbury Juniors paired with at the moment? Why not keep the juniors where they are? How gave through schools in similar areas performed? The junior school SAT results for 2013 show improvement will this be taken into account? Is money saving at the heart of decision not education? Is the school going to be rebranded to get rid of the 'stigma' of Almondbury High? The impact of changing on people moving into Almondbury.

- I have now been to 2 consultation meetings and do not know how we can agree when you do not know or tell us anything. Before I can think this is any good I need to know that everything is properly separated. And the management needs to be all new and the best to turn these failing schools around we need more answers.
- The following comments are the shared opinions of 2 of the parents of a pupil currently attending Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School, who will be 7 at the start of academic year 2014-2015. We are concerned that a single governing and management structure would be unable to meet the needs of such a wide age range of pupils. A child at 3 or 3 years has very different needs to that of a child at 16. The proposal assumes that all pupils will have their needs met by a consistent approach; however, there is evidence to suggest that a one-size-fits-all approach to education fails many pupils. The proposal highlights the benefits of not having a transition to another school at 7 and 11 years. We feel that the benefits of no transition are questionable. Throughout a person's life there is a need to adapt smoothly to change; by removing the school changes at 7 and 11 years is it not ill-preparing them for the inevitable changes and transition that occur at 16? We are aware that it is common for the primary aged pupils to be taught within the same school setting; however we are unaware of a situation where within a mainstream state school setting children of 7 are taught alongside children of 16. We therefore feel that there is no evidence to show how this will impact upon our children's education and so raising a great deal of concern. We are also concerned about the lack of transparency as to who has been involved in drafting the proposal and the decision making process. Are they from a teaching/educational background? Are they qualified and experienced enough to propose such a change to our children's education? From reading the consultation documents we feel that the motivation behind the proposal is one of local authority cost-cutting as opposed to benefiting a child's education.

- I strongly oppose - no one has told me what exactly is 'super' about this school and how it will improve my child's education. The facilities at the junior school are fine as they are. There is a great outdoor area to support P.E and out of school activities - which the high school cannot. Children of 7 & 8 should not be expected to be around the language and behaviour of these older children (Childhood is getting shorter and more precious as it is) How can a child be expected to learn when they are worrying about being around the older children? The junior school should be supported to improve not just moved into some cramped area of school. If a school has failed then maybe Kirklees should accept some blame for this, surely it shouldn't have been allowed to get to that point. I cannot believe a school is not given the chance to improve - they just have to close! It is very clear that me even writing this is a waste of time because this is not a consultation - just an inconvenience - but you people have decided this should hang your heads in shame - but that won't happen because your children and grandchildren obviously don't go to these schools!
- I think young children should not be in the same school environment as teenage children they have different needs I have major concerns over bullying, sharing toilets, will they be having a play equipment they can play on and I think kids are groaning up too fast as it is this will also make the young children think they have to grow up even quicker! All this change is not about our children's education it's about saving money and so a special school can have its place where the junior school site is now. I am distressed and upset about this throughout school and if it goes ahead I shall be looking on a different school for my daughter who will be starting juniors in September.
- How will moving to the high school improve/raise standards at the junior school? - The high school does not perform well in league tables. AHS has suffered from falling rolls for the last 10 years. It has become parents' second choice. All the children will have to make a transition from two infant schools on separate sites into junior/high school. From small personal community into large, faceless establishment. Children of 7 years old should not be forced together, the proposed change of building is appalling - the juniors are squeezed into a smaller area, what is the square foot area when comparing the two sites? The playground provision is inadequate when comparing facilities. This must be causing considerable stress to staff, parents and children. Will staff keep their jobs? Almondbury Juniors is NOT a special measures school. This seems a convenient ruse to bail out a failing high school.
- I do not believe that a school of 1000+ pupils will be a good social environment for 3-11 year olds. A merged infant and junior school, like most other schools in the area, would make sense, however I am extremely unhappy with the super-school proposal and you have provided no evidence of this approach being successful elsewhere. The information provided is very thin. Most parents I have spoken to are unhappy with the proposals and as we need to find a transfer school for next year any alternatives are very limited as other infant and junior schools in the area do not have spaces. I feel these proposals are being bulldozed through.
- As a parent of a child who is due to start juniors this September I am extremely concerned over this proposal for many reasons. The whole idea of placing juniors with high school students is beyond crazy. My 6 year old son is now refusing to go to Almondbury juniors the school we viewed and that he was happy with last year. Juniors will now not be on our options although as we are in catchment areas for juniors I'm pretty sure we will still be given this school regardless. The proposal is rushed and not thoroughly thought out. Infants/juniors and high school students require their own buildings with the correct adaptations for their age. This could be achieved if money was put into this project on the high school site. 3 separate buildings but one school. I and

many parents have been given any information that shows us this is the right way for better education for our children. Instead it fills us with worry as dread. I propose Kirklees put more money into the proposal and do this the right way by adding an additional building and interviewing for a new head who covers all the age ranges. Kirklees please think of our children and their education. Not money and quick fixes.

- Because you cannot mix junior school with high school children. And we as parents know it is all down to money. If you go ahead with this plan you are going to lose the Almondbury community
- I don't want my 7 yr. old having to go straight from infant school to high school. The high school building is simply not an appropriate environment for KS2 children. If the 'through school' has to be created please keep the juniors in their own building as is the case at every other similar school ie Netherhall learning Campus; Wyke; Birkenshaw. I would far rather have a junior academy in the current junior school building than forcing the juniors into the high school building. I cannot see any benefit to our children of doing this. Please think again.
- I simply do not think it is appropriate to put 7yr old children in a school with 16yr olds. Their needs are totally different. The building is not designed for juniors and whatever modifications are made will be a compromise. A compromise is not good enough - if such huge and disruptive changes are to be made the end result must be better and I cannot see how this huge 'through school' is better than the existing purpose built KS2 facilities. How can the necessary changes be made in time? Even with more time to adapt the building it is not right to make these children share facilities. It is an intimidatingly large building for younger children and makes the move from yr2 to yr3 a huge one, rather than the intermediate step of the existing junior school. Other 'through schools' have separate buildings/facilities for the different age groups - shoehorning them into one building is unacceptable. Please consider other options to fill the high school - 6th form, further education, adult education, community facilities, and local businesses. Anything but using our juniors! I am also seriously concerned that the high school children are expected to perform a 'pastoral care' role for the KS2 children. Leave the juniors in their own school; they can still share a head/governing body or become an academy. The consultation process has not been fair, honest and open - the reasons behind the proposals have not been explained in the consultation booklet and conflicting information was given at the consultation meetings. It does not give any confidence that the proposals have been fully thought through. Please rethink these proposals for the sake of our children - do not detriment their education
- After attending a meeting and viewing an ill-conceived amateurish sketch plan we failed to be provided with any information allowing an informed decision to be made.
- I have concerns over seven year old pupils being intimidated by their older peers
- No financial information is available to ensure an informed business case has been made.
- The timescale proposed to complete all recruitment and modifications of any building, in my opinion is not long enough
- The sketch plan shown to the group in a meeting attended showed the administration department being placed in an area not a tenth of the size that is currently occupied. How can this work when there are more pupils to provide administration for?
- Why can't the juniors have the 18 months it was told it would have to improve?
- Full capacity if proposal precedes 1040 of mixed age at High. What are the full legal provisions for all age groups, sanitary, learning, segregation and safety requirements
- Based on capacity and legal requirements already known by KMC, what is the minimum budget for implementation/adopt action of the school? What is the time frame of full proposed work and completion date and what are the full proposals for accomplishing

	<p>this to minimise impact of learning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you please describe the recruitment process you will utilise to identify and appoint an appropriate leadership team for the super school, and confirm that you do not intend simply to hand the new expanded school to existing leadership team at Almondbury high. • Due to exposure of a higher level of Anti-social behaviour to yrs. 3, 4, 5 & 6 if merger proceeds that they will be exposed to. How is this going to be managed and how are the children going to be protected from it & seeing it? • Reasons for my view: 1) I am not keen for my children, at such a tender age, to be mixing with teenagers. 2) I believe it is preferable for a child to experience a variety of schools rather than spend many years in one. • Child also at Almondbury Juniors. I have x2 children aged 8 & 6, when I preferenced schools for them I chose Almondbury Junior School not an Academy. I am not happy with the information I have been given - how much money is going to be spent converting the building? Access for the Juniors? Caged in outdoor area - who will be watching barriers where juniors can watch or hear teenagers? The area proposed within the building for the juniors is a very dark corridor, with classrooms with not much natural light. Can you guarantee that my son who will only be 7 will be kept separate from high school aged pupils? I feel that this plan is just about money and budgets and not what is best for our children!
Neither Support nor Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I understand that the consultation is a legal requirement and that those there cannot give us any answers to the questions being asked. All we are told is "write it down on the response form" which we have. Many parents are angry as no day to day running of the school is being made available yet, rumours are flying and friction is being caused between parents. Making information on the options available say this could happen or this but nothing is set in place is better than nothing at all. We need all parents support for this to work because it has to if the high school was to close due to low intake, where would the children go?

1.2 Responses from parents / carers from Almondbury High School	
Strongly Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe that in the interest of my own children and future children in the area that this is a positive opportunity. It's a way in which pupils will be able to integrate safely with children across the range. It will allow for a constant approach to everything from discipline through to teaching. Whilst my daughter was in yr. 6 at AJ she was lucky enough to have level 6 maths + English tutor at AJ from AHSLC staff which benefitted her greatly. This on a larger scale (skill mix) can only be fab for teachers; non-teaching staff are primarily our children. • I think it is best for my children's education if it keeps local schools in our community then I support it. I am a bit worried about age mix of kids but know this will be sorted out properly because it can't not be done otherwise. My children are excited about it. • I think that the children's education would be more consistent, and less stressful as there wouldn't be a transition period, especially those with special needs, who hopefully wouldn't need to change their support workers, whom they may have been with for some years. Being one school, would hopefully mean that the community would be more involved and teachers and parents would be able to build better relationships, working as one. As a recommendation, it would be a good idea for the school and voluntary groups in Almondbury, to involve the children in more activities after school, on weekends and holidays.
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe that children from all schools make visits to each school for various performances/lessons, so bringing them altogether on one site makes sense to me.

	Hopefully being on site will allow the younger children to learn languages for example sooner. I understand that some parents of younger children are concerned that all the children will be thrown together. I presume that this will not be the case but do wonder how lunchtimes and playtimes will work.
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't think putting all schools together is such a great idea, I think the small children won't benefit from this because of the things they're going to hear from the much older children! I don't think much thought has gone into this, I think instead it should be high school and junior together, and nursery + infants together not altogether.
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No funds to moderate building suitable for ages 7-11. They need to play no funds to separate hormonal teenagers needs from young children's needs. Mixing younger age groups with older age groups creates the wrong environment. We should protect our younger children and not expose them to an "older" environment until they are ready. I am also concerned about the disruption caused by the move and the potential impact on grades. I oppose the ideas of a new super school as I think it is wrong to have young children mixing with teenagers, I think a better idea would be to keep the children in the buildings they use now but create a stronger working partnership between the schools. What are the plans for toilets, dining room, playground etc. because the ones the older children use are not ideal for the younger children? As a parent both myself and my child are opposed to the merger. My child has expressed worries over several issues, mixing with younger children, how will start/finish times in school be affected? How will breaks and lunches work? (this is little room in the dining room now - let alone when more children need to be catered for) I have asked my child to move to King James School but have been met with 'stern' no's that is until my child's circle of friends (if they decide) move! If numbers are falling at AJS and AHS surely that says something about the leadership? There has been a great turnover of staff at AJS which was a constant worry when my child attended and practically no consistency with teaching staff so how can this be guaranteed if the merger goes ahead. I feel these consultations are purely to be seen to be following procedure but that the whole project is already rubber stamped! I don't want my 7 year old mixing with teenagers on the same building for obvious reasons. Why the rush to get it all moved next year? This whole Ofsted report think doesn't make sense - why special measures means they have to close instead of help improve the school? Will the high school get an updated visit before/if the proposal goes ahead - what happens if that goes into special measures? Heard rumours that the junior school site is earmarked for some other use - hence this proposal - not because creating a 'super school' will provide a better education for our kids?!
Don't Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't know what to say, it's you who knows, better for the children and the whole of the community.

1.3 Responses from parents / carers from Almondbury Junior School

Strongly Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being a single parent it would make it easier to get both children to school on time and wouldn't be as time consuming. Also it sounds good to save money. So more can go towards the children's education.
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If our children are going to benefit then it is a good idea.
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The disruption will be too much for my child. We have 24 months to improve this school, and will not accept anything else. I have very strong views about my child attending a all through school, I believe that if it is done correctly and with the right funding, parents may!!! accept this, but as it stands we need to see plans for the segregation, we feel that the facilities must be the same as

in the junior school, no shared facilities accepted, i.e. sports hall, dinner hall etc. Also transition should take place at the start of a new school year not during a school year as if the boot was on the other foot us as parents would be reprimanded !!!!, We believe that the school should be totally re branded to get rid of all the old and start anew. Picking up times is a big issue too, I am afraid that I am not a believer that the junior school has no purpose to Kirklees at the moment, I know that this school already has big plans ahead and am a little sick of the lies that are going around regarding the future use of Almondbury Juniors. We need more information and don't need to be lied to anymore, as if this continues you will have a fight on your hands which will mess up the plans you already have in place for the junior school!

- I have now seen the plans and to me they need more looking into. How will the two schools be separated just by a door, can this be locked as then that is a fire hazard. Think you really need to look at other ways. When the juniors are playing out the dining room over looks there playground which is all glass windows if the high school are on lunch they will be just looking out other the younger children . It is also planned that junior year 6 go to the right hand side of the hall which is not near the rest of the junior side. I think you should look at changing the feeder schools i.e. from lepton; Kirkheaton and other areas which all feed into King James why not share out between both high schools and leave the juniors where they belong in their own school. Think of the children instead of cutting costs.
- I think the planes are being too rushed. If the 'Super School' had two separate buildings it might be a better idea. I am a parent of two children which this will affect. I would like to know why they seem to think two failing schools joined together will work. Maybe should be working with each school to help, which we were told at the meeting when the Juniors went into special measures that it would be worked with for the next two years. Now we are told has two choices to close or become an Academy, if this is the case I would prefer an Academy which all seem to be working i.e. Lindley Juniors. Think of the children And Not Money.
- The proposal should include provision for the special school as well rather than close Almondbury Juniors why not use the high school for a special school as well and have provision for all the children on one big campus? There must be an executive head appointed to oversee the running of the new school, a new brand for the school and new uniform, name. The new school should be phased in over a year with the executive head appointed first and the behaviour ethos, culture of the school established first with the other schools phased in.
- "**Child also at Almondbury I&N.** I've found Kirklees's approach to the Almondbury all-through school proposal disingenuous and poorly presented. The speed of the proposed changes is major cause of concern. The proposal, as laid out in your 11-page consultation paper, appears very much biased and could be viewed as lip-service, with a conclusion being reached already. The proposals only mention the benefits of all-through schools, not one downside. These downsides do exist, as a quick "Google" of the internet soon reveals. Kirklees have arrived at a decision to go-ahead with an all-through school and are now making out the excuses as to why this should be the case. Nowhere in the proposal are there any discussions on the disadvantages, such as: * Too much too soon – Overwhelming the younger children in such a large school. * You mention that "older children could have some appropriate pastoral responsibility for the younger children". There is cause for concern that this can cut both ways, the inappropriate is a potential issue. * There are leadership issues here which are still unresolved. Also with so little time between implementation and the start of the next school year, this has to be considered high risk. This HAS to be right first time; otherwise it will affect the pupils. * Where is the research evidence on any of the "generally

	<p>accepted benefits"? This appears little more than anecdotal. * Disruption; Moving from the practised into the unknown in such a short time-frame. Given the time frame from the implementation (May 1st) and September 2014 can classes be transferred from the Infant and Junior schools to the High School? My experience of having worked on the Building Schools for the Future project in Bradford as one of the Contractors suggests this is too aggressive. All the above suggest an element of risk, and most on the high side. This is my children's education here, and I don't appreciate the way in which Kirklees appear to be addressing this issue. The option of transferring out is mentioned in the proposal, but does not explain the implication of this. Does this differ from the current arrangements concerning moving to Secondary School? If so how? Those attending the consultation appear to have lacked proper balanced views, and do not appear to have been well prepared. These consultations should have allayed some of the above fears; instead the lack of knowledge displayed has sharpened fears that this move is based upon economic motives. We have to state our opposition, as this whole proposal seems rushed and to be based on cutting costs, and putting Almondbury children's education and future at risk."</p>
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am finding the idea of teaching 7 yr. olds and 16 yr. olds under the same roof with no money to spend on a purpose built facility for high school students, abhorrent and absurd. Especially as were informed that there isn't any funds available to spend on the site to segregate the different age groups. I will be moving out of Almondbury and having my children educated by an LEA who has education at heart and not finances! • "For pupils to go from age 3 to 17/18 on the same site is too long. It is good for kid's development to have some change, it gives opportunity for a fresh start, to change schools (with a new site) a few times. The true reasons for the proposal have not been disclosed, with a plan to sell Longley special school later to the University, and move Longley to Almondbury Juniors. This means the reasons are financial and not in the pupils best interests. • I am a parent of twin girls who attend Almondbury Junior School. I was hoping if you could give me some more information about the above proposal. It was agreed at the meeting to begin a 6 week consultation. However as yet we as parents have nothing to be consulted on. It says there will be meetings at the 4 schools involved but no indication of when these might be. Could you inform me of when these will take place or when further information on the plans for the school will be released? Also could you tell me a little more about how the process works. Following the six week consultation period it says there will be an outcome report and approval to the next stage. Is this a done deal? What if there is a lot of objection and the opinions of parents and carers are overwhelmingly against the proposals? Or what if it is felt there has not been enough information to form a balanced opinion on what is happening? If it does go to the next stage this is called a representation period. Could you explain what this is please. How can a date be set for implementation if no decision has yet been made? I have begun a parents group to ensure our voices are heard and listened to. • This plan is the worst idea I have ever come across. How will dinner times work? Toilet facilities? Start & finish times. Mixing my young child with teenagers is ludicrous. The only reason for this plan is the junior school wanted as a special school and is under negotiation. Also the lack of students at Almondbury high. Don't sacrifice the younger children's school life for money. Kirklees should be ashamed at this proposal!!!! • Not happy at all the proposal. This is at the cost of KS2 pupils. Keep our children young. Do not mix with teenagers. This is worrying and upsetting • We know that there are plans for the junior building, and I strongly believe that the move for our juniors will be very disruptive. I want to see the other party's involved

moving into the existing high school building leaving the juniors where they should be. I am willing to go as far as needed to make sure this happens.

- We have two years to get the school running to a better standard. Move special needs school to high school grounds not our children!!!
- No Way must this happen. I think you will have to deal with more problems if you go ahead with this so called superschool! I know many parents will be looking to move their children out of the school altogether, which in turn will cause you more problems than ever. There will be overcrowding in many schools leading to bad results and also the disruption to the children will be horrific. If you have any common decency you will listen to what's being said and keep the juniors on their own site.
- "I do not think it's appropriate to have young children mix with teenagers due to the inappropriate language and topics of conversation they use. It's already unpleasant in the Junior School playground when the High School children are there collecting siblings - they swear loudly and openly talk about exploits. I am also unhappy that by putting the children into this proposed all-through school at 7, they will seemingly have to stay there until 16, taking away the opportunity to go to a different high school more suited to them - i.e. King James which is a much better school for the academically able children. Also, will places be made available at surrounding Junior Schools (namely Rowley Lane) for the children whose parents DO NOT want them to be automatically placed into this new all-through school?
- No information hardly on the consultation, where will the children learn, eat, play? Too rushed also, nothing wrong with Almondbury Junior School, brilliant community school, there is a lot wrong with Almondbury High School, 24th in the schools! Why isn't the High School having their new Ofsted???
- Extremely unhappy parent.
- I strongly oppose the all-through school; my son attends the junior school and has done very well at this school. We were told at the meeting after the Ofsted judgement that the school would have the opportunity to improve, not closed! Why the rush, I am extremely concerned over health and safety for the children if and when this goes ahead. I feel the juniors are being sacrificed. This consultation is extremely vague, no details of where the junior children will be housed, will there be totally separate facilities? All four of my children have attended Almondbury juniors and have done well; it has a community/village feel which is priceless! All the children know each other and look out for one another. I feel this is Kirklees just trying to save money! the impact on the children and the dip in their education is surely not worth the sacrifice
- "The motivation behind the plans appears to be more about cost effectiveness, economics and the releasing of the Almondbury Junior School site to be used for other purposes from which the council can benefit. If this is not the case then why is it not equally effective to combine the management, method statements and leadership of the three schools whilst maintaining the three separate campuses? Also clearly it is inappropriate for children over such a wide age range to be free to mingle together in communal areas. So far as I can see no proper blueprint for the required segregation is yet in place and therefore the risk of injury to younger children as a result of the activity of the elder children is a clear risk. Also the possibility of younger children being exposed to inappropriate language or behaviour is far greater in a school where they are closely associating with much older children. The mere fact that Almondbury High School numbers have fallen to such a level as to mean it is not cost effective is not a convincing argument for me as a parent to allow my child to be moved to an environment I consider unsuitable. From the councils point of view they can combine classes and cut back on human resources whilst filling the empty school with our children. Economically this makes sense but educationally it has very little to recommend it. When I attended a

consultation at Greenside Infant School I was informed that the children would benefit from additional resources. I fail to see how this can be the case when at the moment she is in a school of just over two hundred pupils with their own dedicated campus. Should the proposals go ahead she would be sharing the resources of a single campus with nearly a thousand pupils. Logic dictates this is not going to lead to more but less resources for our children. The timescale for the consultation is far too short to ensure it is properly considered and the proper safeguards put in place. I believe this is linked to the need to release the Junior School site for other purposes at the benefit to the council. Because of this I believe the proposal is being rushed through with undue haste. Especially in light of the fact that the proposal for similar moves in the paddock area are due to be phased in over several years. Seems odd the difference in approach!!!

- Finally it seems grossly unfair that Almondbury Junior School has been given no opportunity to improve in light of the Ofsted report. Surely this should have been the case prior to such drastic measures being taken if no other pressures were driving this decision. It is my experience thus far that there are no massive issues with the junior school and my daughter has settled in really well. It is my view that her well-being and education will be best served by maintaining the status quo with regards to the campuses whilst increasing management and policy links between the four schools.
- I am of this opinion because I don't think the reasons for doing it are genuine, the junior school is being made the scapegoat for the failings of the high school, it's just a lazy quickly thought up knee jerk, bird brained idea, I mean how can you realistically expect 7 year old children fresh out of infant school to share a corridor not to mention a WC with 15/16 year old it really does make the mind boggle, have you even considered the health and safety of the youngest children? The high school just isn't adapted to the needs of junior school pupils, no playing apparatus and if there was some built (which I very much doubt the budget for this scheme would stretch) the older pupils would soon claim this for themselves to misuse. All my 3 children have/are attended AJS and I've always thought it a good, safe and happy school, I urge you to think very carefully about going through with this ridiculous idea.
- A number of reasons. 1. No child should be placed in an environment for adolescent kids. The language a lot of that high school pupils use is disgusting. I have also seen fights after high school finishes.. 2. Why not join the infants to the juniors instead? Christchurch woodhouse (as it was) had this and it worked wonderfully. We moved to this area due to the locations of the schools. I grew up here, but never went to the high school. It has never been any good, it's dated, grotty and depressing. My eldest child is at King James', the school I went to. In contrast its building and surrounding are fantastic. The schools work ethic is very good. I will not want my child who is at juniors moving to this 'super school' and then finding out she is stuck there (even if it's not my first choice) In fact I probably wouldn't even select it on the registrations forms for high school. I want a choice; Almondbury high is not my choice. Keep our young child out of there. Let them have a childhood. The junior school has nothing wrong with it apart from its quite under populated. Hence why a suggestion to move the infants there would work. I also feel you would see no opposition from parents on that fact.
- "I do not believe that this proposal is based on what's best for the children of Almondbury. I believe the following are the main factors: 1. Poor Ofsted reports for Almondbury schools 2. Underutilisation of the high school facilities 3. Lease on junior school premises 4. Reducing costs since none of these factors are mentioned as key drivers in the proposal document, I have to question the integrity of the proposal. I also do not believe that it is healthy having children with an age difference of up to 10 years (excluding infants) sharing the same facilities. Younger children will find this intimidating unless the age groups can be fully separated, including the following areas: 1. School

entrances and approaches 2. Playgrounds and playing fields 3. Access to classrooms/corridors 4. Toilets 5. Dining facilities 6. Gyms/halls if a child has to go into an area used by a different age range, that child should be accompanied by an adult. The proposal document doesn't cover any of this, but further information is available online which indicates that there will not be sufficient separation of the age groups. I would not be happy sending my children to the proposed school.

- I do not want my junior's age child sharing school building with high school age children. The junior school site is just perfect for the children's needs. I do not understand why the suggested move and I can't see how it could improve things for junior school children.
- The school is good. (Almondbury Juniors) It is a useful experience for children to change schools sometimes it gives them a new start and helps them develop. Being in the same grounds from age 3 - 17 is too long. The reasons for the proposed change have not been disclosed. There is a rumour that money has been offered for the Longley special school buildings or grounds, to rent or buy, and there is a plan to use the Almondbury Junior School as a special school. So the plan is about money not the pupils. If this is being considered it should be honestly disclosed. Please pass the enclosed letter to someone who can give a definite answer to this. Thank you.
- "I strongly disagree with the merger; I do not feel it is acceptable for my 7yr old to be with high school aged children. I chose Almondbury Juniors School for my son because of what the school had to offer him and his situation. Not enough information has been available to show what support will be available to the children to make the transition period as smooth as possible. A 2011 report states that government statistics show that with a school amalgamation there is a 2-4yr dip in educational standards, what is in place to support this? What is the rush to have the new school up and running by next year, I feel that this move is all about saving the high school from closure? Why can't the junior school stay on the current site and still be part of the Super School? At the consultation evening I asked for examples of schools in the area that a merger has been successful, the examples given were for purpose built new schools, not a modified high school. The current plans on show do not show enough detail or show the safety of our younger children, there isn't any information on the shared areas, i.e. dinner hall and how this will work. If this merger is supposed to be about getting the Junior school out of special measures following the Ofsted inspection why were we not informed of the planned merger at the parent's evening when we were informed of the plans and timescale to get the school out of special measures (published on the school website). The proposal states that a single school will have a smoother transition to key stage 4, how can this be possible when there is more than one feeder school to the high school, i.e. Lowerhouses, will they be kept in separate classes? I am dreading my child finding out about these plans, he needs structure and reassurance in his daily routine, if he starts asking questions I do not have any answers for him from the information provided by Kirklees, you can't pick my child up from one school and place him straight in another without any behavioural issues. I asked for examples of other schools in the area the only ones I can see that are for 7-16yrs are purpose built new buildings.
- The school has just had a bad Ofsted report how can another major structural change for the children be good for their education. Worried about bullying of younger children. Class sizes in the future. facilities for smaller children (will they have separate dining areas, play areas, toilets
- My reason to oppose is that I strongly disagree with children of age 7 sharing the same toilets as a 16 year old, Another non-contributing factor would be that children of age 7 don't know the difference between right and wrong, left and right . And the 16 year olds

are making crucial decision concerning their future, therefore this suggests that the high schools much to formal for juniors. Also having a brief look at the plans I have seen no evidence of expanding the building or playground, I understand the amount of pupils the school can hold but when the corridors get crowded the little one will get pushed and would result in injury and the little one will feel intimidated this would come in children not wanting to come to school, Another thing is the dining room is very small therefore this would mean spreading lunch time out and dinner time is 12 till 1 but having to split it means some kids would have to have it earlier or later and maybe have a less time to eat which I don't think is acceptable . Who in their right mind would let their children wait till 2 for dinner or let them have it at 11 it not on. Another reason is you have 7 year old playing mummy and daddy's and then the 16 year old doing very important exams they do not mix they don't understand . Children of 6/7 would not understand and be able to be quite when moving from class to class and would course them to get insurable through no fault of their own.

- This has been rushed and I and many other parents feel it has been rushed. The High School needs making a hundred times better before I want my child channelled into it. The behaviour on an evening after school is an indication of how I do not want my small child having to deal with the rude and abusive behaviour that I have seen committed after school as I walk down to Greenside. And this is to adults who live on Fernside Ave and to some parents who pick up At Greenside Infants, never mind some of the behaviour the children wield upon their own peers. And the results. (I am going to be rather blunt hoping that it will be heard.) The results last year were recorded as the second worst in Kirklees. You may say that these have changed dramatically in the last year, however so have the juniors' results. AND the results were dramatically brought down last year by 2 or 3 children who refused to do the exams... Do the maths and averages go down? Now would you want your 8 year old child to be sharing space with 11 to 16 in general, never mind with those in a High School known for its behaviour problems? You need to sort this out first. And then the parents would not be as angry and bemused by this speedy solution to filling a High School which has so few children in it. Thus wasted space. If you sort the results and behaviour out and make it a pleasant school to be around as a pupil, a teacher and a member of the community, then would you have as big a reflex against this idea? I really don't think so. What you will cause with this gamble to unify and improve the High School is a back lash and a further exodus away from the area by parents fearing for the educational and emotional and physical safety of their children. The first time my child comes home talking of High school children fighting on the field or in the Dinner hall or inter school bullying; I will take my child out of this school. Would you not do the same? If these things can be addressed... or rather if these things had already been addressed, children would not have gone to King James School in such vast numbers and Almondbury Parents would not have felt the need to send their younger children to Rowley Lane Juniors. Almondbury is a diverse community and is being let down by a narrow minded system of chopping off branches from a thirsty tree instead of watering the roots. Funnelling juniors and Infants into a failing system is a big gamble if you ask me, especially at such a speed. It's scary! We don't need to move at all. The schools just need to get their acts together, as does the community. Those are my honest thoughts.
- Moving the juniors to the high school will not improve their education. The building is not designed for junior age children. There will be too much contact with children much older than them, who will have inappropriate behaviour influencing the younger children. The outside facilities for the junior children is much reduced over what they have now. More effort should be put into improving the junior school.
- Lydgate School confirmed closure in 2014, which premises are they moving to? Are they

moving to the current Almondbury Junior School site?

- I don't agree with younger children mixing with high school children the younger children will have to share toilets and dining room I am not happy about younger children having to share toilets with the older pupils also I think it has been to rushed it would be better if they put juniors and greenside children together or better still let the juniors stay where they are I also think they should have worked with them to get them out of special measures I think because they got a poor Ofsted report that you decided to merge schools together we have had no answers when we have been to meetings we just ask questions but not getting answers we want leave our schools as they are.
- I believe that mixing children from the higher end is not very good because this can be a very distressing situation for younger children, and also bad examples will be displayed i.e. smoking, bad language and bad behaviour.
- I don't want my 8 year old mixing with teenagers, I know they will have separate areas but they are bound to bump into each other at some point or another e.g. Going to the toilets or dinner time. It's just wrong, There are so many things to take into consideration. It's really not fair.
- I would like to keep the Junior School children on their own site or have a purpose built unit in the grounds of the High school. Informing 7 yr old children in school about the possible merger without consulting parents and asking their opinions is not appropriate. This was not done in the correct manner, my child believes that the school council are making the decision and he will be attending King James School.
- I strongly oppose this on all levels, my child has just started at the junior school and I am very happy with the school and the teachers. The building is lovely - we have everything we need. I do not see why our children and their education should suffer because the high school does not have enough children in it. They should not be forced to move out of this lovely building. Unless you are spending an extreme amount of money then all you are doing is shoving us into a tiny area of this building. This will improve the education and experience of my child, how? Whoever is wanting to move into the juniors, shove them in the cramped area - with poor facilities and playing area. If we have to be under the same 'umbrella' fine - just don't force us to move out of the junior school building. A voting poll was run in the examiner (04.10.13) Are so-called 'super' schools a good idea - 81.31% said no I think that speaks for itself. This is all about money although no one will be honest and admit this. I have seen with my own eyes the behaviour of some of these high school children and I am expected to send my 8 year old to this environment - it is so wrong. You get one childhood and chance of education and to deal with this at 7 & 8 is totally wrong. Whoever makes this decision I would like them to look me in the eye and hand on heart tell me they would send their 8 year old child or grandchild to this!!
- From the information provided during the consultation period, I do not feel that the move to the High School will benefit his education. My child cannot afford for his education to drop any further, statistics show that levels drop for 2-4 yrs. during a merger- the time my child will attend junior school. He will have the choice of High School he will attend at age 11, I do not agree with the school informing my child of the possibility of a merger at age 7, information I have kept from him until a decision has been made.
- I can't see how joining these two schools will benefit the education of our children. I've heard rumours that it's all about money and the sale of the site to Lydgate and that numbers at the high school are so low that something has to be done! Be best to be honest and up front if this is the case rather than pull the wool over our eyes and say it's for the benefit of our kids. We are not being given any positive information to show that

this will be the case. I don't like the idea of my 7yr girl mixing with teenagers at the high school. They grow up quick enough already without mixing in the same building. I also have a son at the high school. We don't know any information towards putting this in place, ie bullying segregation and safety of our children. Not happy!

- If the junior school was going to be in a different building on the high school site then i would not have as many concerns as i do at the moment. Having been to a consultation meeting - I came away from that none the wiser and more worried and annoyed than ever. If this is going ahead we should surely be given more concrete evidence at the offset. The council must have had to go through the motions for budgeting and adapting the high school, drawn up plans, choosing the right staff etc. None of this information has been given and all seems hush hush at this stage and why the rush for it all to go through next year in May - Sept? desperately need answers.
- No one can answer any question raised at consultation meetings. No idea of budget or how it will be funded. No plans for leadership of new school (teachers or governors). Being rushed through too quickly with no explanation as to why. No time given to improve the performance after poor Ofsted, something which other schools are allowed. No plans provided for new building, so cannot see layout for segregating different age children, to prevent bullying and spread of antisocial behaviour from older children. Children who have just settled at juniors will be uprooted and disturbed, having to settle again in a new larger school. No explanation as to how this will improve children's education. Why can juniors not be part of the new school in its existing building like Greenside will be. High school is academically poor so how will moving the juniors there improve it. Why not merge the infants and juniors instead, or start a sixth form at the high school.
- We have no information with the running, segregation or in fact anything else. My child should not mix with 15 year olds and I would rather move him that sign up to this mess. This is money saving exercise and nothing else. Lies Lies Lies!
- I am a parent of 2 children currently attending Almondbury Junior School. I am disgusted by the way our children's education will be affected by this proposed move. It has been proven that a school can come out of special measures in a matter of months, just like the school in lepton, so why don't you leave them in their safe and secure building until the time is right for them to move on. Almondbury High school can facilitate the special needs school which we all know will be moving into our building. Lifts have been measured up at the juniors, and I for one (which am not alone by any turn of the coin) have written to the examiner with my predictions for what's about to happen, I wonder who will vote Labour then!!
- As a mother of two children who would be immediately affected by any change to the Almondbury Schools system, I would feel that for this "Super School" plan to successfully operate, it needs a good skilled and suitably experienced management team in charge. There has to be a completely fresh start – a new school approach – not a few junior classes added on to a High School. It needs to be a brave new idea – one school (after all this is what we are promised). It is very important we have a head teacher with good experience of teaching both younger and older children, a dynamic personality with great enthusiasm and ideas for a new project. The Head should be inspirational to all staff and pupils alike. The school also needs a good team of managers and governors. Let's get moving, it is a big challenge and no way can this be achieved in 6 months. We will be very disappointed and feel very let down, if Kirklees Council having introduced this big change doesn't do it properly and give the area school it can be proud of. It is no use using the same old brooms to sweep clean the current mess Slow the process down, get it right, and achieve the best for our children!

- It is not appropriate to put Junior School children into a High School. The High school building is not purpose built for KS2 children (current classrooms are small with high windows; lots of stairs). It is not appropriate for children aged 7-17 to share facilities, dining hall, corridors, toilets, main hall, playing fields, playground etc.
- Any adaptations that are made to the building will be a compromise - a 'junior suite' within the High School cannot compete with a purpose built Junior School.
- The Junior school children will lose their pride & identity in their school - it will no longer be 'their' school. The High School children will be belittled by having the age range of their school lowered - attending High School is a move towards adulthood; sharing facilities with young children completely diminishes this 'grown up' environment.
- High School children should NOT provide pastoral care for younger children. Parking and access will be a major issue - neither the Fernside Avenue or Eastland's entrances have capacity for the hugely increased traffic that moving the juniors will create. This is not fair on the residents of these roads or the parents dropping off/picking up. Please let the Junior School stay on the current site and have the proper length of time to show improvement!!
- The people of Almondbury do not want this! The Junior School is an integral part of our community and has been for 60years. The children of the school have great pride in their school - this very much includes the physical building & fields etc. Please do not close the junior school - if structural changes have to be made surely these can be undertaken within the current building.
- My concerns to this proposal are vast but I will try to sum up as best as I can. In relation to the suggestion that a “Structural solution” has to be found I am still unconvinced that this could not be a change in leadership and governors. I would also like the possibility of an academy explored. Whilst I do not personally support them in general when caught between a school closing or becoming an academy it has to be considered which has the lesser impact of the two. It has been suggested that this is about more than the junior school yet the reason for the proposal has been given as the special measure category in which the junior school has been places. Is it the case that this would not be going ahead if it wasn't for the special measures category? If not then why then I would urge council to look for other alternatives. The consultation process has been full of unanswered questions with some open hostility to parents who are merely trying to make a balanced decision and to ensure their children receive the best education they are entitled to. It was said at one meeting that the pupil numbers at the junior school are sustainable but the high school are not. It would then follow that despite the special measures category it is the high school with the real problem not the junior school. Even if Ofsted, under an older framework, judge it to be good the parents in the catchment area do not and for many reasons are not sending their children there. How do placing younger children there make it a more sought after option then it currently is? I know I will still explore other options when the time comes for my children to move to high school and I am certain other parents will too. Should time not be spent promoting the high school changing the view of it? One final note on this if it was a choice of losing the junior to losing the high school, again not one I am happy to make a choice between, but I had to it would be to lose the high school. I would be happier with my 11 year old travelling half an hour each day to high school than my child going to the all through school which is being proposed. The next point that causes great concern is the issue of leadership. Simply keeping the current leaders of the school and moving site does not mean that it will become a “brilliant” school, sometimes I have been told on numerous occasions this school will be. A merger of this type requires someone with experience of all key stage and a vision for it future. The leader also must not have a vested interest in

any part of the school. It is a new job beyond leading key stage and as such a new job needs to be created. I would have more faith that this could become a good school if correct leadership, which includes governors, were in place. Following on from this whoever is in charge will need to manage safeguarding across the school. How will all the children be kept safe? I do not want my younger children exposed to teenager's behaviours before necessary and I am sure teenagers will want their own space without having younger children around. This is a serious issue which should be clear answered before the move goes ahead. Along the line of safeguarding we have been told repeatedly there will be a dedicated junior suite. The inadequate plans show this could be the case but no indication is given as to how this separation could be managed or more importantly what the budget is for doing it. If this is going to be low budget cost cutting exercise it says Kirklees are not willing to invest fully in this merger. This leads to the question on what happens to the junior building. Despite reassurance that no proposals or plans for it rumours persist that one main reason for this rushed merger is because it will become a special school. If Kirklees had been more honest and open and willing to fully engage with parents the reassurance would perhaps be believed if it is actually the case that there are no plans for the building. This move has already had an impact on the community; people have not bought houses because of this move. The schools in Almondbury must continue to improve and be one which people want to send their children to. If this move goes ahead in a rushed and ill-considered way with current leaders remaining in charge it will not improve standards and instead of having a significant undersubscribed high school we will have a significant undersubscribed junior and high school which can only be detrimental to Almondbury community. The time frame suggested does not imply that a well-planned transition can be achieved. As we keep being told children struggle with transition and this leads to a dip in their levels. As this move would require an extra transition for those children currently at the juniors it needs to have transition plan that will reduce the impact on their learning. I am including a list of concerns and questions that have been raised through meetings and on the Facebook page parents for learning excellence in Almondbury School. The title itself implies that parents are not totally against merger but that it has to lead to excellent education for Almondbury children. I would urge cabinet members to ask school organisation to put together a proposal which gives parents full information of what the school would look like.

- Greenside I&N school should move to the junior school and let children age 3-10 share a building, this would be more appropriate. Then let Lydgate school have the Greenside I&N school building. Our young children should not be sharing the same building as teenage high school pupils, they all have different needs. If there is only 40% of the high school building in use that doesn't say much about Almondbury high school as a school. This is why parents prefer to send their children to King James high school. If this proposal goes through will we as parents have an opinion to send our children to King James if our junior school is shared with Almondbury High? How will traffic be on Fernside and Southfield Road during start and finish on school days? I strongly oppose to the High school and Junior School merge! I shall look for a different junior school in a different area if this goes ahead which by the sounds of it its a done deal.
- I do not feel mixing the Juniors and Infants into the High school is a good idea. I have witnessed the behaviour of the high school, Pupils swearing and fighting in the streets, even smoking outside the school gates! And the teachers seem to have very little control over them. Would it not be better to merge the infants into the juniors building? I have no plans to apply for the high school when my children reach that stage, so I would prefer they are kept away from that site where possible. I know people/family members who went to the high school and not one of them had anything positive to say about

- their time there. I would consider moving my children should the merger go ahead.
- Please allow the Juniors the time it was told - 2 years to improve and not be used as an excuse for this proposed 'rushed' merger! No suitable information for parents! Kirklees cost cutting!
 - Too rushed, no information for parents! I am extremely worried about the merger of the two schools for safety reasons and feel it is not suitable for junior children to be with high school children
 - Too rushed, this needs to happen if it must over a couple of years. Hidden agenda for the Junior building and to save the poorly run high school. Very unhappy parent! Help the juniors instead of closing it!
 - I do not agree with moving the Junior School children to the high school, I don't think this will improve the children's education, Government statistics show that there is a drop in levels of between 2-4 years (in mergers) this would be the whole time my child is in the Junior School section which he can't afford to lose. I totally disagree with moving the Junior school site to save the high school. Telling the Junior children without parents' consent is wrong, not enough information has been provided to us to reassure the children that it will work well and everything will be OK. My child will decide (as my daughter did) which high school he would like to go to at age 11 not 7. Had this move been mentioned at the Ofsted report evening I certainly would have looked at other schools, now at this late date the options are limited. Go ahead and create a super school but leave our young children on their own site.
 - **Child also at Almondbury I&N.** I strongly oppose the proposals for the following reasons:- No opportunity for school to improve following a bad Ofsted, schools in other areas are given this opportunity; Moving children to a school which isn't purpose built for their age (7 year olds in a school built for 11-16 year olds); No budget for any building modifications, no idea where money is coming from, or of cost; No evidence of planning for organisation or structure of proposed new school; proposals being pushed through very quickly without any of the information available for parents to make informed decisions about them; At consultation meetings no question could be answered satisfactorily; Local residents are not aware of the proposals; High school is one of the worst in Kirklees, so how will moving the Junior school there improve it; No evidence a through school will improve children's education; Large number of young children who have just settled onto Junior School will be uprooted and unsettled moving to another new school; Same staff /governors at a different school - how will that improve things; No plans on how to segregate young children and protect from anti-social behaviour of older teenagers; No plans for leadership of whole school; Cannot track online forms. Not enough hard copies available; Why not merge infants and juniors and have a 6th form at the high school; How can juniors fall "under the radar" of LEA in first place. LEA should rectify their mistake by giving Juniors assistance in improving rather than taking such drastic action
 - **Child also at Almondbury I&N.** I strongly oppose the proposals as I have serious concerns about the following points; There is a lack of evidence of any planning for the organisation of the new building with regard to separate provision of facilities for the different key stages. In particular dining areas, toilet facilities and playgrounds; At the consultation evening no clear answers could be given to any questions posed, including where is the budget coming from to finance the proposals; Why is the process so rushed? The timescale is extremely tight, what is the urgency for the merger? A Longer timescale would allow more forward planning to ensure all important areas are fully explored; There is no information available about the planned management of the new super school, who would be the head teacher? Would it be one of the existing head

teachers or would Kirklees recruit a head with experience of managing all of the different key stages the new 'super school' would encompass?; There has been no opportunity for the Junior School to improve following the bad Ofsted report, despite this frequently being the case when other schools receive a bad Ofsted report; no information available on how behavioural issues will be managed across such a wide age range of children and how younger children will be protected from the increased risk of anti-social behaviour from mixing with much older children

- Will this merger cause job losses? Will there be different start/finish times? If not, have you thought about the massive congestion that would be caused by parents picking up their children, it's a nightmare on Fernside already!
- The Junior school children are being used as guinea pigs because you cannot get the pupils into high school. How are you going to keep high school pupils away from Junior school pupils?
- I feel that the children of Almondbury Infant & Nursery School are being used as an excuse. Just leave the schools where they are as parents know it's all down to money
- **Child also at Almondbury I&N.** I do not feel there is enough information in the proposal consultation document to make an informed decision. The primary concern is the welfare and education of our children and I do not feel either of these points have been adequately covered. The consultation does not explain how the high school will be adapted to accommodate KS2 children. A through school is not a better option than the separate schools. I cannot see how this proposal will benefit our children and in fact is likely to be of detriment. We chose a three tier school system for our children, not a through school!
- I do not agree that this proposal presents any educational benefits for our children. Please leave the junior children in their own school premises. Making 7yr old children share a school with older teenagers is wrong, scary for the younger children and inappropriate. The reasons for the proposed changes have not been properly explained, in fact there is no reason given in the consultation booklet.
- I do not believe this proposal is in the best educational interest of the children. Almondbury Junior school should be given time to complete its action plan of improvement before such disruptive measures are put in to place to close/move the whole school. Also the move from infants school to the main 'through school' building will be terrifying for the new yr3's. No clear reasons for the proposals are given in the consultation booklet - I do not think it is right or fair to put the children through such upheaval without at least clearly setting out why it has to be done. I trust that as this is a public consultation, the council will listen to public opinion and decide against these proposals. We want to keep our junior school on the current site - if it has to become an academy for this to happen please please consider this option rather than the 'through school'
- **Child also at Almondbury I&N.** I oppose this proposal. I don't believe this proposal addresses or answers any of the concerns as to why Almondbury Junior School was classified as inadequate. The school leadership and governors have done too little in the last few years; Kirklees throwing a lifeline to some of these ineffectual leaders and governors is not in the best interest of our children. Very little has been done to challenge the schools over generous evaluation of its performance, how would a super school alter their thinking? I appreciate the concept of a super school and believe offering stability to children from 3 to 16 is commendable, but in this instance it feels like a cost cutting, time saving exercise so Kirklees admissions staff don't have to handle school transition paperwork between nursery and reception, y2 and y3 and y6 and y7. I agree that the transition between y6 and y7 can be stressful for our children; I don't see

how an Almondbury super school would alleviate that when the behaviour around the area of some of those high school children is so poor. I don't feel the leadership at the high school instills that wearing an AHS uniform in the community means you are representing that school. I would cross the road to avoid them. Almondbury High School has a falling roll, the class sizes are very small in comparison to other schools, yet the results don't compare, how can putting an inadequate school together with this school achieve greatness if the leadership in both schools isn't the best in the first instance? I understand in some areas of Huddersfield there is a falling roll and in others there isn't. I appreciate Kirklees Council and the Almondbury area need to forward plan for a future increase in numbers but to prepare for it in this way is short sighted. If I could see this as being a longer term plan as opposed to implementation in Sept 14, I could be in favour but currently it feels like this change isn't in the best interest of our children. Many parents are considering moving house and moving catchment to avoid this change being 'done to us'. If the proposal was for federated schools on separate campuses with a strategic head in charge with a view to moving to a super school on one site within 2-3 years I could be convinced. I expect a super head would make a difference within the year.

- I strongly oppose the proposals as I can see no benefits for my child to be in a through school. Reasons as follows: - the upheaval of moving schools will affect his education - he will feel intimidated and wary mixing with much older children - he will be mixing with teenagers who, as witnessed in his current playground when picking up their siblings, frequently swear, shout, are rude to adults and play roughly. - the high school facilities are not appropriate for his age group - there is no guarantee that the through school would be led and managed by staff who have experience in primary education. I feel very strongly that this is yet another cost cutting exercise with little regard for the education of our young learners who truly deserve the best. I am more than happy with the education that my child currently receives and feel that this move does NOT put them at the centre of this decision making process."
- I strongly oppose the proposals to develop an all-through school in the Almondbury area. I can see it having no positive benefit for my son who is currently in Year 5. It will disrupt his education and knock his confidence. It is not appropriate for him to be mixing with large numbers of teenagers at any point in the school day; starting, finishing school, break, dinner time not to mention sharing toilet facilities. The latter indeed may not be the case and I sincerely hope NOT but I was not reassured otherwise during the consultation meeting. It is all too clear that this is another money saving exercise that has no benefits for children, staff or parents. If an all through school has to occur then why not maintain the current sites (as was done with the Netherhall Campus)? I hope the feedback that you receive is carefully read and considered but I fear that this will not be the case as the decision has already been made and we are all just going through the motions to satisfy the legalities of the process. Put our young people first NOT money!"
- I strongly oppose the Super school and moving the Junior school children to the High School. The proposal document or the consultation meetings have not provided enough information to parents regarding the day to day running of the proposed school, the staff, the safety of the children, learning or support to vulnerable children
- I do not agree with the proposal, as I believe the Junior children should not be forced into growing up too soon and should be allowed to enjoy their childhood without peer pressure from the older pupils
- 1. The age difference.2.No segregation on the new school plan.3. A sixteen years old can get married, can join the army while a seven years old does not know the difference between rights and wrong, they should not mix.4.Children got used to their teachers and

by moving them no guarantees are given that the teachers will remain. 5.The young children will learn the bad language, smoking and kissing as these things happen in front of the high school after three o'clock finish.{Is this the pastoral responsibility} 6.The age of the infant schools is 3 to 7, the junior schools the age is 7 to 11, in high schools the age is 11 to 16.(but in this proposal the age is 3 to 16)

- I don't want young children to pick up habits from older children because it will influence their future and might affect their learning, attitude and reports.
- No benefits identified at any meeting. Not a purpose built school. No idea of how management will be structured. Don't know how it will be funded. Parents will have to buy new uniforms etc.. If keeping same teaching staff, how will it improve the school? Why not give the Juniors time to improve like countless others that have been in the press recently. The children want to stay put, as do the parents. How will the children of different ages be segregated? Year 3 has just settled and will be disrupted again by being moved to a new school. Why can't the Juniors be part of the new format in the building it occupies now a la Greenside
- It makes no sense to do this unless there is an alternative motive. Moving the staff and pupils to another site will not improve anything. There are no plans on how it will be funded, or managed. The children do not want to move. The junior school has great facilities, so why move to school that is not purpose built that is not geared up for 7 - 11 year olds. Give it time to improve, like others have been allowed to. No one at any of the consultation meetings came away with any answers, with many feeling they were fobbed off/ misled/ lied to about what was happening. How will the emotional well-being of the children be looked after and how will they be segregated from the larger children. Why do everything so quickly?
- Why the rush? This needs planning and organising properly, as it is our children's education you are all playing around with. There is no evidence the proposals will improve anything, and no one at consultation meetings could convince anyone otherwise. There is no plan for management of the change or for changing the teaching staff. No one knew how it would be funded. The social and emotional wellbeing of the children needs to be incorporated, as does anti bullying policies and how the different ages will be segregated. No one seems to know how any of this will be managed. The juniors has excellent facilities and deserves the time to put things right
- I strongly oppose this merger as us as parents have received no answers to any of the questions we have put forward. Who is going to be our new head? Has the segregation been done properly? Will there be enough funding? What experience will the new head have? Will the facilities be as good as what the juniors already have? Will there be a total rebranding? What shared facilities will they have and why? I could go on and on. I would rather move than put my child's education at risk, because local government want to put numbers and money before a child's education!
- I do not want my child to go into a school where we know nothing about the leadership, teaching staff, and segregation. I believe that we can make Almondbury Juniors a good school. The consultation has been a joke! And I would rather send my child elsewhere
- The unanswered questions regarding the merger is a joke, I strongly believe that this is totally for the benefit of local government, without a thought to our children's education. Lepton school has taken just 6 months to move out of special measures and I believe that given the chance our school could and would do the same. I for one and I must add lots of others would not take the risk of moving our children into an unknown entity just for the sake of a High school closure. Believe it or not the parents / grandparents of Almondbury DO actually care about our kids. This is such bad planning that I believe how on earth are you going to change this awful situation. If there is any

decency you would leave well alone.

- How could you possibly ask us to support a school where no answers have been given? My child took a long time to settle in juniors and now the thought of moving her again would be devastating to her education. I am totally opposed to the merger and will fight it all the way!
- **Child also at Almondbury I&N.** I don't think this proposal states the real reasons of its existence. I think main reasons for the proposal are (1) juniors poor Ofsted (2) Almondbury high not full (3) to reduce costs (4) another plan for junior school building. None of these are mentioned so I question the validity of this document. It is not good to have an age range of up to 10 years (juniors-high school age pupils) sharing same facilities. Younger children will be intimidated unless gyms, halls, toilets, changing rooms, dining hall, corridors, and entrances, routes to school and play areas are all separated. This document does not detail this. Online details do not suggest adequate segregation. I would not send my children to your school. I would not be confident they were safe, happy or appropriately accommodated or educated in such a building.
- **Child also at Almondbury I&N.** I'd like to see proposals partnered with an achieving junior school for an Academy as an alternative. I would be OK with a merger with Almondbury Infants & Nursery but not the schools proposed. I may be OK with a proposal for a through school that retains the separate buildings for Almondbury Juniors and High school but I DO NOT believe this age child (juniors) should be in same environment as high school (adolescent) kids. My infant age boy finds it intimidating enough collecting his brother from juniors playground where older kids have called him an 'idiot' - the vocabulary may be somewhat stronger from teenagers! As a parent of children at Almondbury schools, I reject the idea that this proposal best meets the needs of my children, or Almondbury schools and community. The proposal is too rushed (Sept 14 too early) and very vague and unthought-of through. Why not consider other ways to use the undersubscribed high school? - Such as sixth form, local community business ideas, youth clubs, storage etc. The school should be allowed to work through its Ofsted recommended improvements.
- **Child also at Almondbury I&N.** Following the Ofsted report, I would rather the juniors had the full 2 years to improve. I have concerns over the mixing of young children with teenagers, on both a physical and psychological level. I have concerns over the speed at which it is proposed to be implemented. I don't think the new junior section could be completed satisfactorily. I have a concern that the junior school has been targeted for other uses and that this is a factor that hasn't been disclosed.
- **Child also at Almondbury Juniors.** I don't like the idea of small children mixing with older children my granddaughter has just settled down at the juniors and to move her now would set her back as would with many others. The juniors should remain as it is it's in a great location. The welfare of the children should come first.
- **Child also at Greenside I&N.** 1) I don't think it is a good idea to have kids of different ages in the same school environment. 2) Having a child go through his or her entire or most of his or her school days in one and same school environment will be so boring, like you've seen it all and nothing exciting anymore to look forward to. 3) Passing out from a school and being admitted into another school as a new pupil or student, is a major thrill, even with the mixed feelings involved. Every kid looks forward to it! 4) The one school environment will make school and learning quite boring, kids will start losing serious interest in school after few months or a year of the joint school excitement. 5) Some little kids might start feeling unsafe due to presence of the bigger kids; bigger kids might try out bullying. 6) The whole system will be a riot
- As a parent I am very unhappy with the information that I have been given. My

	<p>daughter is currently at Almondbury juniors and she loves it, the mention of moving to the high school and she becomes upset. I chose Almondbury juniors for her to attend not an Academy, it is not fair how quick this is happening and I feel like I have been backed into a corner over this, I can not move my daughter as other schools are full. My son is due to start the juniors next Sept but has asked if he can go to another school. In my opinion a vast amount of money will need to be spent to make the high school suitable but unfortunately we have been given no information on this, my other worry is the traffic which will be chaos as more parents will be driving their children to that school due to their age - teenagers don't need parents to take! Very worried about plans shown re. Building. Access to area's within the building will mean all ages crossing over, this is not acceptable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will this change make my sons education better? Children from 7 years of age are easily influenced, how are the children going to be segregated from the older children. At the start and end of school. Meal times. Play times. Is the teaching staff qualified in the teaching and needs of the age group? Who will the staff be? Will the junior school dept. have their own budget to spend as they see fit? All these questions (and more) have not been answered. I can't see how this change will make the education better. It is upsetting my son so much we have had tears as he is frightened of being bullied • The Council didn't inform people of the plans for the Junior School site. The Junior School has been part of Almondbury village life for about 60 years. It is important to Almondbury that it remains open as a Junior School. I hate the idea that it would be closed and wouldn't want it to happen.
Neither Support nor Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can see both the advantages to keeping both schools separate as well as bringing the schools together. However, as the parent of a current year 6 we have already made our decision not to send our daughter to Almondbury High School. Their sibling is at King James' and we hope our younger daughter will also gain a place at this school. Although in the past we have felt quite positive about Almondbury High School, we feel there hasn't been enough of an improvement in the percentage of children gaining 5 GCSE's A* - C grade (+ English and Maths) This, we expect should have improved since we visited in 2009 for the first time. • There are two things that bother me and that's my child going to get the support he needs as he has ADHD and how much time will they spend with older children. • A lot to be convinced either way. Questions: What investment will be put into converted ageing high school buildings into suitable junior teaching space? (The juniors must move into accommodation which is at least as good or better as their existing facilities, or the move is a backwards step for them) Will staff: Pupil ratios (Incl: Support Staff) be at least as good or better as the existing ratios, especially in the junior school? Is there a cast-iron guarantee than none of the school grounds/playing fields of the new site will be sold off? Is it anticipated that the new school would move to Academy status in the near future? I would have grave reservations about this. Honest answer please. • How can we give support to information regarding a school we know nothing about? If we knew what the daily layout and some structure I am sure more support would be forthcoming towards the merger. To be told there is no more information than down in the proposal document. Its rubbish. People know what is/would happen you don't plan a move as big as this without information, planning and structure put in place first.
Don't Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the schools being closed? High School Junior and Infants then being merged and reopening as a "new school" if so what will it be known as or just merging junior into the high school building? No one is clear on this or gives answers in the proposal it says New School with new management, head and governing body? People / head running the super school not clear which is it?

1.4 Responses from parents / carers from Greenside I & N School	
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As long as the Juniors have separate toilets & dining areas I am for this through school. Think the kids will benefit massively. • Schools in this area face difficult problems and need a fresh approach. I think it is really important that any new school uses and builds on existing strengths. The Head of the new school would need to be someone inspirational, dynamic and forward thinking. • I think it would be a good idea as I think the high school provides better facilities than the current junior school, particularly for sports. I think it will also give better continuation of care and education. My only concerns are that the high school will be a very big jump in size from the infant school, which may worry the younger children. I would prefer it if the younger children were kept separate for breaks and lunch as I would be concerned about bullying of children that aren't used to dealing with older children and the negative influence they may have in the limited supervision of the playground. However I can see older children having a very positive influence by helping out in classes with the supervision of a teacher. I also think it would be a good idea to have staggered start and finish times for the younger and older children to reduce congestion on the road and to keep them slightly separated.
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't think it's right having younger children with older children and I also think greenside infants are a fantastic school and should be left alone.
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe the schools provide excellent teaching as they are, 3 of my children have gone through Greenside, Almondbury Juniors & I have one at King James. My children have academically done very well. They have also been very happy In a smaller environment/and its sites the children feel secure. A larger building with older children is intimidating. I do not want my youngest child in the high school therefore I have made the decision to move him to another school. This move affects the choice of where the child goes on completion of their education at Junior School level. They will be in the High School, so naturally they will remain there. It would be very hard for a parent to remove their child from their friends and then send them to King James'. I believe from these expensive booklets and the thought of planning that has gone into this move - It will go ahead regardless of parent's opinion. I feel very sad about these changes and my son is sad he will have to leave Greenside. I think the investment should have been given/made to each individual school with three dedicated head teachers to transform them into excellent schools. Not to put everyone together. This will make it harder to govern (In my opinion) . • Lies Lies and more Lies by Kirklees. Disgusting how a council has put money before children's education. It's been made very clear that the Junior school site is the reasoning behind this merge, already confirmed that Longley school is set to close oh and yes they have their sights set on the junior school building. No worries for my son who at the age of 7 would have to share facilities with teenagers. This is the most shocking and disgusting idea I have ever come across. Kirklees council you ought to be ashamed for even considering this idea. Us parents have come to realise that no matter what we do you will go ahead anyway and its shown that Kirklees council and money makers who prefer greed to doing the right thing, if there was space in other junior schools you would see your new super school with no students. but you know full well our children have nowhere else to go so we have no choice but to send them there. Angry and worried for my son. • I find it very wrong these different ages being in the same school. • Too rushed, unsafe, mix in ages. • I am not happy with my children being moved to a high school building. It will not be

	safe for them. Where will they eat! Or play!
Neither Support nor Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My only concern is that as my children are very young, I worry about Bullying from the other older children, will they be in separate playgrounds and eat their lunch in a different canteen. • I can neither support nor oppose this development as I do not feel I have the necessary information. I have many questions on a practical level, before I feel I can support these proposals. For example, I would really like to see a floor plan of the high school showing how the segregation of the children would work. I want details as to where the children will eat and timetables, playgrounds, who will be head; a whole plethora of questions which, for as long as they remain unanswered cause distress and uncertainty for parents, and actually result in gossip and scaremongering filling the gaps. Parents will get behind this if it means Almondbury High School will have stability and sustainability for the future, but it must not be at the cost of our primary children. It's not appropriate for a 7yr old and a 16yr old to be sharing toilet facilities, for example. These are exactly the sort of day to day, practical concerns that are preventing parents supporting these plans.

1.5 Responses from parents / carers not stated which school	
Strongly Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe communication between staff, pupils and their parents/carers will be more effective and consistent which is key in the safeguarding of children and addressing specific issues. • The teaching styles would hopefully be consistent through the year groups, making the transition from one level to another easier for pupils to cope with. Having designated areas for the key stage groups would be beneficial for the pupils, especially the younger ones. The anti-bullying policies would need to be robust to protect pupils at all key stage groups. Would start and finish times be staggered for the different age groups?
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be more convenient and everything will be under one roof, therefore, less bureaucracy. • "1. I understand the need for schools in Almondbury to change and see that creating this through school may be the best way to achieve this. 2. My main concern is the timeline. There is so little information about what the new school is going to be like, in terms of the organisation of the building, staffing, curriculum organisation, etc. I cannot see how it is possible to implement a successful through school that has been really well thought through to start from Sept. 2014. 3. Leadership and management of the new school is key to its success and yet even in these planning stages there is no known educational leadership in the decision making process. We need people who have real experience of leading these types of schools on a day to day basis to be involved in these planning stages and yet there is no evidence of this. 4. Due to the status of Greenside and the Juniors under Ofsted, it seems that this 'merger' relies on the strength of the high school. However the high school has an appalling reputation locally. I know of no concrete evidence for this reputation however until local people start to think more of the high school, they are unlikely to have much confidence in through school. Therefore the high school/through school needs new, strong leadership by people with a good track record in that area, a new name and new reputation. It is not enough that Ofsted thing Almondbury high is 'good' and that the council think it is worthy of helping improve local infant and junior schools. This is simply not enough to inspire public confidence in the council's plans.
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless you are going to demolish the existing site on Fernside Ave then the current premises will not be suitable to accommodate all 3 schools as it is currently in need of repair and needs updating or knocking down to make room for a state of art school which will be enjoyed by kids for many years to come.

- I think it is all about money and not what is best education for our children, I have one child age 10 and one child age 6 which will be moved into this so called super school. It is hard enough the transition to juniors for some children. My youngest son struggles at a small school and has only just settled in year 2 he will now be moved into a huge school, huge dining room with high school children, all because the high school has not got enough numbers get the high school sorted before you ruin our children's future. How can one head take care of all those different age children.
- How will the children be kept separately at school opening/closing? How will educational standards be improved by this meeting? It is rumoured that the school will be sold to make way for a special school. Is this true? I would be for this if I believed it was the right reason but the more I know about this the more convinced I am this is about money. If the schools were federated, the Greenside site was closed and the kids all in the juniors with an overall head in charge I would be in favour. The school would need to be rebranded.
- If the school were federated and junior site was kept I will agree.
- There seems to have been little time to implement this plan. There is no clear guide on how the school will look and how it will be better for Learning. I have concerns over 7 years older mixing with teenagers. What facilities will the school have? Will they be sharing what is currently at the high school? Are there any plans for any building work? Will the "junior" section have the same facility as it has now? I am concerned that the pupils will have to settle for less and this is just about saving money.
- I would like more idea on how this improves education. I would like to see investment put into this and not just throwing the schools together. With some separation and offering the same facilities. I have concerns looking at the vague plans that there will be obvious strains on the current facilities. I do appreciate that money needs to be saved but I would like some consideration for improving standards of education.
- My son is scared of joining older pupils in the same building/grounds. I understand this as its scary being newest/youngest at smaller school will be worse with a building twice the size. I also feel there will be a lot more opportunity for bullying and copying bad behaviour for the older children. I will consider moving my child to another school when this goes ahead.
- The consultation has been rushed and ill thought out. Not transparent and very little factual data as to the benefits to a child's education. It appears that the decision has been a political decision for economic reasons. 1. The documentation and events were based on informing us a plan had been lodged with the DFE rather than allowing governors and parents to be involved in the decision making process on improving some poor Ofsted ratings and managing school resources effectively. 2. I have seen very little in terms of a record of the questions raised and answers. This is an incomplete, one way process and does not resemble a consultation in its true form. 3. How can I make an informed decision on what is right for my child's education on the basis of very little factual or comparative information? 4. I believe schools have up to two years to turn around a poor Ofsted report. Where has this been taken into account? 5. It is all to rush with one expert advising any structural changes would happen over the summer holidays? Or the children's transfer might be delayed? Where is the building plans and programmes? 6. Any new organisation will have a fundamental change in culture, process and teaching philosophy. Therefore a new executive or governing organisation with the freedom to recruit a competent leadership team with the relevant skill set is required. 7. I feel this consultation has damaged the reputation of the schools involved, along with the credibility and competence of the council. I have tried to make an impartial, rather than emotive decision, but the manner, lack of fact, clarity and

	<p>transparency of the decision making process in the plans from the start lead me to make the decision to oppose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think the time scale is too quick, when the changeover should be at least 2 years. New school uniforms, who pays for this? Children need a happy secure environment to learn and their education is not being put first. Seems to be all about saving money. The children are being used as guinea pigs, which is messing up a huge part of their education and life at a very important time. It needs to be really thought about. • I feel that the children are too young to be put into the high school. My child is in year 2 and has only just settled into school, I feel that moving into the high school building is going to have a bad effect on her and will be hard to get settled in. The plan is too rushed. Needs to be thought about and more time. • I have just received my form to choose a junior school next year for my child who will go into Year 3 Sept 2014. I don't know how we are supposed to make the choice as we do not know what is happening to the junior school. So far the plans we have been shown at consultation meetings don't tell us anything. Like eg how staircases will be blocked off to separate, the dinner situation young children having to eat their dinner in such a big hall. How they get to play without having older children watching them. How they get into school without walking with high school children. So far I have not heard or seen anything to make me support this. I want the best education and safety for my child, not being used as a guinea pig. And what happens when it doesn't work. Too rushed needs more money and planning • We are very concerned by how this Almondbury super school is being rushed through. The whole process needs to be given more time and more careful planning. The most important aspect in my mind is the management of this large new school concept. It must all be treated as a completely new school and therefore needs a new very experienced and inspiring new head and new governors. Kirklees council are missing a great opportunity by not involving the parents and local community more. We are all very disillusioned when we could have been inspired and supportive! This is our children's education and futures - we "should be all in it together"
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sure where to start...Firstly I believe this super school idea is based on money and not our children's education, it's no secret that the junior school building is wanted by another school. Surely merging schools who failed Ofsted reports only makes things worse but on a larger scale. The main reason given for the merge is that when a child move from infants to juniors it takes them longer to settle in...If this is the case why not merge Infants & Juniors in the Junior school building? Instead of mixing 7 year old children with high school children. No details have been given regarding dinner times and how the high school building will separate the juniors from high school students, no details on parking near the school...You also take that special time in a child's life when they move from Juniors to a high school, this is a sense of growing up and moving forward. The super school will just be class after class till they leave. I couldn't disagree more with this idea. I wonder how many of the people who proposed this idea will have their own children affected by this school or who would send their own child to this super school. None I'm guessing. I also strongly believe that this idea will go ahead regardless of how many parents are against the idea. Shame there isn't more schools in Almondbury otherwise I would move my child. If this super school does go ahead I have no choice but to send my child there as other schools further afield don't have spaces. • Now the consultation has been produced I have some issues that I would like addressing. If you are not the person to voice these concerns could you either let me know who I do ask or forward this email to them. I have only seen the consultation today but after being told it will answer questions I have been left very frustrated and feeling very

worried for my children's future education. The important points are not covered at all. There is very little info about the logistics of schools on the same site - pick up points, separate play areas, safe walkways for young children. Reasons for proposal- no mention of Ofsted grading's, poor management, need to improve the schools. If it is to be safe and well planned what will that look like in the light of their only being 10 months after consultation date before the school opens as a through school. There will not be time for plans, building work, organisation etc. to happen in a proper way. September 2014 is a really short time span to do all the work required if implementation of work only begins in May .Single governing body and one leadership team – where will the power lie and will it be top heavy with high school staff who have no experience of young children. There is always transition between infant/junior even in a through primary. Dedicated junior suite but no costing or plans mentioned. The detail provided is only basic stuff about progression of each year through the school with no staffing and costing's. Where are details about staffing numbers? How will the head be decided? What knowledge of all key stages of education will they have? Common approaches to curriculum planning – Early Years and Key Stage 4 do not require a uniform approach to curriculum planning they are totally different. It sounds like children will be kept down - Year 3 children should be provided with a relevant and appropriate curriculum in KS2 not KS1 . Just because there is a single leadership team does not necessarily mean there will be consistent approaches – after all isn't there a single leadership team already in place in each school and they have not done well in Ofsted? . A larger team might not mean more professional approach it might mean more people doing their own thing and nobody noticing .School budgets might not be equally distributed and some areas might be neglected. If the governing bodies establish a joint committee who will be the chair pushing that along

- What part will the local authority play in setting this up All in all I feel the consultation is a poor one with little thought or information given on the logistics of amalgamation. I realise there are consultations to be held but as I work full time the only meeting I can attend is on the 23rd October. This is too far away when there are so many questions that have not been answered in the consultation booklet.
- Too rushed, my son is at Almondbury Junior School and we were told before the Summer Holidays and after their Ofsted that the school would have the opportunity to better itself, not forced into a through-school. The consultation is extremely vague with no information on where the children will learn, play or eat, never mind the vast health and safety implications. The school is a victim of Kirklees trying to save money and the poor and inadequate leadership at the high school. Change the juniors to an academy but let it stay where it is for the benefit of the community.
- I am a lunchtime supervisor at Almondbury Junior School; there are a team of six ladies who care very much over our children we look after at lunchtime. Please do not close our school, the children are very upset, and we have noticed, their behaviour, slowly getting worse as they are unsettled, why don't you close Greenside and merge with the junior school? All the staff feel as though the decision has already been made, and it's all down to money. We have been told our jobs are not safe; all in all, we are very upset.
- I am deeply sickened to hear that you are thinking of making the school, I have two grandchildren who go to the Juniors at the moment, and I think their mum may send them to another Junior school if this goes ahead! And I have another baby granddaughter who I would hate to think of her having to mix with 16 year olds when she turns 7 years old! Whatever your planning of doing with the Junior school why can't you do this in the High school if there's so much space, why disrupt so many children! If you go ahead with this plan you may end up losing a lot of children, not gaining more! And come on, a 7 year old in the same toilets as 16 year olds, where's the health and

safety there! One Mad Grandma and local resident.

- The most worrying point in your proposal for an all-through school is the age range. 7 - 16 is a huge age gap. Children as young as 7 should not be in the same learning environment as 14, 15 and 16 year olds. The techniques are very different although you speak of consistency in teaching. Having older siblings is not a benefit as this happens in the correct school layouts. Older children having responsibility for younger pupils is worrying as a maturity is needed for this and all points raised in regards to curriculum flexibility and learning needs can be achieved now in the current school system. The only benefit I can see is the education of form filling in which is only 2 forms from age 7 to 11. I strongly oppose this proposal and feel it will only benefit teachers, governors and board members. I will consider moving my child if this goes ahead.
- After attending some consultation meetings it seems the council and reps swerve most questions asked by parents. The main reason for the plan is to make the transition easier for the Almondbrury juniors to the high school. However Moldgreen/Lowerhouses and Dalton are also feeder schools for Almondbrury high so why is there no concern's for them? After reading every bit of details and the lies been told regarding the Junior school property I strongly believe Kirklees are pushing for this merge for financial benefit (selling junior school land/building) not our children's education, it was confirmed in a meeting the building was up for negotiation and then a few days later Kirklees told the examiner that there were no plans for the building which is obviously a lie, Kirklees were hoping parents wouldn't find out. I am disgusted at the lack of information provided despite hundreds of parents requesting more. It is not acceptable to move Juniors into a building custom built for high school children. It sickens me that my child will now be forced into a school that has no potential to give him the best education and was rushed so Kirklees could gain more money. Disgusted parent!!!!
- No information on building and adaptations, no details on how dinners will work, toilets, finish and start times. Why should my small child share a building with teenagers? That frightens me. Kirklees be honest and admit that this merge has nothing to do with education but to do with MONEY!!!!
- Age 3-17/18 is too long for children to spend on one school site. A change of site throughout their education provides opportunity for a fresh start.
- I think it's ridiculous to have 3yr olds & 15/16 yr. olds in such close proximity/within same complex. I certainly wouldn't send a child of mine to the school, young children shouldn't be mixed with older ones they need to be 'protected' from learning bad traits from older children and keep their childhood.
- Not enough information provided in the proposal document or during the consultation period to answer my concerns regarding my child's safety and support currently received at the Junior School. From the information I have received I would like to say that my child's education should not be used as a cost cutting venture and I feel this would not benefit his education and the move is all about saving the high school. For the record I have now been waiting over 3 working days for a call back from the admissions department regarding other school places in the area, not good enough Kirklees.
- Your moving children from a school that suits it purpose just to save as the school you've got to replace it us in disrepair plus you need to make up numbers at the high school. It's bad enough when our children start high school with all the things they hear and see and there 11 but you want them to start hearing and seeing it at 7 well in my opinion that's not right they are too young and are easily encouraged. We all know its to do with money but our children should come first. What you should have done is been honest from day one about what's happening and you might have got support but too lie to do many people is unacceptable.

- I feel the proposal to merge the Junior School into the Almondbury High School has been rushed through by Kirklees Council without disclosing any real plans on how to improve the high school and what the budget will be. The Council expects the parents to accept this decision without providing any real information on how the school will be run, the required modifications, budget and changes to the management structure. We therefore cannot be expected to make an informed decision on whether to send our children there. I am also very concerned about the issue of the Primary children possibly mixing with children who are of Secondary age. This can include break and lunch times, and if both schools are using shared facilities. This has not been addressed by any council members in the meetings. I have attended which I have found very frustrating. My other major issue is if this proposal does go ahead, the parents must be given assurances that there will be new management in place to make this effective as I have no real faith in the current management of either school to improve standards. I also feel it would be more beneficial to stagger any transfer of junior school children to the high school in stages so everyone can adapt to the situation more easily instead of moving everyone over in September.
- The Council should have done more to help schools in the Almondbury area to avoid them getting poor Ofsted grades I don't believe by closing the Junior School standards will be raised sufficiently in the High School which is only a 'Good' school according to Ofsted if it was outstanding I would be more convinced. Also is there a rush to complete before the high school is inspected and graded under the newer marking scheme. Why spend it on high quality head teachers who will make the school outstanding this will surely change the structure sufficiently to improve.
- As a parent I am absolutely disgusted by this proposal and I for one will not be sending my child to the high school if this proposal goes ahead I will move my child to a new school. I feel that AJS has not been given a chance to turn things around. As a parent I have always been very happy with AJS as a whole and can only say great things about all members of the teaching staff as for AHS I feel that the school itself is being run into the ground and maybe we should focus on raising the standards of the school before we close a well ran school.
- I don't believe it's in the interest of our children's educational future! I believe that the mix of age groups and rush to complete the transition with a child just settling in to first year of juniors will again cause confusion and unsettle the children with change of surroundings again!!
- I think it's disruptive for the children. The council are not giving a clear picture of their proposal and I will never make a decision based on no facts. A child's education has been overlooked in the Almondbury area and using a sticking plaster over a huge problem will not fix it! You need a radical new head teacher in each school to improve the area and entice new students to Almondbury. Something needs to be done but not at the detriment to the junior children. They have suffered enough?
- I am opposed to the proposed merger of schools because of the bringing together of 7 year olds and 16 year olds in an untested environment. You are taking risks with our children's education and personal and social development. I feel that the whole idea of this merger is politically motivated in order to 'solve' financial difficulties at the expense of our children. I am angry that this has been brought into existence by the juniors Ofsted report. I feel the council has behaved in an opportunist way and is not considering the whole picture. It is all moving far too fast. If the plan was to move the juniors to the high school then more should be done to improve the behaviour, attainment and public perception of it. Parents are scared, angry and do not trust the council to provide the best education for our children. The junior school should be given

the opportunity to bring its self out special measures. It is ridiculous that this process is moving so fast. I do not feel confident at all. I think the council has already made up its mind and this consultation process is a farce.

- This is a bad idea because it's wrong that children from 3 are mixing with 16 year olds!!!!!!!
- Objection is based upon the following issues: - Too fast, this move or any move needs to be calculated and thought out; Why move to the high school? No educational benefit, why not stay in the junior building and shall be part of the federated school; what would be the managerial structure? Surely no confidence in the current structure; Will there be adequate segregation? I don't feel that the current situation planned would ensure my child & friends would be 'safe'; Not enough detail as the day to day running of the school re meal times and play times. Very concerned that kids will not be kept separate; Confusion from council representative, I attended 2 consultation sessions and was told opposing arrangements in each. This has added to more confusion and therefore objection. KMC have been a disgrace and if they had been more open maybe parents would have been willing to get behind the project! Shameful!
- Prime objection is safeguarding and the fact that 7-16 year olds will bring up issues of bullying & exposing younger children to 'teenage' issues. Not enough thought has been given to making the Junior School a good school. Lepton CofE came out of special measures after 6 months due to support from KMC and other agencies, this should happen to Junior School. Therefore I strongly object to this ill thought out proposal
- Too wide an age range to be mixing
- When the plans are written for a normal person to read I might be able to make my mind up. Children of primary age should be kept in a separate building to high school children. Please do not expose them before they are ready. Why can't you have an all through school on separate sites? Why not have an executive head who oversees the others and a new governing body who will look after the children's welfare instead of letting their education suffer. I want to see somebody who is going to make a difference come in and make education fantastic in Almondbury. You will destroy the village and the community if you get this wrong!
- Schools are supposed to be safe. This doesn't sound safe to me for small children when I hear swearing and the bad attitude of the high school children at the moment. I wouldn't want my children hearing anything like that at their age. We need to think of the junior children's education not just saving the high school. I thought that's what this proposal was about!
- I am finding lack of information and lie's from Kirklees Council disgusting and would never trust them again with the care of a child. They don't seem to think there is a problem with the proposal with no budget, no plans etc. Other than they will be moved by next Sept 14 why the rush? Whose bright idea is it to put children at risk?
- In previous consultations no questions have been answered, yet I strongly feel we are 'NOT' being told the whole truth. Why are Lydgate school measuring up for lifts at AJS when nothing is supposedly concrete? I don't want the merger to go ahead as an employee at Greenside I&N because why fix what isn't broke? The new budget and leadership will determine who gets what and that is a worry for jobs and financial security. It's really quite clear that by Greenside I&N joining it guarantees future numbers but we are on a different site and parents could still vote with their feet. i am very worried about my job in the future,
- Can't see no benefit to the move or so called super school, don't think it's right 8 year olds mixing with 16 year olds, no clear plans, no clear information, no clear answers to questions asked at the sham of the so called consultation, left these meetings with more

questions than answers, the Kirklees staff at these meetings were more than useless at giving any positive reason for the super school. Basically a load of old tosh and Kirklees or whoever it concerns will do as they wish, regardless of outcome of consultations or feedback from parents.

- As a mother of 2 children who will be immediately affected by any changes to Almondbury Juniors I strongly oppose the proposed merge with the High School. The reason for my decision is that there has been no clear evidence/plans to demonstrate any benefits to my children if they attend the new school. Information for parents has been inconsistent and of poor quality despite being delivered at scheduled 'consultation' events by Kirklees staff. I have not been reassured that my 8 year old children will be segregated to high school pupils. There is no strategic planning evidence or anything to offer parents the management and staffing implementation will be suitable and selected in accordance with the changes. I acknowledge Almondbury Juniors is a failing school but do not see how things can be improved by this rushed and very risky merger with another troubled school!
- I do not feel that the proposals have been fully thought through. How can combining a number of failing schools into one make a successful school? The Junior School should be given time to improve and pull itself out of special measures as per the agreed plan. Our junior school children should not be used as a way of filling a half-empty high school building. It really is not appropriate or beneficial to put yr3-yr11 children in the same building, It is frightening for the younger children and belittling for the older ones. The needs of KS2 and KS4 children are very different and however the building is adapted it will be a compromise. Leave the Juniors in the junior school building. Please consider an academy but don't make them share with the high school.
- It is not a purpose built school. It has been said the teaching staff will be unchanged, so how will just moving building improve the junior school. The press is full of stories of other schools with poor OFSTED reports being given time to improve, so why not Almondbury. The consultation meetings gave no answers to any questions posed, and in fact people came away with more concerns. There are no plans as to how the new school will be organised or run, or where the money will come from. There are countless rumours about the council already having a new purpose for the junior school building. It would be better to be open and honest about what is happening. It will cost families to replace uniforms that we have just paid out for. How will the safety of the younger children be managed? Why is it all being rushed through, instead of taking time to do it all properly? Give the school more time to improve, or merge the junior and infants instead
- This should be about improving our children's education not about saving money, Kirklees needs to think about the young children and not the bank balance
- After visiting a consultation meeting and the lack of answers to our questions on the issues raised at the time, I have no confidence in the whole procedure. The primary one being the suitability of the existing High school site even with the proposed changes, with no budget indicated to transform an out of date building that was not designed for the use of a through school. Proposing to put several failing schools into the same building, I believe that in itself is a recipe for disaster. The only way I feel I could support such a move would be into a new purpose built school with a total overhaul of the management and teaching staff
- I strongly oppose the school merger, just another Kirklees cop out to balance the books. If the efforts were put into the academic effects to put more children's 'bums on seats' it would be a lot more detrimental to our children's future. Just look at the catchment area for Almondbury school, it should be thriving. How many schools can boast sports

facilities which Almondbury has, squash courts, swimming pool, gym etc. If this merger goes ahead it would force more parents to jump ship, which in turn would have a knock on effect to schools like Kirkheaton and Lepton catchment schools. Which would also lead to over population of school classrooms at the already bursting schools? These schools would not turn down more children, as we know would lead to more money in the head teachers pocket. My child will be too young to be mixed up with a load of adolescent teenagers, on his first day at a new school. Please Kirklees look at the bigger picture and stop this silly money saving, book balancing comedy show.

- I am really not comfortable with the fact that my 7 year old will be mixing with teenage children. He will be exposed to all sorts of bad behaviour including swearing, smoking etc. I will be doing everything I can not to send him to school in Almondbury even though this is where he has been brought up and has a close circle of friends and family
- My main concern is that my daughter who has just turned 8 years old is mixing with school kids much older than her and seeing and hearing things she shouldn't be. My other concern is that her education will suffer at this important stage of her schooling and feel all this is being done just to save money and not putting what is more important first
- I hate the idea of moving my very sensitive 7 years old to a high school building. There is a reason why it is normally infant's juniors and not juniors high. The language the level a high school child is not appropriate to work alongside 7 year olds. I went to the open evening of the juniors the building is perfect so the change for the junior children I don't think is needed if the high school are not getting the numbers in, then it is that school that should make the changes leave the juniors as it is. Or have it as a campus but on their own sites. I did not choose this for my child when choosing juniors I am now looking for another area to live in along with a lot of other families we are leaving in droves.
- Agree that the provision of education for Almondbury children is inadequate but a proposal should have children at the heart of it, not be a political or financial motivation. Main concerns are: 1) Correct Leadership - for this to work it would need a highly experienced and charismatic executive head who has strong leadership skills. A highly effective and motivated governing body. In this proposal it looked at recruiting governors from within the existing governing bodies. Are you going to get the right people for the job? I have sat on a governing body with 'passive' governors - there would be no room in this proposal for inactive governors. Where would you find these? There is currently a shortage of school governors both in Kirklees and nationally. 2) Age disparity - for infant school children going to junior school is a big enough leap, to change this to a high school environment would be very difficult. I would recommend that all the decision makers visit these schools and see them 'in action'. We want to see 3 high schools for our eldest in 'school time' and they were very different from the 'PR open days'. Almondbury needs changes but it needs time and I would like to see other proposals considered. Almondbury is very lucky and has a thriving and positive community and this has been demonstrated by the amount of interest in this consultation. It now needs schools with strong leadership and high standards. I ask Kirklees council to look at the whole picture here and make decisions that will benefit the children of Almondbury now and for the future
- Having already seen an elder son go through Almondbury junior school before KJS, it is clear that he and also many other children need the junior school platform and I strongly believe closing the junior school will not provide that platform of development before entering a high school environment directly from infant. Mixing children aged 7 with 14 & 15 year old children has not been proven successful anywhere in Kirklees. Why now?

	<p>Children must feel safe and enjoy learning which is what the junior school currently offers. Such disruption will not prove successful for many years. Moving juniors to the high school only saves money. It does not provide more high school children required to keep the high school open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal does not show the separate facilities for junior school children ie play area, toilets, entrance, same amount of classrooms, play space and facilities. Consultation event did not alleviate any concerns. In fact left with opinion there is finance savings behind the move - not benefit children or community. Not enough information given in this document or at meetings to make informal decision. Both schools have a failing board of governors and head teachers. Failing Ofsted report, high school - not full therefore change heads or put 1 head to manage all - no plans to do this? Junior school already in special measures - move would add to problems. Too much too soon. Consultation event - used Netherhall Campus as example of how well run and improvement to teaching. I agree, however campus has separate buildings and new leadership in place. Proposals for this move do not mirror Netherhall campus not any other - through school I have researched. I am open to change, however, this change does not appear to be for the benefit of the children or community therefore other considerations should be looked at, or a more definite proposal/plans shown ie Academy. Plans for junior school site? Seem financial. More time for move.
Neither Support nor Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no preview of planning or consultation. That is totally leading to the confusion in locals and parents. It should start many years in advance, and then parents must see how the development progresses i.e. Architecture, time of school etc. It will be chaos to bring all the children in and out at the same school time. How will it be structured in the property so that little pupils can safely play and study? This seems mainly for high school and council sake, but not for Infant and Nursery. • 1. Knock on effect, catchment area increases, therefore will classroom sizes increase? After junior school the children move to high school. 2. At this point there are two natural opinions, the high school or King James. Bringing them together gives less choice to parents as they would have to pull them out of their existing school. 3. Can the high school cope with more demand? Will you build on the high school? 4. What will happen to the junior school land? • Unable to support or oppose due to a lack of information, I would like to know detailed information regarding the following beforehand, these questions have been asked but parents are all receiving different answers, no one seems to know? Will there be new recruitment or at the very least, current heads should have to apply for head of the new school. What are the arrangements re separate start and finish times for the school. • I am unsure if I would want my children's 'looking up' to and comparing themselves to older 16 year olds in school. I realise that the building will be separate but I'm not sure how it will work. I think a visit to the school would be a good idea. It seems an unusual idea. I understand the pro's to joining schools but I worry about the con's e.g. Teenagers smoking outside the gates etc. I don't want to encourage bad behaviour and I don't want my child to end up like the kids at Almondbury High. King James would have been my choice of high school! I wonder if having a place set up in the through school will ruin the chance of being offered a place at King James??
Don't Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't really know my choice, so I don't know. • Is this "super school" going to improve the education our kids are currently receiving? Or is it money making scheme for example 1 school will free some land for housing development!! If this is for educational reason I am all for it if it has money making motive then certain people need to look at the bigger picture....educating our youth can only enhance our community for the better.

2.1 Responses from individual governors from Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School	
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would be more supportive if the schools were federated and the junior school kept its site. I would like to see the plans to keep the children separate during the school day. It is not clear how this will lead to better education. How is the correct process going to be followed to appoint the right person to lead the school how will this person be chosen? How much money is there to fund the school? I believe excellent schools in Almondbury need to be established but it's not clear how this school will make that happen.
2.2 Response from the Governing Body of Almondbury CE (VA) I&N School	
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response to the consultation to develop an all through school to serve the Almondbury area. As governors of Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School we have taken note of the Local Authority's proposals for schools in the Almondbury area. The proposed way forward raises more questions than it provides answers. The proposals as they affect this school are unsatisfactorily articulated, are vague and lack consideration and detail for the future position of this school. Parents have already removed children from this school as they are dissatisfied with the proposals as presented. This is having a negative effect on the school. Therefore, in order to protect the position of the school and maintain the Church of England presence in the area, governors wish to discuss with the Local Authority the formation of a one form entry Junior, Infant and Nursery school on this site. This would offer the community greater parental choice, maintain the Church of England presence and potentially keep children within Almondbury schools. We therefore request formal, urgent discussions with the Local Authority to explore our additional proposal for a straight one form entry primary school.
2.3 Responses from individual governors from Almondbury High School & Language College	
Strongly Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I believe that in the interest of my own children and future children in the area that this is a positive opportunity. It's a way in which pupils will be able to integrate safely with children across the range. It will allow for a constant approach to everything from discipline through to teaching. Children in yr. 6 at AJS have benefitted from Maths and English teaching from AHSLC staff. This on a larger scale (skill mix) can only be fab for teachers; non-teaching staff and primarily our children. Reasons for my views as follows: I endorse all the comments in the booklet regarding the transitional benefits to the 7 and 11 year olds, who will not have the upheaval of moving to a new school system, this can only be good for their progress and learning. The facilities at Almondbury High School are excellent. KS1 & 2 pupils will have access to specialist rooms and facilities which are not available to them currently. As a governor at Almondbury High School, I see it first-hand the fantastic work that goes on in the school, the commitment of staff towards all the students, and the politeness and respect given to the staff in return by the vast majority of students. Alongside this is the unswerving determination of the leadership team to get the best possible results for the cohort of students, as can be seen in the 2013 GCSE results. As a Governor I see, the tracking, intervention work and pastoral care given to all students. Governors are quick to challenge the leadership team when weaknesses are identified. The School's 'Good' Ofsted rating in 2012 is testament to this work. If the proposals do not go ahead it is highly likely that the secondary school will close. This will have a detrimental effect on the local students who will have to travel greater distances to their secondary school. This will not be in the best interests of local students or their families. It will also cause strain on the secondary school

	<p>system in future years when the recent birth rate rise reaches secondary age. If the proposals do go ahead, realistic funding must be committed to implement the necessary modification and start-up changes required. Facilities must be on a par, if not better, than at Almondbury Junior School. Whilst I strongly approve of the proposals, I believe as a governor that misleading information has been circulated in terms of operational savings and on-going school funding. Whereas savings can be seen from operating 2 (or more) schools from the same site (knowing the complexities of the way funding is allocated to schools), reductions in (joint) budget are inevitable. Compensation of this reduction by efficiency savings can only go so far and, therefore, resources for all students are likely to be severely diminished. Budget support needs to be granted as equitably as possible for the project to be successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have a very strong belief that the divide from one school to another at 11 years old does not best support learning. This opportunity allows local schools with their communities to create a school which addresses needs in the local community in a more effective way than the present approach of separate schools. • As discussed at school, I think we are all fully behind the plan. There is no alternative, should this plan fall through there are very real concerns for the future of Almondbury, its staff and most importantly the children in the Almondbury/Waterloo area. We have so many links with many schools in the area and the children at these schools are already familiar with (some) staff and pupils, the school too, is not an unknown to them but I appreciate that parents of younger children see this change as quite daunting. I hope and presume that every help will be provided to EVERYONE involved to ensure a smooth and simple process that has no impact on learning.
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3.1 Response from the full staff at Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School	
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The staff at Almondbury CE(VA) I&N school have taken note of the local authority proposals for the new school in the Almondbury area. We feel strongly that this will have a negative impact on our school and families. Since the consultation questions have been raised by us and our families, but we have not been given any clear answers. Parents and staff are concerned about the size of the new proposed school and the negative impact it will have on our younger children. We also have concerns about the younger, most vulnerable children mixing with the older children. As staff we also have grave concerns about the sustainability of our school. There have already been a great number of families looking for alternative schools out of the Almondbury area. Staff, are hugely concerned about their job security. Such questions have been asked to the authority, but were told 'parents have a choice to move their children', we feel that the authority have no concern about our school, families or staff whatsoever. We also have concerns about parents not having a choice of schools. The only choice will be the new school. We feel strongly about parents should have choice within the Almondbury area, and in particular have the opportunity to be part of a church school.

3.2 Response from individual staff at Almondbury High School & Language College	
Strongly Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a great opportunity for the individual schools which would join together creating the proposed 'all-through school'. The opportunities for whole school social development and appropriate pastoral responsibilities would be immense. In addition the wider range of subject-specialist resources and opportunities for the sharing of best practice - potentially could greatly benefit teaching and learning across the 'all-through school'. What a fantastic opportunity! The Almondbury Partnership Schools system already works superbly for the pupils, parents and staff of Almondbury already. The schools run and coordinate community fun days, transition days and social days with a great deal of success. The chance to smoothly go through your education in one all-inclusive school is a great idea and especially suited to our community. Pupils feel supported and have many familiar faces which ensure they feel cared for and able to achieve. The school will have a family feel and a very strong network of teachers and staff who really know pupils and their needs and requirements, if they have spent so many years being nurtured and encouraged to succeed by them. This could be the making of the community with so many branches of the Almondbury community coming together to ensure our young people get the most balanced, settled and happy schooling possible. I strongly support this proposal, since - It will provide the community with continuity in young people's education - their progress will be smoother and more rapid. Skills and expertise will be shared across the curriculum and therefore the curriculum will be enriched. We can pool resources of staff and facilities - all will benefit from this - primary and secondary specialists can learn from each other. Almondbury's specialist languages status can be used more fully across the community. All pupils in the school could benefit from specialist languages teaching in a range of languages. Almondbury is an International School and this can be used to great effect across the community and more so with a through school. We could build links with international primary and secondary partners. Languages assistants could work more regularly with younger and older pupils. Pupils could jointly plan international events / days. Transition will be much smoother - staff could constantly communicate about children's learning and progress will improve. If well managed, the pastoral benefits are many - older pupils could mentor younger pupils. Younger and older pupils could

	<p>be grouped together in all-age tutor groups. Younger pupils could be given responsibilities in school councils. Older pupils could play a part in educating their younger peers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe communication between staff, pupils and their parents/carers will be more effective and consistent which is key in the safeguarding of children and addressing specific issues. • I teach at the high school and see the proposed through school as an extremely positive move for the staff at the schools involved and the children of the Almondbury community. All pupils would have access to the full range of high quality teaching and resources that would be provided on one site. In particular the transition of children between one key stage and another could be made a much smoother and less stressful time for pupils and their parents. • More specialist facilities for Key Stage 2 e.g. Science, PE etc. - Stronger and higher literacy & numeracy skills with better monitoring of progress & intervention at KS2 - KS3 - KS4. For Almondbury pupils and community. - A school with a real community feel & at the heart of the Almondbury community. • Reasons for my views as follows: I endorse all the comments in the booklet regarding the transitional benefits to the 7 and 11 year olds, who will not have the upheaval of moving to a new school system, this can only be good for their progress and learning. The facilities at Almondbury High School are excellent. KS1 & 2 pupils will have access to specialist rooms and facilities which are not available to them currently. I see at first and the fantastic work that goes on in the school, the commitment of staff towards all the students, and the politeness and respect given to the staff in return by the vast majority of students. Alongside this is the unswerving determination of the leadership team to get the best possible results for the cohort of students, as can be seen in the 2013 GCSE results. As a Governor I see, the tracking, intervention work and pastoral care given to all students. Governors are quick to challenge the leadership team when weaknesses are identified. The School's 'Good' Ofsted rating in 2012 is testament to this work. If the proposals do not go ahead it is highly likely that the secondary school will close. This will have a detrimental effect on the local students who will have to travel greater distances to their secondary school. This will not be in the best interests of local students or their families. It will also cause strain on the secondary school system in future years when the recent birth rate rises each secondary age. If the proposals do go ahead, realistic funding must be committed to implement the necessary modification and start-up changes required. Facilities must be on par, if not better, than at Almondbury Junior School. Whilst I strongly approve of the proposals, I believe as a governor that misleading information has been circulated in terms of operational savings and on-going school funding. Whereas savings can be seen from operating 2 (or more) schools from the same site (knowing the complexities of the way funding is allocated to schools), reductions in (joint) budget are inevitable. Compensation of this reduction by efficiency savings can only go so far and, therefore, resources for all students are likely to be severely diminished. Budget support needs to be granted as equitably as possible for the project to be successful.
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe this change will have a positive effect on the whole Almondbury community and that a stronger, more successful educational site will be formed. Providing correct, accurate information is given to families and carers of all pupils concerned in this proposal, I feel in the long term this will be well received. In the short term, the community are obviously going to have some concerns/reservations about such a big change to the schools their children may already be attending or attending in the

future. There will of course need to be a large amount of work in the coming year to make this happen, but we trust this will be done in a way that does not affect the school day for pupils and families alike. All work should be avoided on the AHS site during key academic times- i.e. Examination times, as these are stressful enough times for pupils and staff, without the added pressure of building work taking place around us. AHS site has a large amount of "green" area and it would therefore be good to retain as much of this area as is possible. Overall this is a good proposal, for the long term future of all of the Almondbury Schools and community. I wish it all the success.

- I wish to submit my support for this proposal. There are many positives from this initiative, it will enable teaching staff to move between schools and assist in the transition from Primary to Secondary. Additionally it allows subject specialists from Almondbury to teach Primary students and to be able to offer support to Primary teaching staff which will only serve to enhance the teaching and learning for benefit of the pupils. There is much that secondary teachers such as myself can learn from Primary staff particularly during year 7 which is arguably a pivotal year for the on-going progression through the school. I look forward to this taking place so I can learn and of course I welcome the opportunity to work with teachers from other Primary schools. Furthermore students from both schools can work together and gain experience much from each other. There will of course be challenges to overcome, such as lunchtimes and dining arrangements and the location of Primary students in relation to the older and much larger students which I have no doubt will be of great concern to parents of Primary pupils. I am sure that such issues regarding teaching rooms and dining arrangements can be solved. There will be many 'nut and bolt' challenges to solve but I do not imagine that there is the need to spend large sums of money on site alterations and that modest sums will be sufficient. This is a great opportunity that the pupils will gain from and that the issues that will arise should be solved simply for that important reason.
- The idea of a through school can have many benefits if there is the right kind of visionary leadership at the helm. A creative solution to the education of young people in Almondbury is paramount in these difficult times of ill-thought through changes by the current government who are determined to make a one size fits all curriculum. There is a need for good schools in the community otherwise the community will fall apart. You would no more remove Netherhall from the heart of Rawthorpe than take the Queen from her residences. Why? Because the community needs the school. It glues the community together and by investing in the education of the youth of this area then we sure up their futures. Ultimately I believe, it all rests on leadership. An imaginative leader with a supportive team of teachers and parents can make this a success.
- I think it is important that this part of Almondbury has a community school with excellent facilities. This can only be an advantage to the youth of the area. The Art department enjoys excellent results at GCSE -45% A*- As compared to 20% nationally. The work produced by the pupils at the High School will be a positive inspiration to the younger pupils encouraging confidence and creativity. The studio facilities such as the kiln room can be used to progress the work of the younger pupils and inspire larger whole school projects.
- I support the proposal wholeheartedly. I think it is an excellent solution for the schools, community and pupils. However, I have reservations as the timescale, it is too rushed. If the through-school is to be successful we need more time for staff to work together and plan for the future. At the moment it feels as if it is being imposed on us. We have the chance to be an excellent school. As a council, please

	<p>make sure this happens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good idea. Could be great for students. • The plans for this school could be fantastic. Our students would benefit in lots of ways. This is a wonderful chance for our school and our community and I hope it does not get wasted
Neither Support nor Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst I can see positives in the move, I am also concerned about the speed at which changes will be made and the impact the disruption will have on my pupils currently studying at the high school. My concerns are that the floor plan outlined at the moment will involve my department being moved to make way for the lower school pupils. I have spent many years building a good quality learning environment. I am concerned that my department will end up in an inferior room, I am concerned that I will have to relocate a whole department of resources alone (I am a single person department), I am concerned any move will impact on my current classes and be very unsettling, I am concerned that the storage facilities I recently bought will not stand up to the move (two were damaged last year when the decorators moved them, and I am concerned that I will be moved further away from my store room which is already remote. When will the move be made and what assistance will I be given? My other points are from a whole school point of view. Firstly with a much bigger cohort of staff and pupils will better toilet and drinking water facilities and dining facilities be installed? Secondly will building work go on during vital GCSE time as we CANNOT risk ANYTHING affecting our results? Staff are working incredibly hard to improve results at this school and it will be incredibly demoralising if external changes impact on the results. Thirdly, we have not been told the alternative. Any good decision making system evaluates the alternatives before making a decision. We have not been told what the alternative to a through school would be, so people are only able to make a limited judgement. I hope these points will be considered.

3.3 Responses from individual staff at Almondbury Junior School

Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I do support that we could be an all-through school, but my worries are about loss of job. I came to the staff meeting on 14/10/13 and although I could have other work chances, e.g. Almondbury High School and Greenside if there are any vacancies, if the proposal goes through my age might go against me. I've been very happy at Almondbury Junior School for 11 years.
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe the amalgamation of the Junior and High Schools is simply the matter of money saving. Over half the children in my class have already stated that they would prefer to attend King James' from Y7. By closing the Junior school and its grounds you are depriving its children of the opportunity to use the nature area - used in many lessons - the playing field and two large playgrounds. These cannot be replicated at the high school. What a waste! What an absolute travesty! Transfer from both infant schools will still be worrying for Y2/3 no matter how many times they visit between nurseries - Y2.
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team of six lunchtime supervisor at Almondbury Junior School care very much over our children we look after at lunchtime. Please do not close our school, the children are very upset, and we have noticed, their behaviour, slowly getting worse as they are unsettled, why don't you close Greenside and merge with the junior school? All the staff feel as though the decision has already been made, and it's all down to money. We have been told our jobs are not safe; all in all, we are very upset. • 1. My first concern is about people's jobs. are all the staff employed at Almondbury Junior School going to have a job, if the school moves to the high school site. 2. Is the high school site going to provide the same outside area that the children of the

junior school enjoy now, good sized playgrounds, trim trail, nature area, outside (newly built) classroom, which hasn't been used yet, and a large field. No I don't think so! 3. My grandchild has recently started at the Junior School, I won't be happy with her mixing with 16 year olds. 4. I realise the numbers at all the three schools are down, but wouldn't it be a more sensible thing to combine Greenside Infant and Nursery School with the Juniors. The High School could become a College where students could stay on and sit their A levels.

- I oppose the ideas of a new super school as I think it is wrong to have young children mixing with teenagers, I think a better idea would be to keep the children in the buildings they use now but create a stronger working partnership between the schools. What are the plans for toilets, dining room, playground etc. because the ones the older children use are not ideal for the younger children?
- This document claims to explain the reason for the proposals to develop an all through school in Almondbury, but in fact is worryingly lacking in detail and contradictory in facts. It claims 'no transition needed at 7yrs and 11yrs', what about the children from Almondbury CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School? They would still need to transfer at 7yrs and surely the transition to a much larger 'all through' school will be increasingly daunting and difficult. The 'all through school' will be reliant on those Almondbury I&N school pupils transferring to make it viable especially looking at the proposed place and admission numbers set out in this document. It is also surely reliant on children from other primary schools (in the current partnership) transferring at the age of 11yrs. This document states that a joint governing body will be made up from existing governors from the three schools. I feel strongly that this joint governing body, who are going to be responsible and involved with crucial decisions such as the appointment of a new head teacher and structure of the leadership team, should be open to appointment from the whole community that it affects, not just those who are already involved. Where is the educational evidence that this proposal will be a success? If this is such a good idea will it be rolled out across the whole of Kirklees? Surely the very idea of putting three schools together that have:- Dramatically falling rolls (AHS), Ofsted judgement of 'requires improvement' (G/Side), Ofsted judgement of 'inadequate' (AJS) is not exactly a recipe for success. Why haven't the LEA tackled the problem of falling rolls at Almondbury High school before it has reached this critical point? Why do parents of Almondbury choose to send their children out of the area for their Key Stage 3 & 4 education? Do you really think this proposal will make them change their minds? The speed and timescale of these proposals are alarming, why is it being so rushed? The facilities at Almondbury junior school have been tailor-made, over many years, for the needs and benefit of the school community - the playground layout and furniture, the small teaching rooms, the nurture room, the library, the ICT suite, community room and dining room. There is no mention of budget or reassurance in this document that there will be like for like facilities. The children are not guinea pigs and only have one chance at their education - each year is vital. The amount of disruption these proposals are going to cause will be enormous. Where are the reassurances for the community and children of Almondbury that these proposals will succeed?
- How will a move to the High school site raise standards at the Junior school? Parents have lost faith in the High school, over the last ten years parents have increasingly chosen to send their children to King James', indeed many of the Junior school Governors send their children to King James'.
- Staff have worked tirelessly to improve the first rate facilities at Almondbury Junior School; playground areas with trim trails and MUGA, separate dining and hall areas, multi-media and lighting in the Hall, with a stage! Purpose built classrooms and

	<p>cloakrooms, library, music rooms, ICT suite, Nurture room. We have further plans to develop the outside nature area, the recently built outdoor classroom has already been put to use, staff are training as Forest School practitioners. It would be detrimental to the children to lose these outstanding facilities and difficult to re-build all this. Will the move to the High School involve a re-build, fit for purpose, state of the art, and 'super' school? Or are we simply being shoved into re-decorated classrooms with shared facilities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surely it would be wiser to develop an all-through Infant and Junior school. The proposed move means that all the children in Almondbury will have to transition from small 150 pupil schools on small sites to a huge 1000 pupil school. I am very concerned about the emotional impact this will have on children, Almondbury Junior school has a dedicated staff who work well to bring these two intakes together within a relatively short time. We can provide a personalised learning journey through Junior school. Our transition programme from Juniors to High school is always a success. I am worried about the safety of the Junior school pupils mixing with High school pupil, which they inevitably will at the start and end of the day, break times, lunchtimes and when moving around the site. The OFSTED report was wrong - this is not a failing school, this is a school battling against statistics and data. Our children come from a wide range of backgrounds, we teach some incredibly vulnerable children and some real bright sparks. Staff at the Juniors are working hard to raise standards to get out of special measures, what is the point of this, when we have been told that this will automatically be removed if we move to a new school. Some members of staff have worked together at Almondbury Junior School for over 10 years. It is deeply upsetting and a blow to morale to think that we may not remain together as a team if we have to move, this feeling of support and community within the school is one of our great strengths. We know the families and children very well, some of the staff have taught the parents of children who are now attending our school. What happens to the building we leave? Is this a political ploy? Is this move designed to save money? How come Lepton CofE E School didn't have to undertake similar discussions? Why aren't we discussing turning Almondbury Junior School into an Academy?
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3.4 Responses from individual staff at Greenside I & N School	
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I feel that the scope of the proposal is too large for people to take on board. It will mean a lot of change for people who do not necessarily want the 'opportunities' you suggest are being offered. People chose to apply for the job they are in and their current work place for a reason. Mixing children aged 7-16 is going to be very difficult. Some 7-10 year olds are still 'babies' and why not. Children have to grow up far too quickly as it is. In our catchment area they have many issues out of school to deal with and should have the 'safety' of a smaller environment at school - not having to deal with 'teenage issues' prematurely - No matter how hard we try it is inevitable the issues will arise.
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I strongly oppose the merge of the high school and Juniors I do not think the idea of 7 year olds mixing with 16/17 year olds is going to work. There has been no set guidelines advising how this can work and how you are going to keep them separate. I also think we need clear guidelines on leadership and that this will not affect our budget and jobs. • In previous consultations no questions have been answered, yet I strongly feel we are 'NOT' being told the whole truth. Why are Lydgate school measuring up for lifts at AJS when nothing is supposedly concrete? I don't want the merger to go ahead as an

	<p>employee at Greenside I&N because why fix what isn't broke? The new budget and leadership will determine who gets what and that is a worry for jobs and financial security. Fix the problems of the other two schools without compromising others. Its really quite clear that by Greenside I&N joining it guarantees future numbers but we are on a different site and parents could still vote with their feet. i am very worried about my job in the future,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a parent both myself and my child are opposed to the merger. My child has expressed worries over several issues, mixing with younger children, how will start/finish times in school be affected? How will breaks and lunches work? (this is little room in the dining room now - let alone when more children need to be catered for) I have asked my child to move to King James school but have been met with 'stern' no's, that is until my child's circle of friends (if they decide) move I feel these consultations are purely to be seen to be following procedure but that the whole project is already rubber stamped! • Why should Greenside Infant School be joined with Almondbury High School and Almondbury Junior School. I feel that Greenside Infant School will lose out with the budget going to the Almondbury High School and the Junior School. We have no confidence AJS & AHS as the numbers have been failing for the last few years. • Why should Greenside I & N join with Almondbury Juniors & Almondbury High . The numbers have been falling at both these establishments over the past 5 years and this must be saying something about the schools. If we are to join these other schools we will be left out as we are not on the same site. Money will be spent on the joining of the other two schools and not the infants. Teachers jobs may be secure, but support staff do not seem to have the same benefits. Will all these jobs be under threat as there seems no security or rates of pay or hours, and who will be in charge of hiring and firing? If numbers are dropping at Juniors & High School when it is all one the numbers will probably drop at the infants and what happens when all these stages do not have enough pupils to sustain a school. • Why should Greenside Infant and Nursery be put with AJS & AHS We think we will be left out where they are on the same site. Greenside may lose out on the budget spending, with the money going to AJS and AHS. The loss of jobs, lack of job security, lower rates of pay are all areas of concern. • Why should G I & N School be put with AJS & AHS. We think we will be left out as we are not on same site & money will be spent on the joining of the other two schools and not the infant school. We are worried about jobs going and no security of rates of pay & hours. There is little or no confidence in either AJS & AHS as numbers have been falling for the last few years and nothing seems to have been done about this.
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3.5 Responses from individual staff school not stated	
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will enhance the numbers at AHS and develop the links that already exist within this partnership especially in certain curriculum areas where staff already have string KS2 links with these schools
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I strongly oppose the proposals for an all-through school. One of the reasons being the high school intake of children has been reduced because parents don't wish to send their children there that say something about the school. A lot of work will have to be done so the children from the junior school can segregate from the high school children. I don't think this will be done as the money will not be available. Also jobs will be cut. Parents will still send their children to other schools after the junior school, because it will be a through school won't make any difference.
Neither	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe it could benefit the children of Almondbury if done properly. However I have

<p>Support nor Oppose</p>	<p>too many concerns about how it will be done. Will High School Head automatically hold the post? Will staff be made redundant or their roles diminished especially Leadership Team? Due to the tight timescale will the staff, community and parents have the chance to shape the new school as they should be? Will any building alterations happen quickly enough and is there enough money for this? Will budget be ring fenced for each Key Stage? How would staff become a team? Will appropriate CPD be provided for staff who may encounter behaviour issues of children in other key stages as they move around the school? Will staff be able to move freely e.g. sign into each school building and share facilities? Will there be additional INSET days to develop new policies, curriculum and develop relationships? -What will be done to ensure bad language will not be heard on the school premises? My concern is that there will not be enough time to consider these questions properly before the school opens. Also that Hochtief will stop changes to property happening at the right speed. Initially if the project is not sold well to parents there will be a further fall in role. Many parents are already looking at alternative schools. What will happen then?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is very difficult to make any constructive comment at all given the lack of 'real' information that has been given out! I, along with many colleagues, have the children at the forefront of what we do, day in, day out. As a professional I baulk at the lack of grass roots information available and along with many consider this proposal to be a 'done deal' which is being rushed through I assume to save money! A massive change like this needs proper planning and proper consultation with answers to the questions being raised, especially with regard to job roles and job security and a happy environment delivering good quality education and catering for the wellbeing of students and staff alike. So far this has not been the case. If the consultation response is overwhelmingly against the proposal, what is 'Plan B'? No one seems to want to address that! I am uneasy and unsure of the future for the families and young people involved at this current time.
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4.1 Individual responses from pupils at Almondbury CE (VA) I & N School	
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's stupid putting the little ones with the big ones because the little ones might be scared of the big ones and the big ones might bully the little ones. • I am scared of hearing horrible words (swearing) and the bigger children doing nasty things to me. • I want to stay where I am away from the big children so I do not get bullied. I want to be in a small school with a good playground. The old children will swear and be horrible and push us over
4.2 Individual responses from pupils at Almondbury High School & Language College	
Strongly Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't want to go to school out of my local area and teaching good at high school so might be able to help other poor Ofsted schools. • I hope that this helps to keep our school open for our community. I have good teachers and it would be good for them to share their good standards with the schools who have poorer results. I also like the way our school is run by the head teacher.
4.3 Individual responses from pupils at Almondbury Junior School	
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am supporting any good actions to help developing pupil's all-through school. Thank you everyone to been involved in such a way.
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think that Almondbury Junior School shouldn't go into the High school because people in high school might be nasty and that will make me a bit sad and scared. And I don't think it's a good idea to mix big kids and little kids together. But I think junior school shouldn't go there because their teachers are very talented and good with skills and a very big building.
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because it's not appropriate to keep a child from age three in the same place till they're 16! It's part of growing up to go to a different ground, not to be stuck in the same place from 3-16. • This pains me to write, but this is coming from my seven year old at Almondbury Juniors!!! I really don't want to change schools and lose my friends. I am very upset and don't want to go to that school. I hope you are all happy with what us as parents have to listen too!! • I don't like it because some friends of mine could move school and I won't get to see them again. • Please save our school! I want to stay at the Juniors! • I don't want to go to the high school because it is much bigger and I could get lost and get bullied • I do not want Juniors going into the High school because it will just end up closing down and it will be very scary and very very horrible • I oppose the plans because it is not right to mix 3 year olds with 16 year olds because there is too much age difference. I want to stay in my school because it's not too big and all the children are a similar age. I like the playgrounds because they have good assault courses and equipment. For many children it would be a case of staying at Almondbury High for 13 years - it is better for children to go to a variety of different schools to make new friends and have different opportunities. Moving schools from juniors into high school makes children feel more grown up - if you are in one school all the way through it takes away this experience. Please do not make our Junior School close, it is a great school. • I strongly oppose the idea of an all through school with Almondbury High School because the younger children in Almondbury Juniors will not be ready to move into a school with older children in it. I defend my statement by the fact that the younger

	<p>children will; pick up habits like smoking, swearing and drinking which they might not be mature enough to understand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school will be too big and we will get lost in it. The playground at juniors is fantastic and they have spent loads of money on it. The older children will bully me and make me feel scared. Please don't close my school. My teachers are fab, and I love it at Almondbury juniors • Please don't take our junior school away from us. My mum went there and so did my grandma and grandad. It is a great school and deserves another chance. I don't want to go to the high school and it will scare my little sister to go from infant's school into the big school. Please let me finish my time at junior school. I don't want to have to move schools & then do my SATS. • It's not right for children aged 3 to see and be in the same grounds as 16 year olds! They might pick up bad language or swearwords and use them when they get older. • I want to stay at juniors because I really like it there. It will cost mum loads for new uniforms. I have just started juniors and don't want to move again. I might get bullied. I like the playground at juniors. I want to stay in a little school not a big one
Neither Support nor Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like the idea of me, my brother and my sister all coming to the same school but I am worried about being bullied by older children as I am only 7. I like the building I am in but would like all the children in Almondbury to be together. I want to feel safe there and have the same friends I have now.

4.4 Individual responses from pupils - not stated which school	
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't want juniors at the high school as it could be a disaster. You would end up closing all schools. • I don't want to be with the big children as I will get bullied. The school will be too big and we will get lost. How will one head be able to run one big school? Where will you get the money? I really hope you will not move the juniors. • I am only 6 years old and I will be just coming from Infants school and I don't want to have to go to the high school where there will be bullies. The younger people might get scared being with all the older children. The older children might swear out the dinner hall window to the younger people

4.5 Response from Almondbury High School Student Council – DVD transcript

Hi, we are the representatives from Almondbury High School whole school student council.

We have been discussing the proposed all through school and we would like to inform you of the students feedback and opinions.

We have looked at the positive aspects of the all through school and we would like to share with you some of the areas:

- Learning
- Social Time
- Leadership Opportunities and
- How it will work

We have looked at the concerns and found solutions and we would like to ask you some questions.

Hi, I'm X, I'm in Year 7 and I'm going to be looking at the positives and concerns about learning in an all through school.

These are the positives:

- Learning will be better as we won't repeat the work already done in Junior school
- An all through school will give us the opportunities to become effective with learning in curriculum time following things like SAT's
- KS2 students will have access to specialist facilities like languages, PE, technology and Art

Now these are the concerns:

- Noise made by the younger children during their playtime and KS3 and 4 lessons which will be worse in summer time when windows are open
- And people trying to make their way through school during exams

Next we will be looking at the social aspect.

I'm X and I'm in Year 9 and I'm going to be looking at the positives and negatives of the social impact of all through school.

- We believe that our students will be more confident when moving up to the High School and already know their way around
- They will have less fear due to them already knowing their teachers and the school site
- We also believe it will be easier for parents to drop their children off instead of rushing around trying to take their children to each different school
- There will be a reduction to bullying due to the leadership work
- Also there will be a better relationship with parents and the school due to a longer relationship in school

Negatives of the all through school would be:

- Lunchtimes – as to what variety of food would be left and when the smaller kids will have their lunchtime
 - And also what different facilities we would have for smaller children and how it would help them
-

Hi, I'm X and I'm also in Year 7. I will be talking about student leadership.

I believe that there will be greater opportunities for KS3 & 4 students to demonstrate good behaviour through leadership activities.

There will be more chances for leadership because we can have play leaders so KS2 students will be able to work with children from the local Infant school.

It will be easier for High School students to support the delivery of KS1 and KS2 activities.

We now find out from Isaac about the logistics

Hi, I'm X from Year 8.

In order for the all through schools to be successful, there is some logistics that need to be addressed.

- We need better routes through school so we can get to PE and drama without going outside
- We would also need bells on the outside of the school so that we can hear the bell and get inside
- It would be nice if we can get a common area for each year group because there aren't many places you can go and it would be nice if all students get a place to socialise
- We also need an astro-turf outside so the older ones can do PE in all weathers and the younger ones can do it inside.
- It would be nice if we get a bigger drama room and more props, also an additional Art room
- Finally, it would be nice if can get fans ready for the hot weather because you can't concentrate when it's hot.

I'm X and I'm in Year 8 and I will be presenting with the questions from the student council.

- Q1. Will secondary staff teach primary students and Primary teachers teach secondary students?
- Q2. Will there be job losses?
- Q3. Will the timing of our school change?
- Q4. Will the uniform change?
- Q5. Can the grass space behind the tennis courts be used for building?
- Q6. How will building work affect our learning?
- Q7. How will everyone travel around school quietly during the exam periods?
- Q8. Will there be separate entrances to avoid traffic problems on Fernside?
- Q9. Will 'Redfern' (Nurture Group) be bigger to fit all of the students in or will they have to share the space?

These are the questions we would like you to answer and we look forward to your feedback.

4.6 Response from Almondbury Junior School Council

Minutes of the School Council Meeting, Tuesday 22nd October 2013

The meeting was attended by a Kirklees LA officer, invited to discuss proposed all through school plans with School Councillors and the School Council teacher.

School Councillors were asked to describe what makes their school good;

- learn lots of skills
- PE lessons are fun
- nice teachers
- separate playgrounds
- 2 break times
- different clubs to go to
- lots of room on the playground
- good PE equipment
- go out onto the field in snow and sun
- different roles in school – Befrienders, SSOC, School Council, Green team



The LA officer explained that the proposed changes were a suggestion, and he was helping to gather thoughts and ideas. The final decision would not be made by him, but by Kirklees Councillors.

School Councillors were asked what they thought would be good about the move if it went ahead.

- see new people
- more years
- a bigger school
- a variety of clubs
- different lessons – science lessons in a laboratory
- play on the basketball and tennis courts.
- If you want to, you can still go to King James'



School Councillors were then asked to submit their questions.

- Will we have the same Head teacher?
- Will we have contact with year 11 and older children?
- Will the classrooms be the same or bigger?
- Can we still go swimming at the High School?
- Will we have separate lunchtimes and breaktimes?
- Will we move into the school or will there be a new building?
- What happens to Almondbury Junior School building?
- Will we have to share some rooms?
- What if we don't like being in the same place from 4-17?
- What if we get bored of the grounds?
- What if there are bullies?
- Will we have to change the uniform?
- Will we have to change the name of the school?
- Will we have a different school council?
- Will we stay in the same classes?
- Will year 3 and 4 children be on the same corridors as Year 11?
- Will the teachers be the same?
- Why do we have to move schools?
- Will siblings work together?
- Will we change teachers?

Will we have separate halls?
Will we have separate toilets?



It has been suggested that there was enough room in the High school to move all the Juniors into the building, there would not be any new building work, but walls might be knocked down to make classrooms bigger and the rooms would be decorated.

The fencing around Greenside could be removed and we would become one Infant, Junior and High school, sharing the same school grounds.

The name of the school could change, because we would be a new school and there would probably be a change of uniform. The existing uniforms at the four schools, (including Almondbury Infants) were described. It was suggested that we could hold a competition to design a new logo.

If the proposal is passed we are proposed to move into the all through school in September 2014.



A plan of the proposed all through school, was explained to school councillors.

See attached plan. green areas – High school areas
 blue areas – Junior school areas
 orange areas - Shared areas

There would be separate classes, but there would be shared areas, such as the Pool, Gym and dining room. It is an opportunity to use specialist facilities, science laboratories, food technology rooms.

You would have your own classroom, and fenced areas to play in. You will not have to share toilets with the High School children.

There would be one Head teacher and virtually all the teaching staff, support staff, lunchtime staff would remain the same. There wouldn't be change for the sake of change, it would make things better.

The Junior school children would probably see and come into contact with the High school children, which could be a good thing. It is possible that break times would be different and start and finish times would be different between the schools.

You might have to go to different classrooms with different teachers, you might have to take books and bags with you. You might have a locker to store your belongings.

You will probably have the same awards, roles in school and clubs. In fact, there might be opportunities to help Infant children with reading. Perhaps some of the High school children will help to run clubs.

There are about 330 children at the High School at the moment, 140 children at the Infant school and 260 children at the Junior school. There is room in the High School building for over 1000 pupils, which means it might be difficult to organise a big assembly, though there will still be assemblies.

As yet, no decisions about the empty Junior school building have been made, but Kirklees would not want a building to stand empty.

The School Councillors were asked if there were bullies at Almondbury Junior School, to which the children replied no. Children knew what to do if they were bullied or if they knew that someone else was being bullied. Any bullying was dealt with and this would be true in the all-through school.

Teachers would ensure that you wouldn't get bored of being in one building from age 7-16.

There will be a meeting at the Town Hall in December to discuss the proposals.

The LA officer was thanked for coming to talk to School Councillors by the School Council teacher. She also praised the School Councillors for their thoughtful questions.



4.6 Response from the pupils at Greenside Infant & Nursery School

The Almondbury through
School

194

What we think
by the children at
Greenside



The response from the pupils at Greenside Infant & Nursery School was a series of photographs of children with speech bubbles containing their responses

The responses are listed below

The children from Greenside Infant and Nursery School say:

1. It would be good to help younger children when we are older.
2. It might be frightening. Some children might be too big.
3. We will have more fields so more space to run around. If our ball goes over the fence we can get it back easier.
4. I like it so I can see my brother.
5. Big rooms will be good.
6. Fun.
7. Wicked.
8. Fun because there will be more teachers.
9. More classes will be good.
10. We will have lots of things to play with and lots of space for the things.
11. We will get to see the chickens.
12. I will like it cos I will get to see my brother.
13. I think it will be good.
14. I am excited that I'll make some older friends. We could have a model railway to get up there, with a roof!
15. I am happy that I'll get to see my older friends.
16. I am happy that I'll see my sister at dinner time.
17. We could make a tunnel to get there.... or an underground railway..

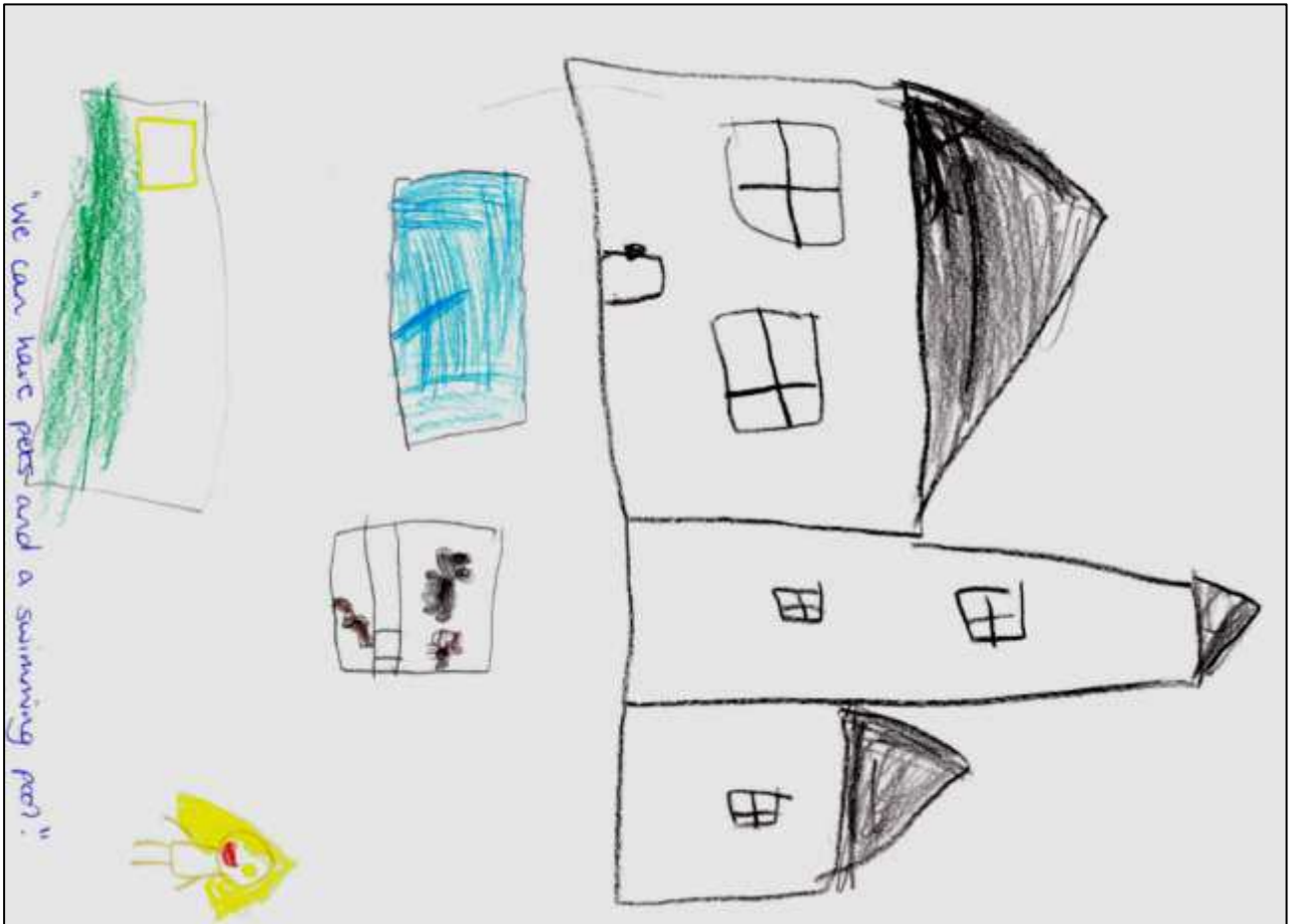


"we can go swimming"



"we can have chickens and fish"

"we can have pets and a swimming pool"



"3 schools together"



5.1 Responses from Local Residents	
Strongly Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I believe that in the interest of my own children and future children in the area that this is a positive opportunity. It's a way in which pupils will be able to integrate safely with children across the range. It will allow for a constant approach to everything from discipline through to teaching.
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will be more convenient and everything will be under one roof, therefore, less bureaucracy. Given the last Ofsted results for Greenside and Almondbury Juniors it is this or they become an Academy.
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is this about money? I am concerned about what would happen to the site if it is closed. Would first like to know what plans are for the building. As the future use of the Junior School has not been made public it is difficult to know what the effect on the neighbourhood would be after the change. I also think that 3-17 years of age is too wide a range to be accommodated on one campus. Strongly feel that small schools are better for pupils. More personal and better run. Mixing infants with secondary pupils is just not right.
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned Grandparent....Proposal does not give enough information to parents who's children will be affected by this change. From what I have read I don't not believe that the new school is the way forward for the children in Almondbury. Therefore strongly oppose. Children are not being considered only finance. No consideration of local needs to improve reputation of school... forcing children into a school will not improve numbers in the high school in the future. Young families will not move to the village and will live elsewhere to get a better choice of school with a better reputation.. therefore the village will decline and you will still be left with an empty school full of children whose parents cannot afford to move from the area. Then in turn have deprivation and decline of population.. say goodbye to the oldest village of Huddersfield through greed and neglect of the local council. An area ruined by three officers who decided 'oh I know a way to increase numbers at the High school'... lets take away choice from families and force them into something that benefits the council not the families!!! 1. The school should be allowed to try to succeed. 2. There should be separate provision for Juniors 3. Parents are not happy 4. There is nothing in your plan to show how you will raise standards I have a daughter and this school is one of our choices but would not want my mixing with 16 year olds at such a young age. The team of six lunchtime supervisors at Almondbury Junior School care very much over our children we look after at lunchtime. Please do not close our school, the children are very upset, and we have noticed, there behaviour, slowly getting worse as they are unsettled. We have been told our jobs are not safe; all in all, we are very upset. I am deeply sickened to hear that you are thinking of making the school, I have two grandchildren who go to the Juniors at the moment, and I think there mum may send them to another Junior school if this goes ahead! And I have another baby granddaughter who I would hate to think of her having to mix with 16 year olds when she turns 7 years old! Whatever you're planning of doing with the Junior school why can't you do this in the High school if there's so much space, why disrupt so many children! If you go ahead with this plan you may end up losing a lot of children, not gaining more! And come on, a 7 year old in the same toilets as 16 year

olds, where's the health and safety there! One Mad Grandma and local resident.

- I believe that mixing children from the higher end is not very good because this can be a very distressing situation for younger children, and also bad examples will be displayed i.e. smoking, bad language and bad behaviour.
- 1. My first concern is about people's jobs. Are all the staff employed at Almondbury Junior School going to have a job, if the school moves to the high school site. 2. Is the high school site going to provide the same outside area that the children of the junior school enjoy now, 2 good sized playgrounds, trim trail, nature area, outside (newly built) classroom, which hasn't been used yet, and a large field. No I don't think so! 3. My grandchild has recently started at the Junior School, I won't be happy with her missing with 16 year olds. 4. I realise the numbers at all the three schools are down, but wouldn't it be a more sensible thing to combine Greenside Infant and Nursery School with the Juniors. The High School could become a College where students could stay on and sit their A levels.
- I oppose the ideas of a new super school as I think it is wrong to have young children mixing with teenagers, I think a better idea would be to keep the children in the buildings they use now but create a stronger working partnership between the schools. What are the plans for toilets, dining room, playground etc. because the ones the older children use are not ideal for the younger children?
- I believe that the local authority have not been open is honest on the reason for wanting to rush this proposal through. It's not educational improvement but financial savings that is the main driver. Almondbury High School has seen a fall in numbers from 900+ to about 400 currently under the present leadership. It is not sustainable until the present rate of decline. The critical issue you are not addressing is why parents in Almondbury & surrounding areas are choosing to take their children elsewhere. The recent Ofsted reports for the Junior & Infants Schools appear to have been suspiciously convenient outcomes for this proposal & even more difficult to believe when the Junior School has recently announced its best ever results. Should this ill-conceived proposal proceed, new leadership will be required, with the appropriate wide ranging business, management & educational expertise for such a diverse range of schooling needs. I don't believe any of the existing heads possess such skills. If a new governing body (taken from existing representatives) is responsible for the recruitment, I would question having LEA representatives as chair & Vice chair - which is currently the case at the high school. This hardly represents an impartial & unbiased structure. You should invite applications for the wider community. Having been an Almondbury resident for over 30 years, I am concerned that this proposal is being rushed through & will leave a hugely detrimental legacy on the village & community. The decision makers will move on, but we will be left with the outcomes for many years after. I believe the current 3 separate schools arrangement should continue. Parental support for the Infants & Juniors is good and represents a firm foundation for preparing children for the next phase of their education. The needs of Almondbury Infants & Nursery School haven't been considered at all - the solution is improving communications & management across all pyramid leader schools. If parents have to make a decision on 'whole life' schooling for their children at age 3, they will simply vote to go elsewhere or move out of the area and this will have a significant detrimental outcome on the community & village life. I urge you not to embark on a proposal that will not achieve your stated ambition of educational improvement. You have provided no evidence to show how this has worked for similar situations. Don't do it, it makes no sense.

- Parking and access will be a major problem if this proposal goes ahead. It is not fair on us who live around the high school. Neither the Fernside or Eastland's entrances can cope with the extra traffic of parents dropping off/picking up Junior school children. High school kids walk to school - most younger children are brought in cars. Please consider our views before going ahead with this.
- Why have teachers been made to sign a silence agreement about the school merge plans? Why have teachers only guaranteed a job for 3 years after these school plans have been made? This is a done deal!
- We believe schools are been taken back to the 50's when they had all-through schools, children were more tolerant of each other but we don't think this is the case now. The main thing is the children's future! We bought our bungalow for our retirement and do not want to see houses been built up to our back fence, I think our neighbours feel the same on our road. Children's education is very important and they do need the very best that can be provided, but with what is been proposed we don't think this will happen. However, it is quite apparent that everything is already sorted out and the authorities know what's going to happen and no matter how we may protest and complain we will be able to do nothing about the situation when the junior school land etc. is sold and building etc. pulled down houses or industrial units built on the land we will not be able to do anything anyway so now is the time to shout loud and clear.
- Almondbury Junior School has always been a good school, never had trouble with any pupils who pass my house. They are polite and my own three children attended all-through and loved it, I was a lollipop lady outside for 13 and a half years. Also cleaned the school and worked as a dinner lady too. Why close a school which has done such good work for over 60 years. It has always had good support from families and children. Why mend it, when it is not broken? I am disgusted to think young children are going to be pushed in with children of 16 years and more. Speaking with my neighbours, they are all of the same opinion. Leave AJS alone. It has been a wonderful school and always had wonderful staff.
- Our children in Almondbury deserve to have a separate junior school with the current facilities they have. Own dining room, great outside play areas, after school clubs. They should not be cramped into a small space in the high school mixing with older children, whose behaviour and language I frankly unsuitable for seven year old children. Do not punish the children because of finance; put someone else in the high school spaces, that would be more appropriate.
- I strongly oppose due to the fact that young children will be sharing the same toilets and dinner hall with teenagers.
- Simply unfair to expect young children to be exposed to older students/children in the same environment. Inadequate resource management would put these young children at a greater disadvantage than would be the case. This at a key stage of their development. Key stages have been developed by strategists that knew children's needs better. 'Back to Basics' this is a preposterous concept.
- The range of age groups is too wide and separate schools would be more suitable especially for the younger children
- I feel changing schools is a big step for younger students and to mix with such a large age gap could be even more daunting adding stress which is not needed.
- We personally do not have children of school age, but it does affect our property, in that the rear of our property backs onto the Junior School, thus making us very nervous at the prospect of what will happen to the grounds, and could if the proposals were to be successful, result in a possible depreciation in value in our

property. My views on having separate identities for each school seems ludicrous and a total waste of money and resources in these financially difficult times, so therefore we believe if it isn't broke, don't fix it. As for the children and parents involved this must be of great distress and worry for their future education. Let's hope the views of the residents will not be falling on deaf ears.

- This is the first time we've heard about this. Very concerned what will happen to the Junior School site.
- Kids age 16 smoke, have fights, even if this is minimal young children shouldn't have to see this
- Bullying, grades may suffer, safety
- Too rushed. Not enough information. Poor facilities at high school. Children not being put first at all!
- The way things are now is fine. I don't want my child exposed to teenagers throughout school life.
- My concern is bullying, segregation, and it is all down to money
- How can you promise to monitor language and behaviour of older pupils and ensure this does not reflect on the younger pupils? Disaster waiting to happen in my opinion.
- Safety of the younger children. Possible increase in bullying.
- Is this just a cost cutting exercise due to the drop in numbers for Almondbury High School? Maybe change the management structure at the high school and numbers would increase.
- Would it not just be cheaper to knock the whole building down & rebuild a purpose built site?
- Is the current building suitable for the younger children? Will the younger children be segregated properly? Will there be separate playing facilities for the younger children?
- I have had children that have attended Almondbury High School and I pulled both out and sent them to King James School.
- My children attended Almondbury Junior School and left with great grades and also grew in confidence. I sent my daughter to King James where she did really well. My other two children also followed. I have two children yet to go to High school which will not be Almondbury High so of course will miss out on a great Junior School
- Residents of Almondbury don't know what will become of the Junior School Building
- I do not agree with the proposal, as I believe the Junior children should not be forced into growing up too soon and should be allowed to enjoy their childhood without peer pressure from the older pupils
- Because I think it will encourage the older children to pick on the younger children.
- My granddaughter attends the junior school and grandson due to start next year. I am not happy that they are going to be attending a school with 15/16 year olds. I have heard the language that teenagers use and I do not want my grandchildren to hear this. This school was not built to be used as an Academy and I cannot see how the different age groups can be kept separate at all times. I feel that the younger children are going to be made to grow up much quicker than they should. I am worried also about the journey to and from school. Are you going to stagger the start/finish times? If not I fear there may be bullying of the younger children or they will witness things at their age that they shouldn't. Such as smoking, relationships and bad language. We have been given no evidence of how this will benefit the children and in my opinion just down to money
- The school (Almondbury juniors) should be given a chance to improve its Ofsted

	<p>report firstly before any decisions are made. Why are they going to perform any better as an Academy? I attended Almondbury High and as an 11 year old found the school very large and frightening, dread to think what a 7 year old is going to think. This is all down to money and not what is best for our children. Inadequate information has been given to parents and in my opinion handled very poorly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My next door neighbour has an 8 year old son at AJS. He has settled in well at the school. He is already getting distressed at the possibility of changing schools and I get upset for him, as he and his mother, who is a widow, are good friends of mine. Then there is the question of what is going to happen to AJS. What kind of school might it become and how that may affect me? I am an elderly widow and I worry about these things. Will the parking situation be affected? I have a car, but if I go out now, I often have to park away from my home and go out later to bring back my car. Will things get worse in that regard? I hope the powers that be will listen to genuine objections, but I doubt it. It all seems cut and dried. • I am disgusted by how the council could even dream of closing the junior school and moving the children into a long all through school from aged 3-16! The council didn't even tell me or my neighbourhood in Almondbury about it! Stop being so rude and suspicious! If you have any other selfish, horrid plans for those poor children tell us and we can discuss it! I know the council is hiding something about the special schools, just tell us! • This building when built was not designed for an Academy, unless a vast amount of money is going to be spent on it, it will not be suitable! The dining room is much too small for all the different age groups to eat separately. What are you planning lunches to run over 2 hours? To access all areas in the building the older children will have to pass through where the younger ones are situation so cannot be kept separate. In my opinion mixing 7/8 year old with 15/16 year olds is a very bad idea. Parking/drop off will be very busy and I worry about the children walking home - they will be mixed with Teenagers! Not happy! • At the start of the Almondbury Super School proposals the parents were informed that the pupils would not lose out on their present school amenities as a result of the move and that they would have their own dedicated 'suite' with very little contact with the senior school pupils. We were then shown a very unconvincing plan of the proposed new school and see that many areas are to be shared. The plans show no separate car parking or pick up and drop off points. Although separate access areas are signalled. How will children not be prevented from using either entrances? The existing junior school is surrounded by good playing areas and fields. With more building being done on the High School site the amount of play area there will be diminished. We feel the junior children are being hurriedly squashed into the new school and are losing out very badly on the pleasant and spacious amenities they have at present. It is also not good for many small children to be mixing closely with older, bigger teenagers. It is a more frightening, unsettling and insecure experience for them than a separate junior school would be
Neither Support nor Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the school is to expand how will this effect the existing school building? Class sizes, canteen facilities, etc., will they be able to cope with extra pupils? What is going to happen to the primary school when it closes? Will the land be sold to developers? Can the village of Almondbury support more homes? If a child is unhappy at one school they naturally progress to another in the form of junior school, and then High school. If they are all brought together, I worry that these children will be lost in a larger system. Will there be more money resources spent to make Almondbury high school a better school, for example new windows, better facilities, etc. Will there be

	<p>staff redundancies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knock on effect, catchment area increases, therefore will classroom sizes increase? After junior school the children move to high school. 2. At this point there are two natural opinions, the high school or King James. Bringing them together gives less choice to parents as they would have to pull them out of their existing school. 3. Can the high school cope with more demand? Will you build on the high school? 4. What will happen to the junior school land? I can see both the advantages to keeping both schools separate as well as bringing the schools together. However, as the parent of a current year 6 we have already made our decision not to send our daughter to Almondbury High School. Their sibling is at King James' and we hope our younger daughter will also gain a place at this school. Although in the past we have felt quite positive about Almondbury High School, we feel there hasn't been enough of an improvement in the percentage of children gaining 5 GCSE's A* - C grade (+ English and Maths) This, we expect should have improved since we visited in 2009 for the first time.
Don't Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do not know what is happening with site. If stays as school support but if knocked down for housing opposes. Why is the proposal being rushed through? Someone must have plans for the school. Why are children not allowed to stay at Junior School until summer before disrupting them? We do not have children of school age anymore, but we are very concerned about what would happen to the school buildings and grounds if it were no longer to be used as a junior school.

5.2 Responses from other stakeholders

Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I agree with the comments that there could be improved continuity and more flexibility and opportunities within the schools if they merge together as one. I also believe that if the schools did merge the current resources can be used more effectively and a wider range of resources can be made available to all.
Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plans outlined for the junior suite in the new school are too vague at this time. It is important that the provision is quite separate from the senior pupils. They will need separate dining and assembly areas, as well as separate play areas. It is not good practice for these younger children to be exposed to the behaviour, language, and habits of older teenagers who will also be using the site. There will need to be staggered start and finish times, separate entrances and pick up/drop off points. The "Super School" idea is nothing new. Years ago in the 1960's I worked in a very similar situation. I taught the younger children aged 5 – 7 years. There were also two classes of junior aged 7 -11 on the next floor and above that two classes of the senior school aged 11 to 15 years on the upper floor of the building. Obviously, this was done on a much smaller scale than the proposed school in Almondbury but we had a through school in the true sense of the word. This worked with smaller numbers, although each age group lost its autonomy, the children were in the same building with the same children (sometimes their own family members) for 10 years. Was this really such a good thing- never moving areas, never gaining independence, meeting new people, having new surroundings, different teachers, or methods? The proposed Almondbury school is obviously more modern and will be much bigger, but it presents the same negatives and the children still have to move to the big school but at age 7years (not at 11). Is it really such a good idea? Is the "Super School" concept such a good idea? Growing up and changing school - from infants to junior – junior to secondary was a daunting step but looking back each chance gave me challenges and a step towards independence, new areas, new teachers, new

	<p>buildings and systems. Being in a “one school” system as proposed at Almondbury. At 7 years there are no great changes, the children are put in the same building for the rest of their school lives with the same pupils and surroundings for the next 9 years. The school becomes more of an institution and the pupils institutionalised. Separate schools have their own ethos, buildings, playing fields and reputations. It seems that the best solution to solve this problem would be to leave the children in the existing junior school but to incorporate this building into part of the new school for Almondbury.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should things be changed when they work very well already? Small children don't want to be mixed with the older children this can cause all sorts of problems, egg seeing older children doing things they shouldn't and following doing the same • I am not happy that the junior school children are really being considered in this proposal-the junior school is near enough to the high school to continue the partnership that exists now which seems to work well. I cannot see any benefit in moving 7-11 year olds into a high school with 12-16 year olds in fact I think it would be very intimidating.as has been proved in other amalgamations of this kind placing the two age groups together is not viable. Three separate schools on the same campus would work much better as has been proved by the nether hall campus. Please think about the children in this exercise because they matter far more than the money you can save by this tragedy for the young of Almondbury
Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a grandparent with two young grandchildren who are likely to be affected by your groups proposed changes to Education provision in the Almondbury area; I had several questions after reading the original proposal of 16th September 2013. I hoped that these questions would be answered in your Consultation Document published this week. However, I find this a very disappointing document which provides very few answers. Therefore I have attached my questions to this email and hope that you will be able to provide me with answers quickly in order that I and my family are able to make a considered decision on your group's proposal. I keenly anticipate your response and hope that you can provide me with useful information. • The age range of the children is too big, expecting kids of 5, 6, 7 years old to share space with 15, 16 year olds is not fair on any of them. Children of different age groups struggle to get along in the home environment so to expect it at school is asking for trouble for all concerned. Let primary children have the nurturing they require at such a young age and give the young adults the space they deserve to learn and concentrate on their education without little ones around. • I am an ex teacher and my Grandson goes to Almondbury Juniors. I am strongly opposing this proposal, and intend to fight it all the way; this school needs to stay where it is. And as we know already, you have plans for this site, we are not going to sit back and watch you ruin my Grandson future! This cannot happen. We propose that the special needs school moves into the high school grounds. The transition of the children will be less harmful than moving Almondbury Juniors across. The junior school has a period of time of which they have the chance to improve, and I will be fighting for this to go ahead. You need to start listening to parents, and stop putting cuts and finance before the welfare of our children. I believe that Almondbury High School will close if something does not change, but as I have stated, NOT at the expense of our children at junior school! • I am a former pupil and now a mum myself who is thinking about where I would like my daughter to go to school. This situation however does not make me want to send her to Almondbury. I would not want her having to mix with 16 year olds when she is only in nursery/infants or juniors herself, its hard enough at the age of 11. I also have family in the juniors and they would be very apprehensive about that type of situation. The children are not being thought about and I really hope this change does not happen!

- After attending some consultation meeting it seems the council and reps swerve most questions asked by parents. The main reason for the plan is to make the transition easier for the Almondbury juniors to the high school. However Moldgreen/Lowerhouses and Dalton are also feeder schools for Almondbury high so why is there no concern's for them? After reading every bit of details and the lies been told regarding the Junior school property I strongly believe Kirklees are pushing for this merge for financial benefit (selling junior school land/building) not our children's education, it was confirmed in a meeting the building was up for negotiation and then a few days later Kirklees told the examiner that there were no plans for the building which is obviously a lie, Kirklees were hoping parents wouldn't find out. I am disgusted at the lack of information provided despite hundreds of parents requesting more. It is not acceptable to move Juniors into a building custom built for high school children. It sickens me that my child will now be forced into a school that has no potential to give him the best education and was rushed so Kirklees could gain more money. Disgusted parent!!!!
- No information on building and adaptations, no details on how dinners will work, toilets, finish and start times. Why should my small child share a building with teenagers? That frightens me. Kirklees be honest and admit that this merge has nothing to do with education but to do with MONEY!!!!
- There are many reasons why I am deeply unhappy about this proposal. From a personal perspective I have never intended for my children to attend Almondbury high school. As with many other people in the community I feel unhappy with the high schools low achievement and poor behaviour record. The fact that in last year's league tables AHS was the 2nd worst school in Kirklees does not fill anyone with confidence. To now find that the plan is to combine the juniors and high school is distressing. As far as I know this is unknown territory and the idea of combining 7 year olds with 16 year olds is very worrying. Even with the best behaved and well-mannered teenager, there are issues. What is appropriate for a teenager in terms of language, interests and behaviour patterns is not appropriate for the younger children. Teenagers inherently push boundaries and challenge authority as part of their growing into adults. We all worry about our children, in this day and age, growing up too fast. I see from the plans that the site will be 'zoned', however this does not prevent young children coming into contact with language, behaviour and potentially intimidation or aggression from older children in the dinner hall, outdoor play areas and outside the school. As a parent whose children will be filtered into this system I feel very concerned at the amount of unanswered questions regarding the transition to and transformation of the high school building. There has been no clear idea of the money to be spent, the alterations to be made and how the issues regarding segregating and safeguarding the age groups are to be solved. The issues of leadership have also not been addressed. I feel that in order for this change to be successful, radical leadership needs to deal with the already underlying issues of behaviour and underachievement already existing within the high school. I also have a large concern regarding the potential for this scheme to split the community even more than it is. Almondbury is a very diverse area, with huge variation in the social and economic demographic. However as things stand many middle class families are already choosing to send their children to Rowley Lane instead of Almondbury Juniors, in a large part this is down to avoiding sending their children to AHS. If existing parents are not happy with the outcomes of this proposal this split will be made worse. I have heard many people discussing the idea of leaving the Almondbury area altogether as a result of the 'super school' proposal. It also feels like this has been dropped on us in punishment for the bad Ofsted report. If Ofsted had inspected AJS 6 weeks later, when this year's SATs results had been published would we be in this mess now? Why hasn't AJS been given the opportunity to work with HMI to improve their outcomes? Is this political? And

is this really in the best interests of our children and the Almondbury community? Or is this just financial and convenient for the council? I can assure you that if this gamble you are taking with our children's education does not work, if I have any concerns about my children's safety or social learning I WILL withdraw my children from this school.

- I think that junior school pupils are too young to be mixed with high school pupils, who set a bad example through lack of respect both for members of staff and school rules. Sharing toilet facilities where 7 year old girls would come into contact with sanitary products which, in my opinion, they are too young to understand. Having attended one of the consultation events at Almondbury Junior School and voicing my concerns, nothing that was said allayed my fears. The building would need a lot of structural work to keep junior school pupils apart from high school pupils, which would incur very high costs, and the proposed separate entrance for junior school pupils is notorious for flooding, which is why it is always closed. The impression I got from the meeting was that this proposal is more about saving money, as if the through school plan goes ahead, staff at the junior school would lose their jobs. Nobody could give me any answers to my question about proven examples of this scheme anywhere else actually benefitting the children's education, therefore it appears that this proposal is an experiment using our children as guinea pigs and if it fails their "lost education" cannot be replaced. Another concern I have, which again nobody could give an explanation for, is why is this proposal being rushed through on such a short timescale? Surely more time and thought should be given when the education and wellbeing of our children is at stake.
- We have attended several of the so called Consultation Meetings held regarding this "Super School" plan, and can only assume that their purpose was to confuse anyone attending and "muddy the waters" concerning the ill-conceived plan. Our experience has been that many of the consultants displayed very little knowledge of education matters and their mantra seemed to "that nothing has been decided yet"; "there are no plans for the future use of the empty Junior School building"; "the plan is not designed to fill the High School". You then find others telling you that we have agreed a plan with Ofsted to close the Junior School to bring it out of special measures. Why have parents not been consulted on this plan if that is what has been agreed. (Junior School Governors minutes for their meeting in July seems to suggest this.) The sad part of all of this "series of smoke and mirrors" scheme is that the ones considered least are the children in the area. There has been virtually no consideration that these plans will be the best way to improve their education. I feel that you should have entitled the Consultation document "Save our High School".
- You have been ready to tell us that the Junior School can only be saved by either closing or becoming an Academy/Free School. One wonders whether that educationally might be a better option than become consumed in this large, almost empty building called the High School. It is also a point of concern as to what the situation would be when Ofsted decided that an early inspection was required of your "new" school and this school were to fail. It would seem more sensible if the High School were inspected early next term, before these Junior children are moved into the school. A successful result at that stage would give parents far more confidence in your proposed plan. At the moment the general perception of the High School is of a school which is greatly under subscribed, with only 324 pupils. This certainly suggests a public lack of confidence in the school from parents in the local area. To raise this confidence a favourable Ofsted report, AT THIS TIME, would be an enormous lift to the area and probably make your plan more acceptable.
- For many years the children of Almondbury have been failed by the local authority. If those people at all levels had been doing their jobs properly this tragic situation would not have occurred. Currently we have a situation of three defective schools and a

	<p>proposal to lump them all into one (two schools have underperformed in Ofsted checks and the third school has lost the confidence of parents in the area and can only recruit small numbers of pupils). The local authority answer is to rush through a "plan" to form a Super School, using it would seem these already defective parts. For the scheme to have a chance of success it needs proper planning, involvement of parents of the children to be involved, and a new staff, particularly the appointment of an Executive Head teacher with experience of working with all the Key Stages involved and also a completely new Governing Body. You must not fail these children again, whatever the cost to you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents don't want their children to be used as guinea pigs for new ideas and educational gimmicks. Super schools could be harmful as children can lose their sense of community when swallowed up in a large institution. It would be more sensible to keep the junior children in their existing base and provide the "structural changes" required by D F E by making this unit part of the new school. The available space in the present High School building could then be used for the provision you are planning for the present Junior premises when empty. This would have the added attraction of being a more cost effective alternative. • There is a cause for concern regarding the staffing and leadership of this scheme. It is clear that the children of Almondbury have been badly let down by the Education Service provision in the area. It must not happen again!! For this scheme to work there needs to be an adequate timescale to allow the correct staff to be recruited to the new school, this most importantly is to install a new Executive Head to oversee the different sections of the school. This person will require experience of working across all the Key Stages to be covered by the school. It may need an interim appointment to allow the time for the right person to be found. • I am really concerned about the proposed change over of the Almondbury school system and also very disappointed in the way it is being handled. I have attended most of the consultation meetings in this process and I am not impressed by the way parents are being treated. So far I have learned practically nothing regarding the real facts. The parents have been told differing facts, true information is very difficult to obtain and we have even been told lies. These are our children (not just numbers on a Council record) and we want the very best for them and parents should be very much involved in all decision making. Instead we are being treated as nonentities, who are an inconvenience to the Councils plans that has to be dealt with by Officers, an unimportant part of the process that has to be gone through! Parent's views should be seen as one of the priorities not a hindrance to deciding the education futures of our children. Some of the "educationalists" who we have been meeting have been patronising, dismissive, arrogant and downright rude – even at times shouting at us! This is no way for a consultation to be conducted and perhaps some of these people need a little training themselves – in people skills! At this point I would like to thank X for her calm and patient way of bravely presenting the parents case in such an eloquent and professional manner. Disillusioned Participant. • This is a very bad idea I do not agree at all because the younger children will be looking up to the older ones and following what they are doing which could be negative behaviour. • The consultation process has not been open and transparent - the consultation booklet gives no reasons for the changes proposed. I do not think the changes will be of benefit to my children, particularly as the reasons have not been explained. If the Junior school has to close for whatever reason, full and frank reasons behind this decision should be made available to all stakeholders. • It is not appropriate to put Junior School children into a High School. The High school
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building is not purpose built for KS2 children (current classrooms are small with high windows; lots of stairs, big toilets/desks/chairs etc.). It is not appropriate for children aged 7-17 to share facilities, dining hall, corridors, toilets, main hall, playing fields, playground etc. The younger children will be exposed in inappropriate language and behaviour. Any adaptations that are made to the building will be a compromise - a 'junior suite' within the High School cannot compete with a purpose built Junior School. The Junior school children will lose their pride & identity in their school - it will no longer be 'their' school. The High School children will be be-little by having the age range of their school lowered - attending High School is a move towards adulthood; sharing facilities with young children completely diminishes this 'grown up' environment. High School children should NOT provide pastoral care for younger children. Parking and access will be a major issue - neither the Fernside Avenue or Eastland's entrances have capacity for the hugely increased traffic that moving the juniors will create. This is not fair on the residents of these roads or the parents dropping off/picking up. Please let the Junior School stay on the current site and have the proper length of time to show improvement!! The consultation does not give proper reasons for the changes. You cannot make a decision based on the information provided in the consultation booklet. No explanation is given as to why the juniors have to move into the high school.

- Junior school not given the full 2 years to improve its standards. Why? Not enough information regarding the new school layout, segregation from older children etc. Not enough information regarding staff organisation. High school pupils giving junior school pupils pastoral care is wrong. Why is this move being pushed forward? No real information has been given. A 7 year old will find a move from an infant's school to a huge high school to be a terrifying prospect.
- F.A.O. The inept Council Officials on present education system has served the last 10 generations quite admirably segregation of Juniors & Infant schools. I oppose this recommendation because its carpet bagging is making profits in the building and staffs rate and tax payers yet again.
- Totally against it brought the children up through the education system. You need to travel. The saying goes, if it isn't broke don't mend it.
- My concern is over the children that will struggle with the move if it goes ahead.
- I don't like the fact my child of 6 years will be in the school playground exposed to fighting and smoking the older kids do
- Not enough information to make an informed decision. No new staff why would you send a child to a new school with the same failing staff and one with an abhorrent reputation!
- I do not think this is a good idea. The reasons for the proposals have not been explained and no details of how it will work in practice have been given. I can't see how a head teacher can have sufficient understanding of the different key stages to run a 'through-school' as successfully as keeping the key stages under separate specialist headships. Their needs are very different. Children only have one childhood. Please don't shorten it by lumping them all together with older teenagers.
- My grandchild is at the Junior School and is loving every minute of it. He is a very sensitive boy and is very worried about the move across. I believe that the juniors should stay on their current site and when this so called super school is proven, we would then think about sending him there. I have visited all consultations and frankly found your officers rude and unhelpful. No answers have been given so I will not accept this as a good move for my grandchildren.
- I do not wish my grandchildren to go to a through school with older children, especially not at Almondbury High School. I think the juniors school should have same chance as

	<p>other schools such as our local Station Road, Lepton School (which is/was also in Special measures) and time to improve its Ofsted report (as I believe was 18 months-2 years as said at the time Almondbury juniors went into Special Measures) without being forced into this rushed/pushed add on to the high school with dwindling students and not the best reputation. My grandchild is very happy at the juniors which by all accounts was improving with good SATs and a lovely secure environment. Thank you for asking my opinion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My grandson attends AJS and is already getting extremely upset over the proposed move to the High school. He has recently settled in the second year juniors and enjoying the school if and the teachers how are excellent with the children. Are the teachers at AJS moving with the children to the HS? So at the very least they will have continuity? Will they have separate playground and dining hall facilities? Why is this rushed? Is it political just because of the high school numbers have dropped - why 'mend' something at AJS when pupils and staff are all a happy team. The staff at AJS must be at a very low ebb why cause all this unsettlement when all is working well and they are all extremely good at their 'jobs'. If this proposal goes ahead, it would be better for the children to start their new school at the beginning of the school year eg September and not half way through a school year. The high school building needs quite a lot of money spending on it - the 'baths' need upgrading and several aspect of the school - could this be done before the proposed merger!
Neither Support nor Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't know enough about it. Not my ward. • Don't feel as if I have enough information yet to form a proper view. There could well be benefits educationally and in the facilities, but managing the numbers and interaction of children is going to have to be done carefully. I have been told that separate areas and start, finish and lunch times are being considered (and to ease parental congestion for younger children). Morale and involvement of staff will be very important and building respect for the new school and dealing with the needs and problems of the varying age ranges of pupils will need expert handling. I have heard said it is a money saving exercise, but given present economic climate, can agree with this for some reasons, but the educational quality and equality given to the children must be of paramount importance • I am writing to explain why I do not feel able to give a definitive response to the consultation. If I knew the necessary information about the proposal then I would be able to say whether I agreed. The situation is that I do not feel parents, elected members or other stakeholders have anywhere near the most basic information needed for them to make an informed response to the consultation. The things I do not know but which are absolutely key to whether the proposed changes are in the best interests of current and future pupils:- What will the 'junior suite' building be like? Not seen any plans. How will it be separated from the high school building? What safeguarding measures will be put in place for both the junior school children and the high school children? What will the outdoor play / sports areas be like? How will they be timetabled? Consultation document - additional information I feel stakeholders require. "Work to improve the school would be led by a single leadership team and governing body". Who will be the Governors? Given this proposal is as a direct result of the existing school being placed into special measures I would want to know that members of the current Almondbury Junior School governing body that has so badly failed the school are all removed from their positions. Who will lead the school? Who will be the Head Teacher? If the current head of Almondbury is considered will this involve applying for the post / will it be advertised externally? What will be the management structure of the school? SLT, Middle Leaders etc? "A wider range of resources could be shared". Need more information to understand this. "Older children could have some appropriate pastoral responsibility for younger children". What responsibilities? How would safeguarding fit

	<p>into this? How would this give vulnerable children greater security? "More effective use of buildings, facilities, staff expertise and resources". Need explanation / details / how this would work in practice. "Specialist facilities and teaching such as drama, arts and science would be available for all". How would this work with regards to the actual building? Would this be in the junior suite or are we talking about junior children being taught in the high school in which case how does the 'junior suite' work in physical building terms? Links to upper school etc. Segregation / integration. "Any future changes to the staffing structure would be fully consulted on and agreed by the governing body of the all through school". "The governing body of Almondbury High School would be re-constituted". 1) How many governors? 2) Would there be a fully re-elected governing body? 3) Would any current junior school governors be permitted to serve on FGB of through school? 4) How would LEA governors feature on governing body (appreciating this would be dependent on constitution of FGB)? I strongly feel that given the situation (Almondbury Junior School Ofsted Inspection) that has led to this proposal and the fact that this proposal is to join two schools which involves such a wide age range of children I have serious concerns about the lack of detailed information being provided in this consultation.</p>
Don't Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Super School Plan This is an open letter with regard to the above that has been sent to all Kirklees Cabinet Members. I read in the Huddersfield Examiner on Monday 9th September that Kirklees Council are considering building a super school in Almondbury. I actually think that it would be a good idea if Kirklees Council built a high school in Meltham before considering building a super school in Almondbury. The reason for this is that all high school children from Meltham have to be bussed into Honley, and have been for many, many years. This is because they don't have a high school in Meltham! It is a nightmare when the buses come in to Honley in a morning and again at the end of the school day. Surely a town the size of Meltham should have its own high school in 2013, or have the Council just gone with the status quo in the hope of never having to consider building a school in Meltham. I wonder what the cost is of bussing the children over to Honley every year? I just wonder whether the council think it's cheaper than building a school in Meltham! Well I think Meltham should have its own high school before any consideration is given to building any super school anywhere else! The reason for this Almondbury has a high school and Meltham unfortunately does not, no other reason is needed. So why not just build this super school in Meltham, I think the people of Meltham would be over the moon!

5.3 Response from the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education

The Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education (WDBE) appreciates being included in this formal consultation. In the development of its schools the WDBE would support the general principles reflected in the consultation document:-

- a) the development and strengthening of community cohesion
- b) the removal of transition points between the separate educational phases

The WDBE notes that there is no reference in the consultation document to any potential implications for the Almondbury CE (VA) Infant School should the proposal be adopted. Due to the WDBE's interest in the Almondbury community through the presence of the Almondbury CE (VA) Infant School the Board is unable to respond in specific detail to the Local Authority's consultation.

5.4 Response from Unison

- UNISON - We understand the difficulties and sensitivities surrounding the current situation at Almondbury, but must make it clear that we do not anticipate any cuts in member's jobs, pay and terms and conditions. We must also re-iterate that we believe this has come about because the authority is now responding, far too late, to the rapidly dwindling numbers of pupils attending Almondbury High School

5.5 Responses from respondents not stated

Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children as young as 3 shouldn't be mixing at school with teenagers. Keep the structure as it is. • The consultation shows no benefit to the children's education. There is no proposal for how much will be spent to provide a learning environment better than what they currently have. The management structure for the new school makes no mention of recruiting a specialist to oversee the running of the new school. The external facilities for the junior students are far inferior to what they currently have. Any shared amenities will be a compromise which will not suit anybody's needs.
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6. Deputation to Kirklees Council 23rd October 2013

We are speaking today on behalf of parents for learning excellence in Almondbury schools, representing over 130 concerned parents and grandparents who are unhappy with the consultation process regarding the creation of a through school at the Almondbury High School site. The merging of the school comes at a period of great change both nationally and locally. Education is becoming more and more driven by political and financial motives, which we, as parents, are strongly opposed to. We want the reassurance that striving for the best education of our children is at the heart of any educational reforms that will be agreed by cabinet members.

To start with there are so many more questions that are needing to be answered but the time limits me asking them. Many questions asked at consultation have been answered by suggestion to put it on the form. This has led to an increasing amount of uncertainty and anxiety about what this move will look like. Can council give a response to why such a poor consultation document with little thought or explanation on the logistics of an amalgamation, has been given to parents and the wider community of Almondbury, and offer some reassurance that these concerns will be taken seriously.

The consultation document provides very little to consult on. If more facts had been offered to parents to make a balanced and considered decision, there would, perhaps, be more trust that this proposed move could, in fact, be a successful one. As it stands this process sets out an agenda of events with no clear advantage over leaving our young children to enjoy the junior building they already have.

Firstly, regarding the Ofsted results: It has been said that the DfE require a structural solution to the Special Measures category at the junior school. Why is this not given as a reason in the consultation document? Why has an academy option been so quickly dismissed when it could be a more appropriate solution keeping the junior children in their own building? And why is the 18 month period, parents were promised a junior school, had at a meeting before the end of the summer term to move out of a category no longer being allowed to happen?

Building work required: The proposal and even the plans, give no indication that requirements such as play areas, toilets, appropriate classrooms have been given thought. It must be known what work needs to be done. What is the proposed budget for converting a high school to house a dedicated, purposeful junior suite?

Timeframe: Why is this process being so rushed? A smooth transition requires children and parents to

have sight of the classroom they are going to spend shorter amount of time there and be fully informed of how their school day will run. How will this happen if the building work is not going to take place until May 2014?

Then there is Leadership: To manage a successful merger, a strong outstanding head needs to have overall control. It should not be that management already in place simply moves with their schools. A good through school requires a head who has experience of all key stages they will manage with a clear vision for the future of the school. Who will be overall head of the school? Will a recruitment process take place to ensure the best person for the job is in post?

Safeguarding our Students: There is a big difference in how 7 year olds and 15 year olds behave and interact. All part of the growing up process which children should be allowed to experience. Part of the benefits proposed, suggest that older children will be responsible for the younger children's pastoral care. This opens up a lot of issues on safeguarding. What provision will be put in place to ensure the safety of all the children on the site including the monitoring of appropriate behaviour?

Then there are the benefits to education: Some of the reasons given in the proposal are fundamentally flawed. It is never the best option to send a KS2 child to a KS1 classroom, yet this is being given as a benefit. Also a common approach to curriculum planning is held as a key benefit, yet the Early Years curriculum is nothing like the KS2 curriculum which in turn is not like the KS3 curriculum. Can council given some real benefits that are not already met in the children being in separate buildings with schools working closely together? The proposal offers a short sentence explaining the move is an efficient way of managing school budgets yet is it not the case that the junior building is required for another purpose. Will council clarify what will happen to the building if the junior school are forced from it?

We hope council here today, fully appreciate the amount of unanswered questions that are pertinent to this consultation document. Would council members be willing to hold another consultation meeting which gives real answers with all appropriate agencies, stakeholders, including parents, staff and the community to enable all involved to feel fully satisfied that this has indeed, been a constructive consultation process and not merely a box ticking exercise?

7.1 Notes of consultation meeting with the Governing Body of Almondbury CE(VA) Infant & Nursery School

23 October 2013, 7:00pm

Present: 8 Governors, 4 LA officers

The LA officers gave an overview of the proposal. Although Almondbury CE(VA) I & N School is not directly affected in legal terms by the proposal, it is very much a key player in the provision of education for the Almondbury area. The LA is keen for the school to continue to be a key partner alongside the proposed all through school.

There are no proposed changes to the admission arrangements, although as part of the consultation feedback the LA welcomes views on these arrangements and whether any amendment would be considered beneficial.

- *A note is being taken of this meeting. Has this been happening at the parent drop-ins to capture parent views?*
A note is taken at staff and Governing Body consultation meetings. These are then sent back to the schools for confirmation that the notes are an accurate record. They are then appended to the consultation outcome report to Cabinet. A note is not taken at parent drop-ins as we are unable to confirm our notes with each parent. The drop-ins are to answer queries on the proposal, give clarification, and to encourage parents to complete their own response to the consultation.
- *Have the LA considered the effect on this school? 8 In-Year application forms have been signed by the Head teacher in 2 weeks, from parents who wish to move their children out of the area because of these proposals.*
All the schools have been closely involved in the proposal as it has been developed. It is understood that parents have concerns. These proposals are intended to strengthen what is already good in the Almondbury area.
- *What are the positives for our school? How will it be strengthened? We feel weakened.*
The school is an important part of the community. The proposal intends to be robust and ensure viability for provision in the area. This school is in a slightly different situation than the other involved schools, due to being voluntary aided. But all involved are keenly interested in improving provision for the area which includes this school.
- *It has been said that the proposal has been put forward for 'all the right reasons.' This is questioned as the junior school building has been measured for lifts, and it is understood that Lydgate School is due to close. This creates a lack of trust.*
There are no decisions made as to any future use of the junior school building. There are lots of rumours, but plans cannot be made until a decision is made regarding whether the building would become vacant or not. There would need to be investigation into cost effective options.
- *Regarding the Junior School, information has been received by this school to say the following kinds of structural change are possible: curriculum change, leadership change, governor change. Why can this not happen for the Junior School?*
The DfE is very clear. For schools that are in an Ofsted category (such as the Junior School) then the school either needs to close or become a sponsored academy. Places are needed in the area, so simply closing is not an option. Councillors were keen for officers to develop a community solution. This proposal strengthens what we already know works, eg reducing transition points. A similar process has happened at a north Kirklees primary school, involving a community infant school and a CE infant school.
If Almondbury Junior School was to become an Academy, a sponsor would need to be found. This could be a local school; but there is a shortage of primary Academies available to work with the Junior School. The timescale imposed by the Department of Education for the LA and school to draw up any action plan is very short, and if the DfE is not happy with it, they can enforce a sponsored academy model, with a sponsor of their choice

- Transition works well in the area, is there a need to change?*

There is evidence that when changing institutions there is a change in expectations, policies etc that result in a dip in pupil progression. The best route is one with minimal transition, and so it has become council policy to reduce transition points where opportunities present themselves. The LA has done this with a number of infant and junior schools. This would be the first time to include a high school, but it could result in a smoother key stage 2 to 3 transition.
- It is felt that the proposal is to ensure financial savings rather than on what the pupils need.*

There is no financial saving to the LA due to the way funding is streamed by the Government on a per pupil basis. However, the more that can be spent on teaching and learning rather than on buildings, the better. The high school is a building for over 1000 pupils. Currently, largely due to demographics, there are low numbers at the high school. Projections show remarkable increases in some urban parts of the LA, whilst rural areas show a decline. In South East Huddersfield there is projected to be modest growth. The LA is confident there will be pupil numbers to support a 600 place high school within 6 or 7 years.
- The above has not come across openly in the information from the LA. If it had been made clear that there was an issue in the area (re Special Measures, viability of the high school) and that the proposal has been presented to resolve these issues, this would have brought the schools and communities on board. We don't feel like we have been treated like adults in the way information has not been put forward openly.*

The LA wishes to focus the proposal on the quality of provision in the area and gather responses to that. The impact on users is the critical part, and maintaining confidence with parents.
- It would have been helpful to have received details of benefits to pupils in terms of data – eg Ofsted give measurements of performance.*

Ofsted look at levels of progress made. When pupils leave this school, it is difficult to know what happens to each pupil at separate schools. A meeting was held with the junior school council at the Junior School yesterday, who were excited and interested in the facilities at the high school building – as well as having some concerns. There were clubs that they were enthusiastic about, as well as the possibility of some educational settings where they could work with older pupils. It is recognised that the collection of data would be useful, and to feed back to schools. The proposal gives opportunities to work with families for longer – the high school even offers some adult education, which could be expanded.
- What guarantees can the LA give that current Year 2 pupils will not have their education disrupted? It will be very unsettling for them, they had been expecting to go the Junior School, but now they need to adjust to potentially going to the high school building. It is recognised the all through school could prove to be great in a few years – but parents don't want their children to be 'guinea pigs' and are already leaving.*

If a child starts in Year 3 in September 2014 in the junior suite at the high school site, they would spend most of their time in their Year 3 class, just as they would in the Junior School. The building adaptation should be completed in time for September and meetings are now taking place to determine how best to arrange and manage the facilities. It is worth noting also that where there is reorganisation, there is a lot of additional focus on the year groups directly involved, from professionals across the LA. There would be a lot of attention and support offered to the schools. For example - all of the 5-9 first schools in Cleckheaton have been reconfigured to become all through 5-11 primary schools. Building work did not interfere with the education at these schools. Governors are welcome to visit those schools and see how it worked. There are all through schools in neighbouring LAs and these are being visited to share best practice.
- Would staff and leadership be in place in time?*

If approved, the new school would be legally in place from 1 May 2014. A new structure, including the leadership, would be implemented by the reconstituted Governing Body.
- Parents need to know that they can expect good, if not outstanding, provision.*

The LA expects this too. The Junior School is currently receiving a package of support. It is difficult to reassure parents, as change can be unsettling. The LA is committed to ensure the proposal would work. It has vast experience in supporting the implementation of re-organisation proposals such as this. A variety of officers are always involved bringing all the necessary specialisms to support the change.

- *Will this support apply to this school? We are 'leaking' pupils, and the proposal is distracting staff. There is a concern that a wealth of support for a new all through school would be at the detriment of this school.*

The LA is, and would continue, working with everyone in this area and involving all schools. There could be opportunities for joint staff training/INSET days. This school is so integral to the area and the proposal. There could be opportunities for groups of Governors from each school to work together.

- *There is concern that this school was brought in late to discussions about the proposal.*
Almondbury CE(VA) I & N School was brought into discussions at the same time as Greenside I & N School. Schools were involved at the earliest opportunity after the proposal was developed.
- *There is anxiety amongst staff that falling numbers will mean job losses.*
HR would work with the school should a staffing process need to be applied – but this is absolutely not expected to be required.
- *It is felt that most people are not against the federation of the schools, but they are against the loss of the Junior School. A solution to this would be to close Greenside I & N School and move this to the Almondbury Junior School site to create an all through primary school.*
This suggestion will be fed back to Members.
- *Would all current staff need to apply for their jobs?*
That would not be the intention. A new structure would be decided. There have been HR processes in other reorganisations, and these have had positive results. There are some HR protections, eg responsibility levels.
- *The open evening held at the Junior School last year was a great success in allaying parent's fears and concerns. They have an open evening coming up, it would be valuable to present further information about the proposal at this session. Or at the very least to advise parents that more info will be released shortly.*

This will be explored, and engagement will take place with the Head at the Junior School.

The LA asked the school to let them know if any further support for staff could be provided. It was recognised that, whilst it is hard to minimise the uncertainty, in other areas where there seemed to be concerns about pupil numbers, these “bounced back” after reorganisation and confidence was restored.

If a decision is made in December in support of the proposals, there would be a lot more work to produce detailed plans of buildings/structures etc. These would be shared.

The indicated plan of the layout of the key stage 2, 3 and 4 building was shared. A Project Team has already been set up to bring together all the main work strands and this approach is working well as things develop.

Governors were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and encouraged to respond individually and collectively to the consultation.

7.2 Notes of consultation meeting with the Governing Body of Almondbury High School & Language College

Wednesday 10th October 2013

Present: 9 Governors, 6 LA representatives

The LA representatives explained the proposal to create an all through school in the Almondbury area. It was acknowledged that the Governing Body had engaged with the LA and was keen to be involved to help shape, develop and be included in the proposal.

If the proposal is implemented then the Governing Body may want to look at the existing Priority Admission Areas so that KS1 and KS2 have the same PAA.

- *Would there be enough time before the council meeting to make a formal deputation?*
Yes, we can provide advice about how to proceed.
- *How many people need to be present to make a decision?*
The decision would be made by the Council Cabinet. There are 9 members.
- *Can a local Councillor attend the Cabinet meeting?*
Yes, but they cannot vote.
- *What would happen if the proposal is implemented?*
The governing body should be re-constituted to represent the all through school. The LA would look at what building work would need to be carried out and the cost. The LA would continue to work with all the staff and pupils and the governing body after the implementation date.
- *Has the LA looked at budget and the cost of an all through school?*
The LA has done some basic plans. If the proposal goes to the next stage (statutory notice) then the LA would look to work up more detailed plans of building and costs
- *Why is the implementation date 1st May 2014? This would disrupt the learning of pupils?*
A Cabinet decision could be made in February and then the implementation date of 1st May is the date of the legal implementation with the technical closure of Greenside Infant and Nursery and Almondbury Junior School and the extension of the age range of the High School. From this date there would be a single Governing Body and leadership team able to lead the development of the all through school. The pupils and staff would remain on their current sites until the building is ready to accommodate KS2 at the High School site. The 1st May gives time to make final preparations for September 2014.
- *What would be the next stage after consultation?*
The next step would be to publish statutory notices in the paper. These would be displayed outside the gates of the school. At this stage people have a further opportunity to make written representation which would be considered by the decision makers.
- *We don't want disruption in the academic year*
To minimise the disruption to learning, building work would be managed effectively.
- *How is the LA going to manage a large project with a PFI school?*
The LA has worked with other schools successfully in delivering reorganisation. Currently there is a project team set up which looks at the whole range of work that needs to be carried out.
- *On Page 10 of the document it states that the dates are subjected to cabinet approval. Would this have an impact on implementation date?*
The LA works towards these dates but sometimes meetings do have to be rearranged. This is the timeframe that the LA would work towards.
- *People in the area feel that the school is failing, due to negative local press and social media sites. How can the LA support the school?*
The LA will do a press release once the outcome report is published. The Head teacher has invited the local paper into the school to have a look around and talk to the children.

- *Staff are concerned about the impact of future Ofsted inspections if the schools were brought together?*
When Ofsted next visit the school, if the proposals have been implemented, then the inspection would be for an all through school.
 - *What would happen to the junior and infant schools regarding the current Ofsted judgements?*
Following the proposed technical closures, the Ofsted judgements would be removed. The leadership team and the Governing Body would be accountable for the standards and quality for the whole 3-16 school and would have to set improvement targets and challenge and monitor progress. The LA would continue to work with the whole school to raise standards.
 - *The community believe that the proposal is motivated by finance? As a governing body we are finding it hard to explain to the community that this is not the case?*
The LA is working with all the schools to try to provide clarity about such perceptions. Press releases and consultation materials try to put the positive case for the proposals. Questions about finance are dealt with. The LA would work with the school Governors and staff to raise the school profile with the community
 - *What would happen if this proposal did not happen?*
The high school has relatively low numbers at present, the junior school requires a structural solution and the infant school requires improvement. Change is needed in the area. Doing nothing is not an option and alternative proposals would have to be considered.
- Governors were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and encouraged to respond individually and collectively to the consultation. The meeting closed at 7.00pm

7.3 Notes of consultation meeting with the Governing Body of Almondbury Junior School

Monday 14th October 2013 5:00pm

Present: 5 Governors, 7 LA Representatives

LA representatives explained the proposal for an all through school in the Almondbury area.

- *There are only 55 or 60 pupils in current year 5 & 6, not accounting for pupils who will move to other secondary schools, how does this fit in with the 120 places planned for KS3/4 at the new all through school?*
Projections show increasing numbers in the area, expected to pick up to 600 in KS3/4 in the next 6 or 7 years, pupils also currently join the high school from the Dalton and Moldgreen areas.
- *Concern was expressed and reassurance was sought about funding from additional pupils at KS2 not being used to subsidise KS3/4.*
The funding provided per pupil should be used to support the provision in each Key Stage.
- *Concern that increased birth rate alone will not mean an increase in numbers at the all-through school. Other high schools may have a more attractive curriculum and factors such as this will affect parental choice. The quality and breadth of education at the high school is likely to be limited by the low numbers. A choice not to send a child to the high school may have a knock on effect on pupils attending the junior provision in the all through school.*
The LA is committed to securing viable, sustainable and broad education in Almondbury rather than losing the provision altogether.
- *What would happen if insufficient pupils continued to go into KS3/4?*
Doing nothing is not an option and this would have to be reviewed on a regular basis. The LA review planned places on an annual basis across the authority.
- *How can we ensure that the all-through school would be successful?*
This would be down to a number of key factors which include governors, staff and support from the LA to ensure excellent provision and to maintain a rising profile in the community. We recently brought together an Infant & Junior school and this has been very successful, a fresh start has improved the community profile of the school, a change of leadership and direction has worked well and brought in a fresh approach. Rebranding costs such as uniform change and signage could

be supported by the council. The LA is keen to develop a local solution, valuing the expertise and local knowledge of the community.

- *What would happen if the secondary provision was full, would this affect primary provision?*
Management and effective timetabling would ensure capacity for 110 KS2 and 120 KS3/4 pupils. The LA wants to make the existing assets work hard for all pupils including the benefits for KS1 and the wider community. KS2 children would have dedicated play areas, toilets and supervisory staff.
- *Will there be an outdoor play space for KS2 and social areas for KS3/4?*
Early indicative plans and current strategic discussions with senior staff are based on government building and learning environment guidelines to ensure appropriate, safe spaces are provided for the proposed numbers of pupils.
- *Governors are concerned that parents' main issues are about the suitability of the actual building. Parents want to know what the building will look like.*
If the proposals are implemented then the building must be right for KS2 and have the right arrangement of facilities. The intention is to make provision as good as or better than current. If the proposals move to the next stage then as soon as concrete information is available it would be shared with pupils, parents and staff and they would be involved where possible in some of the planning. Other schools in similar situations have had open days to invite parents to see the provision eg Westmoor Primary in Dewsbury, recently amalgamated from separate junior and infant & nursery schools. The children were very proud of their new joint school. The proposal is intended to bring people together, the building is important, but it is the quality of the learning that matters. Parents need convincing and the leadership of the schools have a stake in influencing the collective opinion.
- *Will Almondbury CE(VA) I&N feel a real part of the new all-through school?*
There is a similar situation with another primary school in Dewsbury, being formed through bringing together a junior school with one of two 'feeder' infant schools, the other being a Church of England infant school which is a close partner. The Church of England infant school feels it is now a closer partner than before the amalgamation. There is potential for a more formal partnership with Almondbury CE(VA) Infant & Nursery School and closer relationships between governors and staff.
- *What would happen to the Almondbury Junior School building if the proposals go ahead?*
No decisions have been made as no decision has yet been made about the junior school coming out of the building. The junior school site is in a PFI contract so resulting costs would have to be considered. Other educational uses may be considered as a first call. There are regulations on the use of a school site that would need to be taken into account. This is not an exercise to save money. Funding comes in per pupil. The preferred option would be to retain excellent educational buildings for educational use.
- *Why is Greenside retaining their building but not Almondbury Juniors?*
The facilities need to be appropriate for the age of the pupils and there is a need to make the assets "work hard". The Greenside building is on the site of the proposed all through school and is designed for KS1 pupils. The projected numbers suggest that both buildings would be needed in the future.
Governors were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and encouraged to respond individually and collectively to the consultation.

7.4 Notes of consultation meeting with the Governing Body of Greenside I & N School

Wednesday 9 October and Thursday 8th November 2013

Present: 4 Governors, 5 LA officers

The LA gave an overview of the proposal. It was acknowledged that the Governing Body had engaged with the LA and was keen to be involved to help shape, develop and be included in the proposal.

Although admission arrangements are proposed to remain as per the current situation, the LA would welcome any view Governors may have on this.

- *If the school wishes to attract pupils early for the all through school, it could be useful to have a larger Priority Admission Area (PAA). However – would want to avoid any perception that pupils are being ‘stolen’ from other schools.*

The LA would support exploring increasing parent choice, for example so that parents were in more than one PAA.

- *Greenside I & N have always wanted to work collaboratively with the pyramid schools. Would want to avoid any compromise on what the school currently provides. How would the budget work? KS1 does not stand to gain from the proposal, but would want to know that provision would not be watered down due to issues at older key stages.*

The new funding formula brings some clarity. Every child brings an amount of revenue, and each GB should ensure that the money coming in per key stage remains within the key stage. All the stages leading up to key stage 4 need investment. Neglecting any key stage is not an option. Ofsted measure each stage.

Due to the staff consultation meeting running over, this meeting needed to be cut short. It will be reconvened.

In summary of this first session, the following was noted:

There is recognition this is a potentially exciting opportunity. The current fence between Greenside I & N School and Almondbury High School could be removed to reduce perceived barriers, and a physical pathway from KS2 to KS1 to allow parents to drop their families at the different buildings. Staff want to be involved. There are some frustrations as there are many questions, but few answers at present.

Follow up Governing Body consultation meeting, Thursday 8.11.13

Present: 5 Governors, 4 LA officers

Looking at the notes of the previous meeting, the Governors felt that if the proposal went ahead then there was a need to look at site holistically and remove barriers such as the fence that separates the buildings. The LA Project team are looking at making the site an integrated whole.

- *Reassurance was sought about funding from pupils at KS1 not being used to support other key stages.*
The funding provided per pupil should be used to support the provision in the key stage that generates it.
- *It is being said that the proposal is to ensure financial savings rather than providing what the pupils need.*
There is no financial saving to the LA due to the way funding is streamed to schools by the Government on a per pupil basis. The proposals are intended to maximise the funding spent on teaching and learning.
- *Concerns were raised that Governing Body of the all through school, would be the existing High School Governing Body and not include membership from all three schools.*
The LA advice is that the Governing Body of the all through school should reflect all three schools and be constituted to fully represent the community.
- *The time line is tight and the governors felt that the implementation date is rushed.*

A Cabinet decision could be made in February and then the implementation date of 1st May would be the date of the legal implementation with the technical closure of Greenside Infant and Nursery and Almondbury Junior School and the extension of the age range of the High School. From this date there would be a single Governing Body and leadership team, able to lead the development of the all through school. The pupils and staff would remain on their current sites until the building was ready to accommodate KS2 at the High School site. The 1st May gives time to make final preparations for September 2014. The LA will not rush into this as the Building has to be right for the children. The timeline fits the school year by planning to move KS2 provision for September 2014.

- *What would happen to staff in the all thorough school?*
A staffing structure would be developed by the Governing Body and leadership team of the all-through school. Staff and unions would be fully consulted. Kirklees HR officers would advise and support staff.
- *If this proposal does go ahead then the leadership team at Greenside would be behind it 100%, but at this stage the Governing Body needs to know how this would work.*
The success of the all through school would be down to the staff and leadership making a positive impact supported by the LA.
- *The consultation document does not mention any alternatives to help staff and parents understand the wider context*
The LA is proposing to build on the strengths of the existing provision and the community and look at a creative solution. The statutory process for changing provision requires the LA to consult about the specific proposals to get the views of the stakeholders which will be presented to the Cabinet to be considered as part of the decision making.
- *What would be the long term sustainability of the all though School?*
Pupil numbers are growing in primary schools in Kirklees and current future projections of pupil numbers suggest that the proposed numbers of places for each key stage in the all through school are sustainable. Parental perceptions and local knowledge are important factors influencing the preferences that parents express for the schools that children go to. The Governing Body, leadership team and staff of the all through school, supported by the LA, would want to create strong, positive and confidence-building perceptions of the all through school to build long term sustainability.
- *There are rumours about who the new head teacher would be?*
This proposal is at the consultation stage and so no staffing structure is in place. Developing the staffing structure would be the responsibility of the Governing Body and the leadership team. Any new structure would be subject to consultation with staff and unions
- *Does the LA get legal advice? On Governance?*
Yes the LA is advised by the Council legal team on all relevant matters.
- *The proposals would have a direct impact on the current Year 2 children who will be moving to KS2 in September 2014, they need to know what will happen.*
A project team has been set up to manage all the aspects of the proposals eg building, finance, HR, governance and this is part of the joint working relationship with all the schools. Work is being carried out to develop detailed designs and costings for the proposed KS2 and KS3/4 building. If the decision is made to proceed with the proposals, then designs and plans would be shared with pupils, staff and parents as soon as possible, so that everybody can visualise and comment on the layout and facilities that would be provided. The LA would want to engage fully with pupils, staff and parents and actively involve them in making sure that the facilities would provide the best learning and nurturing environment for all children and young people.
- *The positive theme of this meeting is that this can be seen as an exciting time where children are engaged in the new school and are the pioneers in planning learning spaces and facilities and other features of their school eg a possible new uniform or a new name for the school.*

Change presents real opportunities to excite and involve children in planning and “owning” the developments to “their” school. Experience shows that the additional attention, involvement and support in all aspects of school life and learning brings enhanced motivation and enhanced achievement.

- *The children should be at the centre of these proposals*

That is the key principle at the heart of the proposals.

Governors were thanked for their attendance at both meetings and encouraged to respond individually and collectively to the consultation.

8.1 Notes of consultation meeting with the staff of Almondbury CE(VA) Infant & Nursery School

Wednesday 23 October 2013 3:30pm

Present: 11 staff members, 3 LA officers

LA officers gave an overview of the proposal. This school is in a slightly different situation to the 3 other involved schools, due the difference in governance as the school is voluntary aided. But the LA is keen for this school to be a strong partner in the education provision for the Almondbury area. It was acknowledged that there is currently close collaboration amongst the four schools.

It is proposed that Greenside I & N and Almondbury Junior Schools would technically close, and the age range of the high school would be extended. The current Greenside I & N building would be retained for Key Stage 1 provision. It is proposed for KS2, 3 and 4 to be provided on the current high school site. An indicative plan of how the high school building could be adapted to house KS2 was shared. The implementation date of 1 May 2014 would be for the all through school to legally come into existence. Initially, this would be provided at the current sites, with adaptation works at the high school site to be completed in time for September 2014.

Priority Admission Areas are proposed to remain the same. It is council policy to reduce transition points, and there is an opportunity for this at KS1 to 2, as well as KS2 to 3. There would also be opportunity for KS2 pupils to share the specialist facilities currently used by the high school.

- *There is already a significant impact being felt by this school, as parents are removing their children. Some are leaving after half term. The main objection is the proposal refers to key stage 2 pupils being taught within the same building as high school pupils. This school feels unsettled and insecure, as parents are stating they do not want the model being proposed. In 2 weeks, the Head has signed 8 In-Year application forms across all age groups.*

The LA has a duty to support parental preference; a parent has a right to preference any school they wish. Whilst the decision on the proposal is not a vote, the LA advises staff to respond collectively, as well as individually to the consultation with their concerns and views.

- *Could the schools not work together in the same way as Netherhall Learning Campus?*
There must be a structural solution – either academisation or a local solution and federation such as at Netherhall is not an option. There are advantages in bringing the schools together as a single institution, involving closer working. Pupil progression often suffers a dip at transition points, this proposal would remove the transition points.
- *If the current trend continues, people may not even register here, as parents don't want to feed into a junior-high school. Some have said the proposal could be fantastic for the area – but they don't want their child to be involved. Some do not have an issue with an all through school, but would like it under the existing roofs.*
Often, views are based on perceptions. The LA would put in the work to make the all through school fantastic for Almondbury and its pupils. Regarding pupil numbers, the lowest pupil cohort across the authority are in the current high school year groups. There is acute growth in some areas of the LA, decline in some rural areas. In this area, there is modest growth and so local places are needed.
- *What would become of the Junior School building?*

Nothing has been decided at this stage. Should this proposal be agreed, options would then be explored.

- *If the proposal is not approved, what would happen to the Junior School?*
There must be a structural solution – either academisation or a local solution. This proposal is an inclusive local solution. Academisation requires a sponsor so an external sponsor could be brokered by the Department for Education which may not be a sponsor with local knowledge.
- *Could this school have been included in the all-through school if it wasn't a CE school?*
Quite possibly. As a CE school, the governance is different and there are presumptions about retaining denominational places.

Staff members were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and encouraged to respond individually and collectively to the consultation.

8.2 Notes of consultation meeting with the staff of Almondbury High School & Language College

Wednesday 10th October 2013 3:15pm

Present : Approximately 40 staff, 4 union representatives, 5 LA representatives

LA officers gave an overview of the proposal. It was acknowledged that there is currently close collaboration amongst the schools. It is proposed that Greenside I & N and Almondbury Junior Schools would technically close, and the age range of the high school would be extended. The current Greenside I & N building would be retained for Key Stage 1 provision. It is proposed for KS2, 3 and 4 to be provided on the current high school site.

An indicative plan of how the high school building could be adapted to house KS2 was shared. The implementation date of 1 May 2014 would be for the all through school to legally come into existence. Initially, this would be provided at the current sites, with adaptation works at the high school site to be completed in time for September 2014.

Priority Admission Areas are proposed to remain the same. It is council policy to reduce transition points, and there is an opportunity for this at KS1 to 2, as well as KS2 to 3. There would also be opportunity for KS2 pupils to share the specialist facilities currently used by the high school.

From an HR perspective, there would be a fair and transparent process. The Governing Body decides structures and recruitment. There is a process to follow for reconstituting the Governing Body. There would be consultation with staff and unions about any new structure. There may be opportunities for staff to work across key stages.

- *If this proposal goes ahead will there be any job losses?*
If proposals are implemented then the new Governing Body would look at a staffing structure. There would be consultations with staff and union representatives. Staff would be fully consulted about a new staffing structure.
- *How would this proposal work? Find it hard to visualise an all through School?*
It is proposed that the high school building would house the pupils in KS2, KS3 and KS4. The LA has done some basic plans which staff are welcome to look at. There are no detailed plans as to what the building would look like as this is the consultation stage. If the proposals are agreed then there would be more detailed plans.
- *At what stage would there be more information?*
The next stage is to produce the outcome report which will be presented to Cabinet of the Council. Councillors will decide whether to proceed to the next stage which is representation. LA the 1st May 2014 is the date for technical closure; this would be the date that Greenside and Almondbury Junior would not have a DFE number and would become an all thorough school but remain on their site. It is proposed that Greenside Infant & Nursery School and Almondbury Junior School would technically close as separate legal institutions and the pupils, staff and buildings would become part of the all through school. The sites and buildings would initially all remain in use until the remodelled facilities were ready. The process of internal re-organisation within the all-through

school would take all the time necessary to make sure that the continuity for the children is not disrupted.

- *Job loss is a big concern for staff.*
HR - no changes will be implemented without full consultation with staff and unions
- *Staff feel attacked by the negative media coverage of the school and views which are posted on social media next works.*
The LA has a very experienced communications and marketing team that releases press statements to focus on positive matters and uses opportunities to present counterbalanced information.
- *The implementation date is 1st May 2014? If children move on this day this would have a negative impact on the learning on the children.*
The 1st May 2014 is the date proposed for technical closure; this would be the date that Greenside I&N and Almondbury Junior Schools would not have a DFE number and would become part of an all through school but remain on their sites. The all through school would be a legal institution with a single Governing Body and leadership team. Any building adaptations would be managed without disrupting the education of the children, with the intention of carrying out any moves in September 2014.
- *At what point will staff be informed of when they need to apply for their jobs?*
HR- If a decision to proceed is made by cabinet then work would begin looking at the appropriate staffing structure for an all through school; staff would be fully consulted with union representatives.
- *Would the Jobs be advertised externally?*
The established approach is to consider existing staff in the schools for posts before considering external advertising.
- *Would the high School Staff be asked to teach KS2?*
Best practice would be that support staff and teaching staff would initially be placed with the same key stage as they work with now. But over time there would be many opportunities to move between key stages to gain varied experiences. The interests of the children would be the first priority. Placing staff within an unfamiliar key stage would not be conducive to continuity for the pupils.
- *What would happen to staff who can't find a job in the all through school?*
There are various strategies and it would depend on individual circumstances, however, we would look at operating the HR framework which most of the school in Kirklees have signed up to. This is where there would be opportunity to look at other jobs across Kirklees. Staff would still need to apply for jobs and go through a process.
- *The numbers predicted in the consultation document for the high school are more than the pupils currently on roll: have any projections been done? And what if these numbers do not materialise?*
Parent preference is a key to determine numbers. The local secondary age population in Almondbury is currently low but data indicates that this will begin to increase, therefore it is predicted that the numbers are realistic.
- *How is the school to convince parents to attend the all through School if there is falling numbers and a more restricted curriculum offer in KS4 ?*
The curriculum offer, particularly at KS4, would be designed to be fit for purpose in the context of national guidelines and local needs. Reduced pupil numbers in some year groups may affect the range of courses that can be offered within the school but collaborative arrangements with Kirklees College and other providers (eg through the collegiates) should be able to ensure an attractive curriculum offer that meets parental expectations.
- *Children in the school have been consulted and the issues that they have raised are : if the school would have a new name, new uniform and what about the traffic?*

It is highly likely that the Governing body would work collaboratively with pupils, staff and parents to look at new uniform and a new name. The LA would work with the school to look at managing traffic congestion if the proposal is approved.

- *No work should be done in the school while term time. Previously the school did have work that continued for 2 years this had an impact on GCSE results, the school does not want this to happen again.*

Any building work carried out would be planned very carefully so as not to disrupt the education of young people.

- *The LA needs to do more to dispel the untrue statements about Almondbury High School in the media and Social media*

As noted above, the LA will use every opportunity to present positive and factual information.

- *By joining the schools together could this trigger another Ofsted inspection?*

If the proposal is implemented then the school would be judged by Ofsted as one school. The expectation is that re-organised schools are inspected within a reasonable interval following change.

- *Need to look at catchment area as children from this area attend other secondary schools.*

Parents are entitled to express a preference for any school and a "catchment" area (known as a Priority Admission Area) only comes into effect if the school is full. Then children living in the Priority Admission Area have a greater priority for a place at the school. We welcome feedback about proposed admissions arrangements.

- *Can staff and young people attend the Cabinet meeting where decision is made?*

Yes they can and engagement in the process would be welcomed by elected members.

- *Is there any money in the budget for set up cost?*

If proposal is implemented then there would be a budget to ensure that the building is fit for purpose and support one off set up costs.

Staff members were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and encouraged to respond individually and collectively to the consultation.

Meeting closed 4.30pm

8.3 Notes of consultation meeting with the staff of Almondbury Junior School

Monday 14th October 2013 3:40pm

Present: 29 staff members, 8 LA officers, 2 Union representatives

LA officers gave an overview of the proposal. It was acknowledged that there is currently close collaboration amongst the schools. It is proposed that Greenside I & N and Almondbury Junior Schools would technically close, and the age range of the high school would be extended. The current Greenside I & N building would be retained for Key Stage 1 provision. It is proposed for KS2, 3 and 4 to be provided on the current high school site.

An indicative plan of how the high school building could be adapted to house KS2 was shared. The implementation date of 1 May 2014 would be for the all through school to legally come into existence. Initially, this would be provided at the current sites, with adaptation works at the high school site to be completed in time for September 2014.

Priority Admission Areas are proposed to remain the same. It is council policy to reduce transition points, and there is an opportunity for this at KS1 to 2, as well as KS2 to 3. There would also be opportunity for KS2 pupils to share the specialist facilities currently used by the high school.

From an HR perspective, there would be a fair and transparent process. The Governing Body decides structures and recruitment. There is a process to follow for reconstituting the Governing Body. There would be consultation with staff and unions about any new structure. No significant changes would be envisaged – current levels of teaching and support staff would still be required. There may be opportunities for staff to work across key stages.

- *If all the children are placed in one site then younger children would be 'dumped' in with the older children.*
The proposal is for a dedicated key stage 2 suite. If the proposal was implemented then the LA would work with building management teams from the Council to look at the best way to use the space in the high school building. The LA has already produced indicative floor plans which show proposed separate dedicated external play space. Work is going on to develop the detailed plans that would be required if the proposal goes ahead. There are exciting opportunities to share facilities such as the excellent art/drama/sports facilities in the high school building.
- *How would dining arrangements work - the high school building has only one dining area?*
This would be looked at further if plans were implemented. Additional space could be used for a key stage 2 dining area to accommodate different serving arrangements. The school could have staggered lunch times.
- *Will we all have our jobs?*
A fit for purpose staffing structure would be developed by the governing body and leadership team of the all-through school. Staff and unions would be fully consulted. Kirklees HR officers would come and consult with staff
- *And would we have to apply for own jobs?*
Some staff may be slotted straight into posts or if there was a situation where there are more people than posts a selection process may be necessary. It is not intended that staff in general would have to apply for their own jobs.
A union representative pointed out that it would be sensible for governors to come up with a structure that wouldn't mean people applying for their own jobs. The HR framework was very successful in the reorganisation elsewhere in Kirklees eg Cleckheaton .
- *Would staff be asked to work with older children?*
Best practice would be that support staff and teaching staff would initially be placed with the same key stage as they work with now. But over time there would be many opportunities to move between key stages to gain varied experiences. The interests of the children would be the first priority. Placing staff within an unfamiliar key stage would not be conducive to continuity for the pupils.
- *Would the high school automatically taking over the governing body as that is the site that is staying open?*
The Governing Body would establish a collective approach involving all three schools and reconstitute the governing body to represent the community
- *Who would be the Head teacher?*
A fair and transparent process would be put into place to appoint the new head teacher and Governing Body of the all-through school
- *Outside play area provision has great facilities at the junior school, will the equipment be taken over to the new KS2 outdoor area?*
The proposal is to make the new arrangement as good as or better than current provision. This would require further discussion with staff at the junior school it may be more cost effective to install new rather than moving the existing equipment.
- *Would the KS2 children have separate toilet facilities?*
Yes. Absolutely.
- *Can parents move children to King James's School or other secondary schools at the high school stage?*
Yes, parental rights to express preferences do not change. There would be no disadvantage to being part of the all through school.
Parents cannot and will not be forced to keep their children at any school. However, for those who wish to continue as part of the through school they would be automatically guaranteed a place.
- *What are the benefits gained from moving a school in special measures into an all-through school?*

A strong educational partner and a more consistent approach will benefit children and developing and securing a local solution for the community for both now and the future underpins the proposals.

- *Concerns re transition of children from one school building to another*
Evidence suggests that pupil learning and progress “dips” following transition between different schools. The all-through approach and the KS2/3/4 building would be configured to support pupil progress. This is intended to be good for the community and families as it keeps the schools together and local.
- *What happens on 1st May 2014?*
It is proposed that Greenside Infant & Nursery School and Almondbury Junior School would technically close as separate legal institutions and the pupils, staff and buildings would become part of the all through school. The sites and buildings would initially all remain in use until the remodelled facilities were ready. There would be a reconstituted governing body and a new leadership team. The process of internal re-organisation within the all-through school would take all the time necessary to make sure that the continuity for the children is not disrupted. The Governing Body would be advised and supported by professional LA officers so that decisions are made with expert advice and guidance.
- *What will happen to Almondbury Junior School if it remained on this site as a separate school?*
The likelihood is that it would become a sponsored academy. This is the expectation of the government.
- *Why do we have to leave this building?*
Moving the KS2 provision to the remodelled high school building would improve continuity and consistency for children and provide much better access to the excellent facilities that would give the children improved opportunities. This would ensure the best long term use of all the facilities, sustaining the future provision in the local area. This is not a money saving exercise. The council will not save money, because schools are funded by the government on pupil numbers, therefore there is no saving to the council. It is about getting the best value in terms of maximising resources for teaching and learning.
- *If the high school was full would this proposal have happened?*
A solution would still have to be found to the Ofsted standards issue. To do ‘nothing’ is not an option. The Council have put forward a set of proposals for the local community that will secure the provision in the future.
- *Is this because Almondbury Junior School is in special measures?*
Doing nothing is not an option. The council’s plans are innovative and although not without challenges this is a positive option. Staff and community working together to make this proposal work is what is important, staff have a role to play in the process and influencing parent confidence and local opinion.
- *Could this mean that the high school provision may be lost in Almondbury if the reducing numbers on roll issue aren’t addressed?*
The increasing birthrate and growing pupil numbers are projected to increase pupil numbers at KS3/4 to around 600 within 6 or 7 years. But this proposal brings builds resilience and flexibility into the planned high school provision.
- *Staff showed concern whether pupils leaving at 11 to move to other secondary schools would leave the high school with low numbers.*
The projected increase pupil numbers at KS3/4 to around 600 within 6 or 7 years (due to the increasing birthrate and growing pupil numbers) takes into account potential parental preferences for other secondary schools.
- *What would happen if there were more staff than available posts?*
The HR framework would be adopted, the Almondbury Junior School Governing Body have signed up to this. Matching posts to available similar jobs has been successful in other areas.

- *Would the moves take place in the summer holidays? Would staff be expected to pack-up and assist with moves in their holidays?*

A good example is the recent re-organisation of the schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid in Cleckheaton. 15 schools in the first-middle-high school system were re-organised to give 10 primary schools and one high school. This was managed by the LA – furniture, resources and equipment were transferred between buildings during school holidays using expert removal contractors support by a dedicated project team. School staff were asked to determine how their rooms and resources were organised but were not expected carry out packing or moving or to use holidays.

- *Could someone from the LA come to school council meeting so the pupils could have their say?*

Yes. There is an expectation that pupils are consulted

Staff members were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and encouraged to respond individually and collectively to the consultation.

8.4 Notes of consultation meeting with the staff of Greenside Infant & Nursery School

Wednesday 9 October 4:00pm

Present: 9 staff members, 6 LA officers, 2 union representatives

LA officers gave an overview of the proposal. It was acknowledged that there is currently close collaboration amongst the schools. It is proposed that Greenside I & N and Almondbury Junior Schools would technically close, and the age range of the high school would be extended. The current Greenside I & N building would be retained for Key Stage 1 provision. It is proposed for KS2, 3 and 4 to be provided on the current high school site.

An indicative plan of how the high school building could be adapted to house KS2 was shared. The implementation date of 1 May 2014 would be for the all through school to legally come into existence. Initially, this would be provided at the current sites, with adaptation works at the high school site to be completed in time for September 2014.

Priority Admission Areas are proposed to remain the same. It is council policy to reduce transition points, and there is an opportunity for this at KS1 to 2, as well as KS2 to 3. There would also be opportunity for KS2 pupils to share the specialist facilities currently used by the high school.

From an HR perspective, there would be a fair and transparent process. The Governing Body decides structures and recruitment. There is a process to follow for reconstituting the Governing Body. There would be consultation with staff and unions about any new structure. No significant changes would be envisaged – current levels of teaching and support staff would still be required. There may be opportunities for staff to work across key stages.

- *Concern that, for example, a Year 1 teacher could be expected to work in Year 6, which would be a totally different building.*

Best practice would be that such a request would be discussed with staff, Head, and carried out accordingly. There could be opportunities for professional development.

- *What protection is there for staff that have TLRs or management responsibilities that could be duplicated in the all through school?*

There is protection under teachers' terms and conditions for 3 years. It is recognised that job status/roles are important, for example if staff have particular ambitions. This has been worked through in other similar situations. The GB could explore creatively introducing roles that add value to the school, and retain staff job status, skills and experience.

- *What if there are more people than jobs in the new structure?*

In such a situation there would be the potential for someone to not have a job – but that is jumping ahead, the GB would create the structure, and full consultation would take place.

- *Concerns that not many parents have attended the event this afternoon. How will the LA engage further? Parents are approaching staff with their concerns, but unfortunately they don't attend 'official' meetings. There is a worry that parents will vote with their feet and move their children to neighbouring schools.*

There are 4 events, one to be held at each school. We can't force parents to attend, though. Staff are welcome to feedback any issues that parents have raised with them as part of their response. Councillors are very keen that the breadth of views is reflected in the outcome report.

- *Pupil numbers are very low. What are the assumptions based on, that a school of 1200 places is supportable? Are there reassurance that budgets for the younger end of the all through school would not be reduced due to expenditure on the older year groups? If the low numbers continue, how would that affect viability?*

The age group with the lowest number of pupils in Kirklees schools is around Years 7 and 8. The numbers are greater and increasing in younger age groups and it is projected that KS3 and 4 at the all-through school in Almondbury would be at around 600 (as proposed) within 5-6 years. The LA has produced a "Securing Sufficient School Places" document (available on the Kirklees website) that demonstrates the projected increase in numbers.

As far as finance is concerned, funding is provided per pupil and each key stage should support itself. A Governing Body would not want to disadvantage one key stage to support another and they would be accountable for how they allocate resources.

- *Although this building would be part of a bigger, all through school, it would still be a separate building. There is some comfort in this, but at the same time there is concern that KS1 provision and staff could be forgotten.*

From an HR point of view, staff would absolutely be part of the all through school. The provision in KS1 is just as important as the other key stages. The all through school would want to continue providing a great start for the pupils as now and that would be with them all the way to 16 years of age. The Head teachers are already working very closely together to improve outcomes for pupils in Almondbury.

- *It feels like Greenside I & N is being closed and taken over by the high school.*

This is not a take over by the high school. The principles underpinning the proposals are to bring schools together in a fair and equitable way, the mechanism for this means a technical closure for Greenside I & N. There would be equal representation at the all through school.

- *Will admin staff be required at this site? If there was no dedicated finance/telephone etc support required at this site, how would admin staff be affected?*

Structures would need to be agreed by the reconstituted GB. There would be a careful and planned process, which would be consulted upon with staff, unions. Teaching and support staff would still be required at the all through school. A final decision is expected in February 2014, and so details of a structure would come out after this.

- *Are all 3 affected schools PPP schools? Are there any issues?*

All 3 schools are PPP, and so there are no issues in this regard.

- *Could there be a delay in implementation?*

The proposed legal implementation date on 1st May 2014 is not intended to be the date at which any changes affecting any potential pupil relocation takes place, and these are more likely to be September 2014. Implementation has to be planned properly for the pupils. If deemed necessary, for this reason, implementation could be delayed. When making the decision, Members are able to approve the proposal as it stands, they can approve with a condition, or approve with a modification. An example of a modification would be a change to the implementation date.

- *Could Year 3 pupils mix with Year 11 pupils?*

A dedicated KS2 suite is proposed and being planned, but there would be opportunities for the school to share the extensive specialist facilities. Areas would be zoned for play, and potential separate entrances are being investigated.

- *There would still be a transition, from the small KS1 building to the much larger KS2, 3 and 4 building. Concerns that, especially for current Year 2 pupils, there would not be opportunity this school year to visit the 'junior school' site prior to their transfer in September 2014.*

There may be transitions between different parts of the building on the site but this would not be the same as transitions between schools.

The leadership team would make it a high priority to explore ways to enable current Year 2 pupils to visit and familiarise themselves with the proposed key stage 2 suite before they actually move buildings in September. As far as possible, pupils and staff would be involved in the change process to help them feel “at home”. This is important feedback to consider in ensuring this is managed well should the changes be approved.

- *How would Almondbury CE(VA) I & N School fit in with this arrangement?*

It is a CE school, and so would structurally not be part of the all through school, but the school has been involved in all discussions. The school is currently, and would continue to be, specially linked to KS2 as a “feeder” school from an admissions/transition point of view. Opportunities for stronger partnership and governance would continue to be explored.

Staff members were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and encouraged to respond individually and collectively to the consultation.