

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL (Education and Inspections Act 2006)

Extract of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:

Contact details

1. The name and contact details of the LA or governing body publishing the proposal, and the name, address and category of the school proposed for closure.

Cumbria County Council. School Organisation Team, Parkhouse Building, Baron Way, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ.
The school to be closed is Bram Longstaffe Nursery School, Farm Street, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 2RX (DfE number 909/1010). The category of the school is 'Community'.

Implementation

2. The proposed closure date or, where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of, and information about, each stage.

Closure would be effective on 31 August 2020.

Objectives and reason for closure

3. The objectives of the proposal and the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.

The objective of the proposal is to improve the standard of nursery provision in area. Following an Ofsted visit in December 2019 the school was placed in Special Measures (the previous judgement in 2017 was Requires Improvement). The school has a budget deficit of around £500,000. Despite financial and management support from the county council, the quality of education provided has deteriorated since 2017. This support cannot continue indefinitely and, given the school's budget deficit, there is no prospect of it being able to deliver the standard of provision required in the foreseeable future.

Pupil numbers and admissions

4. Information on the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the schools.

Bram Longstaffe Nursery School offers mixed places for non-compulsory school aged children aged 2 to 4 years of age. At the pupil census in

January 2020 there were 29 children on roll. The school is a resourced provision for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Displaced Pupils

5. Details of the schools at which displaced pupils will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) the alternative provision for children recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special needs; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

a) There are 33 other nursery places providers with a 2 mile radius.

Name of provider	Distance from LA14 2RX - miles	Sector	Provision	Ofsted rating – Jan 2020
Barrow Island Community Primary School	.13	School	2, 3 & 4 year olds, term time only	Good
St George's C of E School	0.46	School	2, 3 & 4 year olds, term time only	Good
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	0.67	School	2, 3 & 4 year olds, term time only	Good
Ramsden Infant School	0.79	School	3 & 4 year olds, term time only	Requires Improvement
Ramsden Robins Pre Nursery	0.79	Voluntary	2, 3 & 4 year olds, term time only	Good
Furness Childcare	0.85	Private	Full Day Care	Good
College House Day Nursery	0.87	Voluntary	Full Day Care	Good
St Columba's Catholic Primary School	0.93	School	3 & 4 year olds, term time only	Good
South Walney Infant and	0.95	School	3 & 4 year olds, term time	Good

Nursery School			only	
Parkside GGI Academy	0.96	School	2, 3 & 4 year olds, term time only	Good
Old Vicarage Day Nursery	1.06	Private	Full Day Care	Good
Cambridge Primary School	1.10	School	2, 3 & 4 year olds, term time only	Good
Anonymised	1.12	Childminder	No funded children	Good
Cheeky Monkeys Childcare	1.12	Private	Full Day Care	Good
Anonymised	1.15	Childminder	After school care 3+	Compliant
Walney Central Pre-School	1.16	Voluntary	2, 3 & 4 year olds, term time only	Good
Vickerstown School	1.18	School	3 & 4 year olds term time only	Good
Hindpool Nursery School	1.20	Maintained Nursery School	2- 4 year olds, all year	Outstanding
Anonymised	1.22	Childminder	2,3 and 4 year olds all year	No report yet
George Hastwell School Special Academy	1.31	School	2-19 yrs – Term time only	Requires Improvement
Anonymised	1.33	Childminder	Full Day Car	No report yet
Hollingarh Day Nursery	1.50	Private	Full Day Care	Good
Anonymised	1.52	Childminder	Full Day Care	Good
Newbarns Primary & Nursery School	1.53	School	3 & 4 year olds term time only	Outstanding
Furness Childcare @ Newbarns	1.53	Out of school childcare	Out of school childcare 4-10 years	Good
North Walney Primary, Nursery & Pre- School	1.54	School	2, 3 & 4 year olds term time only	Good
Victoria Infant and Nursery School	1.58	School	3 & 4 year olds term time only	Good

Lynwood Ashtree Day Nursery	1.60	Private	Full Day Care	Good
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	1.63	School	3 & 4 year olds term time only	Good
Roose Nursery	1.69	Voluntary	Full Day Care	Outstanding
Happy Tots Day Nursery Limited	1.92	Private	Full Day Care	Outstanding
St Pius X Catholic Primary School	1.98	School	2, 3 & 4 year olds term time only	Requires Improvement
Yarlside Academy	1.98	School	3 & 4 year olds term time only	No report yet

b) Bram Longstaffe is an ASD resourced provision (there are other ASD resourced provisions in the area, for example Hindpool Nursery, Vickerstown Primary School and George Hastwell Academy) Cumbria has recently carried out public consultation and is currently reviewing its countywide special needs provision to better cater for local needs. All maintained nursery schools in the area are equipped to provide for the needs of children with ASD under the terms of their Educational Health and Care Plans.

c) Not applicable.

Impact on the Community

6. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact, including details of the extended services the school offered and what is proposed for these services once the schools have closed.

Bram Longstaffe has served the local community for many years as a valuable resource and setting. There are sufficient alternative nursery providers in the area to cater for the level of need created by the closure of the school. The county council is also committed to retaining the building from which other community services will continue to be provided.

Balance of denominational provision

7. Where the school has a designated religious character, a statement about the impact on parental choice in the area.

Not applicable.

Rural Primary Schools

8. Where a proposal relates to a rural primary school a statement (as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006) that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) has considered:

- a) the likely effect of closure of the school on the local community;
- b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
- c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- d) any alternatives to the closure of the school.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Not applicable.b) Not applicable.c) Not applicable.d) Not applicable. |
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Maintained nursery schools

9. Where a proposal relates to the closure a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be closed and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) See table provided at 5)a)b) See table provided at 5)a) |
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Provision for 16-19 year olds

10. Where the school proposed to for closure provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities, for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable.

Special educational needs (SEN) provision

11. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being closed, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) believes a proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Bram Longstaffe Nursery School is a resourced provision for ASD. There are other schools in the area that also cater for ASD, for example, Hindpool Nursery School, Vickerstown Primary School and George Hastwell Academy. As set out at Section 3, above, the quality of overall provision on offer at Bram Longstaffe is deemed by Ofsted to require special measures, and does not meet the standards expected. Efforts over time to improve the provision have failed and, therefore, the county council believes that better quality of provision will be available if the school closes. In short, there is no value in maintaining provision that is unable to offer the standard of service local children deserve.

Travel

12. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools.

There are 33 other nursery providers with a 2 mile radius of Bram Longstaffe Nursery School. Potential alternatives for parents should be within walking distance.

Consultation

13. Decision-makers will need to be assured that consultation has taken place, and that the statutory process has been adhered to. Therefore proposals should include the results of that consultation.

A formal consultation process was held between Monday 24th February 2020 and Friday 3rd April 2020 with regards to the proposed closure of Bram Longstaffe Nursery School.

Those consulted included parents, school staff, the school governing body, surrounding primary schools and early years settings, the Roman Catholic and Church of England diocese, local Trade Unions, the local Member of Parliament, district and parish councils and Furness Local Committee.

Consultation meetings were held on Thursday 27th February 2020 for staff/governors and parents/community, to which there were approximately 50 attendees.

As well as the distribution of hard copy and email versions of the consultation information, all documentation was available on Cumbria County Council's website and a press release was made.

There were 6 responses to the consultation questionnaire. Of those that responded to the question, 67% agreed that there was no alternative to the closure of Bram Longstaffe Nursery School.

The procedure for responses, support, objections and comments

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this notice, any person wishing to receive a copy of the full proposal, raise objections or make comments on the proposal can do so by writing to Cumbria County Council, School Organisation Team, Parkhouse Building, Baron Way, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ.