

## MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

### **Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

#### **Contact details**

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

School: Captain Shaw's (Voluntary Controlled) Church of England School, Main Street, Bootle, Millom, Cumbria. LA19 5TG  
Local Authority: Cumbria County Council, School Organisation, Parkhouse Building, Lower East Wing, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4SJ

#### **Implementation**

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

The proposal is to discontinue Captain Shaw's School from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

#### **Consultation**

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal were complied with.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

- a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a) Consultation meetings were held with the staff and governors at the school and the public. Consultation documents were provided to: staff and governors at the school, parents of current pupils at the school via the school; other schools affected by the proposal, elected members of Cumbria County Council in the affected wards and cabinet members, parish councils, Department for Education, Diocese of Lancaster Education Service, Carlisle Diocese, Copeland Borough Council Chief Executive, local libraries, trade

unions, other local authority officers and local press.

b), c) Copies of the various minutes, views of the persons consulted, and consultation documents are all available on request from School Organisation Team, Parkhouse Building, Lower East Wing, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle, Cumbria. CA6 4SJ. They are also available on the Cumbria County Council website; [www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation).

d) Consultation documents were provided by post or e-mail to the above list of consultees. They were also available to the public via local libraries, and via the Cumbria County Council website.

## Objectives

### 5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objective of the proposal is to preserve the delivery of high quality primary education in the area and to support children in realising their full potential by providing a stable, sustainable school. This would involve the closure of Captain Shaw's School, with children offered a place at Waberthwaite School, which is 3.5 miles away. Waberthwaite has a recent history of pupil achievement which is well above national and county averages. The two schools' catchment areas would be combined, and transport provided in line with the county council's home to school transport policy.

## Standards and Diversity

### 6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Since summer 2011 Captain Shaw's School has been without a permanent headteacher in post. The lack of a full-time permanent headteacher, and the budgetary difficulties resulting from falling (and very low) pupil numbers, are not conducive to maintaining or improving standards. The school is in receipt of additional funding support provided to small schools via the LA's funding formula.

The closure of Captain Shaw's and the expansion of Waberthwaite School would allow pupils to be in larger year groups (though still with a maximum of only 10-12 per year group). This will allow for greater quality of social interaction between pupils and support their learning more effectively through additional opportunities for peer challenge, for example.

Waberthwaite is a higher performing school. Average point scores for the school since 2007 are:-

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Waberthwaite	28.8	30.1	28.5	28.5	30.1
National Average	28.0	27.9	27.8	27.4	27.5
Difference	+0.8	+2.2 (significantly above)	+0.7	+1.1	+2.6 (significantly above)

As can be seen from the table above the systems within the school are established to

ensure good progress of pupils. Additional pupils will fit into this existing system easily and will be given the opportunity to make good progress.

At Waberthwaite School:

- In 2011, 100% of Year 6 pupils achieved Level 4+ in both English and maths in Key Stage 2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs).
- 100% achieved the higher Level 5 in maths, and 25% in English.
- 75% of pupils made the expected 2 levels progress in English, with 100% making 2 levels of progress in maths.

Whereas:

At Captain Shaw's School:

- In KS2 2011 SATs, 40% of Year 6 pupils achieved Level 4+ in both English and maths.
- No pupils achieved the higher Level 5 in 2011.
- 40% of pupils achieved the expected two levels progress in mathematics, with 100% making 2 levels of progress in English.
- The school is subject to a LA improvement plan (LAIP) due to KS2 achievement in both English and maths as well as progress in maths being below the floor standards.
- Currently in Captain Shaw's there is only 1 boy in years 1, 3 and 5. This provides no peer support, challenge or socialising for the boys in these years.
- There are few opportunities for group working and there are insufficient pupils to carry out effective practical problem-solving tasks.
- The school is currently placed at the highest LA category of intervention and support outside of that reserved for schools which are actually in Special Measures.

The closure of Captain Shaw's is likely to have a positive impact upon standards and diversity for children in the area.

### **Provision for 16-19 year olds**

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued 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.

### **Need for places**

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Captain Shaw's School currently has 16 pupils on roll, and although this is projected to rise to 20 by September 2014, this would still result in an unacceptably high number of surplus places. (This is based on October 2011 pupil census data, August 2011 General Practitioner records and information on first preferences for admission to the school in September 2012. Data had previously indicated a projection of 22 for September 2014.) The school has a net capacity of 56; over 71% of places are currently surplus.

Waberthwaite School currently has 38 pupils on roll, and this is projected to rise to 52 by September 2014.

Waberthwaite School currently has a net capacity of 56 pupils. The re-designation of an IT suite back into a classroom will raise the net capacity of the school to 81. Therefore there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils from Captain Shaw's School.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Captain Shaw's is a Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) School. Its catchment is proposed to merge with Waberthwaite which is also a Church of England (Voluntary Aided) School. Although the closure of the school will reduce the proportion of Church of England places available in the area, the educational case for closure is strong, as set out in Section 6, above. Bringing additional places into use at Waberthwaite School will redress a proportion of the 'lost' Church of England places. Options are available to parents under parental choice arrangements.

Captain Shaw's School is currently located within walking distance of church, chapel, rectory and manse. Pupils in Waberthwaite are unable to walk to the nearest church; it is difficult to get to. Pupils of Waberthwaite are served by 3 different churches, with the main church being in Eskdale. The vicar from Eskdale does however conduct a weekly assembly with the children and also holds an after school club every week. There is a "micro bus" or a community bus which is free to hire, excluding petrol costs, and which a member of staff can drive to transport children to church.

### **Current School Information**

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

The age range of Captain Shaw's School is 4 – 11 years old. As of October 2011 (School Census), there were 16 pupils on roll: 11 girls and 5 boys. There are currently 4 children identified as requiring support at the level of 'School Action' on the Special Educational Needs register.

### **Displaced Pupils**

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

For displaced pupils from Captain Shaw's School, places will be offered at Waberthwaite (Voluntary Aided) Church of England Primary School, Waberthwaite, Millom, Cumbria. LA19 5YJ.

a) It is proposed that the school closes on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012; the pupils will then start in their new school at the beginning of the new academic year in September 2012. Therefore there are no interim arrangements needed in respect of pupil places. There will be an extensive transition programme for pupils transferring that will take place through the 2012 summer term.

b) There is no reserved provision specifically for pupils with special educational needs, therefore this is not applicable.

c) Captain Shaw's School is not a special school, therefore this is not applicable.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

The measure put in place as a consequence of the proposed discontinuance, is to increase the published admission number at Waberthwaite Primary School to accommodate any displaced pupils, and the re-designation of an existing IT suite back into a classroom. The IT provision at Waberthwaite school will not be adversely affected as children will be provided with opportunities to develop IT skills through general classroom activities and resources.

### **Impact on the Community**

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

It is recognised that the school is an important part of its local community, as the village has no other (non-church) meeting place, such as a village hall. Captain Shaw's school building is owned by a group of trustees. Cumbria County Council will work with the trustees on the future use of the building.

The Local Authority recognises the contribution that schools make to their local communities, and supports many small and very small schools across the county. Whilst consideration has been given to the impact closure would have upon the community, the council cannot continue to maintain schools primarily for non-educational reasons. Essentially, the county council must seek to ensure that a high quality of education is available to local children, regardless of where they live. Maintaining schools which are failing to deliver the high standards expected does the community a disservice.

Bootle has been allocated Rural Service Centre status by the local planning authority (the

Lake District National Park – LDNP). This confers on the settlement a greater level of housing development than may be permitted in other areas of the National Park, and the community is concerned that the loss of the school will impact on the future provision of affordable housing. County council officers are working closely with LDNP officers to ensure that Bootle is supported in the future, and the Localism Act will also provide opportunities for the community itself to have a greater say in determining the appropriate level of housing development.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

The extended services available at Captain Shaw's are after school clubs. There are after school clubs available at Waberthwaite School which will cater for the displaced pupils.

### **Travel**

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

The length of the journey between Captain Shaw's School and Waberthwaite School is 3.5 miles with a travelling time, by car, of around 5 minutes.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

Provision of transport will be in line with the Local Authority's home to transport policy. To work against increased car use, Cumbria County Council operates a 'Spare Seats Scheme' which utilises spare capacity, at a charge, on vehicles contracted to take children entitled to free transport to and from school. If available, seats can be offered from the nearest collection point, although under current policy, transport cannot be increased or unnecessarily maintained at the council's expense to cater for non entitled pupils. Parents will be required to complete a transport application form and suitable transport will be contracted to meet the needs of the entitled pupils.

### **Related Proposals**

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

In the opinion of the Local Authority this proposal is not related to any other proposals which have been or are about to be published.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance 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 discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4)

The LA has considered all of the above in coming to a decision to publish the proposal.

### **Maintained nursery schools**

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- b) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable.

### **Special educational provision**

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

There is no reserved provision specifically for pupils with special educational needs, therefore this is not applicable.