

Review of Primary Education for Children Living in the Culgaith and Langwathby Area

Introduction

Between 16th February and 16th March 2011 a consultation exercise was conducted on behalf of the Culgaith governors seeking the views of stakeholders and the local community on the possibility of a change of age range at Culgaith C of E School. The proposal would allow Culgaith School to become an all-through primary catering for children aged 4 to 11 with no requirement to transfer at the end of year 3 to another school.

Summary of Responses

A total of 153 people responded during the consultation period. 72 were in the form of completed questionnaires received by post, 65 were questionnaires completed online, 11 were submissions to the consultation sent by letter, and 13 were submissions sent by email. (The number of response types will not add up to 153 as some respondents contributed their comments by more than one of the means mentioned above, in which case their responses were amalgamated into a single return). Those responding included school governing bodies, parish councils, councillors, diocese of Carlisle and headteachers of local schools. In addition there were also separate responses from the children of Langwathby School (see attached summary).

Overall 41.8% (64) of respondents supported the proposal to change the age range of Culgaith School, 56.8% (87) did not support the proposal and 1.3% (2) did not state a preference. Of those respondents with a stated interest in Culgaith School 87.0% were in favour of the proposal (11.1% against and 1.9% not stated). Of those respondents with a stated interest in Langwathby School 93.4% were not in favour of the proposal (6.4% in favour). Of those respondents with a stated interest in both schools 50.0% were in favour of the proposal (50.0% against). Of those respondents with no stated interest in either school 63.6% were in favour of the proposal (27.3% against and 9.0% did not state a preference).

60.1% (92) of all respondents are parents, of which 17.6% (27) are parents at Culgaith School, 37.9% (58) are parents at Langwathby School and 4.6% (7) are parents of the two schools. 1.3% (2) of respondents are school governing bodies, 6.5% (10) are governors, 0.6% (1) are pupils, 13.1% (20) are staff. 25.5% (39) of respondents were not parents, staff, governors or pupils. Figures may not add up to 100% as multiple categories were selectable.

70.1% (108) of respondents who stated an address were within the catchment areas of the two schools.

Q1.

Do you agree that Culgaith School should have its age range extended to 4-11?

151 respondents answered this question 64 were in favour of the proposal and 87 were against the proposal.

Q2

Additional Comments

136 respondents made additional comments including:-

Comment	Frequency
Reduced numbers in Langwathby and reduced funding will affect staffing (job losses) and class structures/mixed age teaching	58
Changing between schools is a preparation for moving to secondary	22
An all through school provides continuity	19
An all through primary school would enhance the sense of community	19
A full primary would give Culgaith parents a choice/stop the children of Culgaith being disadvantaged	19
Reduce the age range at Culgaith and Armathwaite to 7/make Culgaith an Infant School	16
It will reduce the amount of activities that are available at Langwathby	16
All through schools would reduce travelling	12
The transfer is disruptive/causes a dip in performance	12
Children make a wider circle of friends changing between schools/improve social skills	12
The consultation provides a one-sided view	11
Close Culgaith and transfer all children to Langwathby	10
Leave things as they are	9
The whole consultation process seems rushed	8
The consultation document appears to have no input from Langwathby/does not take account of the effect on Langwathby	6
Because of the number of surplus places in Eden it is likely to be subject to School Organisational change in the future, which will be more unsettling than maintaining the status quo or reviewing all Eden now	6
There will be on going impact on Langwathby school budget and CCC budget due to redundancies/transition funding/capital investment and this will take money away from other schools	6
Amalgamated/Linked schools can be financially more efficient (less duplication)	5
Split allegiances affect community cohesion	5
At Culgaith if a child does not get on with their teacher they are stuck with them for 4 years	5
The move will increase surplus places against a background of decreasing numbers in the area into the future (and resultant closures to come)	4
It can be hard for those children transferring to make new friends easily	4
Are there enough children to support two all through primary schools?/They will be economically unviable	3
New houses are to be built in Culgaith	3
Does the transfer really cause a dip in performance/there is no dip	3
The consultation has unsettled the relationship between the two schools/communities	3
Langwathby has an excellent induction program to help with the transfer	3

The duration of the bus journey seems to increase daily/is too long	3
Moving to a full primary will present more opportunity for activities/sporting events/networking	3
Culgaith will be a more attractive proposition to more parents as a full primary and attract more families to the village	3
Very small primary schools are not in the best interests of the children	2
This change is desired by a minority of parents in Culgaith	2
It's long history proves Langwathby schools commitment to the community	2
As a larger school Langwathby provides leadership training/opportunities which will be lost	2
Teachers at Culgaith are equipped to teach older children	2
Culgaith is too small to accommodate more pupils/would need new building work whilst leaving empty classrooms at Langwathby	2
The expense to the taxpayer of a consultation is unjustified	2
Money cutting exercises should not affect childrens education	1
This move would break the links between the schools	1
Langwathby has been praised by OFSTED	1
Fewer Nursery places will be available at Langwathby	1
There aren't enough pupils in Culgaith to sustain a full primary	1
The move would increase waste capacity at both schools	1
Langwathby school would be diminished without the Culgaith children	1
The consultation document did not highlight the detrimental effect of the change on Langwathby	1
Smaller schools do not allow pupils to mix as widely	1
The downward trend in pupil numbers may well close Culgaith altogether anyway	1
How can a councillor who is involved in the final decision also be the Chair of Governors at Armathwaite	1
Langwathby is designated a hub village in Cumbria so the effect of any change will be widespread	1
The change to Culgaith will likely need some capital investment	1
It is more expensive to educate a child in a smaller school	1
Becoming a full primary is more likely to secure Culgaith's future	1
The job losses at Langwathby seem unlikely as the village itself is growing and some children from Culgaith will probably still want to transfer	1
Culgaith has been classified as a Local Service Centre in Eden District's Local Development Framework	1
Langwathby is a large enough school to withstand the short term disruption the change might bring about	1
There is no analysis in the consultation of effects beyond 2013-14	1
There is no cost analysis in the document	1
The consultation does not comply to the Government Code of Practice	1
Dealing with the process of transition from school to school is time that is not being spent on the education of the children	1
Loss of staff at Langwathby might be offset by recruitment of staff at Culgaith	1
It would increase income to Culgaith	1
An all through school would attract more families to the village	1
Culgaith pupils appear to be a commodity to help fund Langwathby	1
Those who wanted could still send their children to Langwathby	1
Delay the change until Sep 2012	1
Outcome seems to have been already decided	1

All Parish Councillors voted in favour of the status quo	1
The situation is anomalous and should be regularised	1
Weight should be given to the wishes of children and parents	1
The timescale is too short for the schools to adapt	1