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**From:** Office [office@langwathby.cumbria.sch.uk]  
**Sent:** 16 March 2011 15:12  
**To:** School Organisation Project Team  
**Subject:** Langwtahby School pupil contribution  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red  
**Attachments:** Pupil contribution.doc

Please find attached the pupil contribution to the consultation process.

Lesley Birtwell  
Langwathby

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Consultation re. Proposed change of age at Culgaith CE School  
Response by the children of Langwathby CE School

The children of Langwathby CE School do not wish to see a change to their current school. They are proud of their school and the opportunities that their teachers give them and cannot see any benefit in changing the current system. In particular the children are concerned about the impact that change will bring in the following areas:

1. Classes with a bigger age range
2. A reduction in the number of opportunities that they currently enjoy
3. A smaller school with fewer teachers and empty classrooms.

They are also concerned that people are saying that children who transfer from Culgaith are nervous and unsettled. Langwathby children are worried that people who do not know their school will think they are unfriendly and not very welcoming.

Classes with a bigger age range.

The children feel that the proposed change is likely to mean that they will be in classes that have a bigger age range than the current position.

1. At the moment they are in mixed aged classes but there are no more than 2 year groups in any one class. This has its benefits as they are able to work with older children and look after the younger ones. Children say that when they are in the older group the teacher gives them responsibility to help the new children settle.
2. The year 6 children like being treated 'like we've grown up' and think the teacher would have to treat them all equally if there was a bigger mix and they would start to feel like baby year 4s instead of responsible year 6s.
3. Many children feel that a larger age range would mean they are in the same class as brothers and sisters rather than separate classes as they are in now.  
"I wouldn't want to be with my brother all the time. I like my own space at school and my own friends."  
"My brother would put me off my work. He's so young and babyish."  
"It's good to be separate – I would feel responsible and need to tell mum if my sister misbehaved. At the moment we have our privacy at school."
4. Year 6 children were very clear that a teacher would not be able to give their best attention to everyone if the age range was too wide.  
"I want my teacher to help me with my work, not have to spend loads of time looking after year 4 who can't do as much as me."  
"How can a teacher have time for everyone?"

### A reduction in the number of opportunities

Children who have moved to Langwathby from a number of other schools were asked what Langwathby School offers them that their previous school did not. These included children that have transferred from Culgaith as well as other schools around the country.

1. Poppy: I really enjoy being able to go on residential because I get to experience what it is like being away from home and it is fun. Having themed topic days is also fun because you get the chance to dress up in costume and find out first hand about life at the time.
2. Lauren: I am happy that the teachers trust me to use the technology equipment. I enjoy class council and that the ideas I have are listened to and acted on. I know my views are valued.
3. Zoe: I've had the chance to train as a playleader and help the KS1 children at lunchtime. I've also had the chance to go on my first residential at Langwathby which I have really enjoyed.
4. Gemma: I enjoy sharing my achievements with the rest of the class when I am awarded Star of the Week. I have also really enjoyed working with Albie who is a professional dancer.
5. Samantha: I enjoy having the opportunity to try out lots of new art ideas and working with visiting artists. I also enjoy being taught RE by a real life vicar.
6. Joe: I really enjoy being able to represent the school at different sporting events. I also enjoy having the opportunity of having professional sports people coach me and improve my performance.
7. Nathan: It is really good that we have an input into our learning like being able to choose the reading book we take home. I've been given the chance to learn how to use a range of ICT programmes and equipment which makes learning more fun.
8. Libby: I also like it that teachers trust us to use tools in technology.
9. David: I am pleased that there are a variety of sports for me to take part in as I really enjoy PE.
10. The children are concerned that the 'fun element' of learning which is often funded through money raised by the PTA will be less because there will be fewer teachers to organise them. Most of all they do not want to lose the opportunity to put on 'really good plays like Shakespeare because it's not suitable for year 4 children. We would have to put on plays the year 4 kids do now.'

### A smaller school with fewer teachers and empty classrooms

The children are proud of the fact that they meet lots of different teachers during their school life.

1. "Mrs Hetherington taught me to love art and Mrs Bedford brought books alive – it's good that every teacher has a different interest because we get to learn about so many different things. It would be boring to have the same person every year."
2. "The school will feel really weird with empty classrooms."  
"It will feel really lonely"

### Children are unsettled and nervous about moving to Langwathby School

The children feel that this comment is unkind and makes them sound unfriendly. The comment does not reflect what actually happens when children transfer to the school.

1. Libby: When I started at Langwathby I was really worried I wouldn't make friends but the children were really welcoming and friendly.
2. David: The teachers at Langwathby School make sure you settle in and are happy. The facilities at Langwathby School are also good.
3. Moving to Langwathby meant I work with different people in my class. It is easy to be included.
4. Langwathby School is welcoming and friendly.

The children of Langwathby School think their school is a great school and are concerned that adults are making decisions about their school and yet they don't come to visit. They are proud that Ofsted recognised that the pupil voice and pupil contribution as outstanding and they hope that the people making decisions are really listening to their voice.

Lesley Birtwell

Headteacher on behalf of the children of Langwathby School.