

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.

Cumbria County Council, The Courts, English Street, CA3 8NA is publishing the proposals and Welton School, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA5 7HE is the school it is proposed should be discontinued.

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 planned to be implemented on 31 December 2011.

Consultation

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

The consultation process was carried out by Cumbria County Council in line with the guidance issued by the Department for Education.
The consultation paper was sent to every organisation and person in the area of the school who it was felt may have had an interest in the proposed change.

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.

See attached the consultation paper (Appendix A) and the summary of the responses to it (Appendix B). A copy of the distribution list is also attached (Appendix C). You can see from the distribution list that copies were made available in public places and also on the County Council website. Formal meetings were undertaken on 14 June 2011 at Welton School as part of the consultation process. Notes of these meetings are provided in Appendix B

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objective of the proposal is to close Welton School which is no longer educationally viable and to reallocate pupils to other schools in the locality to ensure they have continued access to a broad and rich curriculum.

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.

Welton School is a community school that serves a rural population that has declining numbers of children. Numbers of pupils at Welton School have fallen to a point where the school is no longer educationally viable. There are other rural schools in the locality with capacity to accommodate the displaced pupils. This will boost the numbers in those schools and allow continuation of the provision of a broad and rich curriculum and quality learning experience.

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.

N/A

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.

Appendix D shows accommodation capacity in adjacent primary schools. There is ample capacity in the local area to be able to accommodate all of the pupils that would be displaced as a result of the proposal.

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.

N/A

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.

Welton School is a 4-11 mixed gender community primary school with a net capacity of 56 pupils. A breakdown of the pupil numbers is included in appendix E.

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.

Pupils will be offered places at either Rosley CE School, Rosley, Wigton, CA7 8AU or Raughton Head CE School, Raughton Head, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA5 7DD.

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.

No measures are envisaged as there is ample capacity in other local schools.

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.

There is a community village hall across the road from the school. The school is not used for any community activities and there are no nursery facilities. The school is approximately ½ mile outside the main village boundary. The loss of a school in a small village is to be regretted but the impact, in this case, will not fall far outside of the loss of core school provision within the village itself.

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

Travel

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

Raughton Head School is 3.6 miles away with a travelling time, by car, of 12 minutes. Rosley School is 5.4 miles away with a travelling time, by car, of 13 minutes.

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

Because of the rural nature of the schools and lack of footpaths on country roads then school transport will be provided to nearest or catchment area schools in line with CCC school transport policy. The overall number of pupils currently attending the school is also very low.

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 LA there are no related proposals.

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 a 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.

N/A

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.

N/A
