

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.

Wirral Council, Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 8ED
Cole Street Primary School, Alvanley Place, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH43 4XA

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.

31st August 2011

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 proposals were complied with. Public consultations were held during June and July 2009, including a consultation meeting at Cole Street Primary School on 29th June 2009 and at the neighbouring Cathcart Street Primary School on 22nd June 2009, and at St Laurence's Catholic Primary School on 2nd July 2009. All statutory consultees were consulted in accordance with the relevant DCSF guidance and statutory requirements.

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 Appendices [A](#) and [B](#)

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

To discontinue Cole Street Primary School.

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.

Cole Street Primary had 113 pupils on roll in January 2010, having last had more than 210 pupils on roll in 2002 (218). The roll peaked at 277 in 1997 and has experienced a long decline. This is largely the result of the falling population, although 75% of potential community school parents living in the catchment zone choose to send their children elsewhere, principally to The Priory CE Primary School (20%, 62 pupils), Cathcart Street Primary School (12%, 37 pupils), Christ Church CE Primary School (Birkenhead) (10%, 29 pupils) and Woodchurch Road Primary School (9%, 28 pupils). 30% of pupils on roll in Summer 2009 came from outside the school's catchment zone, however overall there was a net loss of 63% (204 pupils) to other community and CE primary schools. There are a large number of surplus places (46%, 97 places), and this situation is not predicted to improve significantly over the next five years.

A three year average of the overall value added score (2007 to 2009) shows that Cole Street, Christ Church CE (Birkenhead), Woodchurch Road, The Priory CE and Cathcart Street Primary schools are making the expected rate of progress (100.1, 100.7, 100.9, 100.8 and 99.5 respectively) with no significant difference in performance.

Ofsted reports of these five schools are attached as [Appendix C](#).

The catchment area will be rezoned to Cathcart Street Primary School, retaining parental choice of a Community school following closure of Cole Street Primary School.

Small schools inevitably cost more to maintain than larger schools. Wirral policy says that schools become increasingly more difficult to maintain as they fall below 180 pupils on roll. DCSF guidance says that "Schools with fewer than 150 pupils may be educationally and financially sustainable only through substantial subsidies via their local authorities funding formula". Financially, the total sum available for spending on all our children does not increase if we choose as an Authority to organise our children in more schools than is necessary for the efficient and effective delivery of education. It follows that the maintenance of small schools, where this is not necessary, comes at the expense of all other children. In 2006-2007, expenditure per pupil at Cole Street was £4,466 compared with the Wirral average of £3,249. Closure of Cole Street Primary School saves money for the overall schools budget.

The saving is ring-fenced to the Wirral schools budget, which allows more funding to be spent on all Wirral's children and young people in order to raise standards across the borough.

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.

There are 31 alternative primary schools within a 2 mile radius, at which in January 2010 there were 1,789 surplus places, compared to the number on roll of 124 pupils. Excluding schools in the South Wallasey planning area, and also excluding St Laurence's Catholic Primary School which closed in August 2010, there are 1,149 surplus places within 2 miles, falling to 959 by 2015.

The number on roll at January 2009 at Cole Street Primary was 124 pupils, and in January 2010 had fallen to 113 pupils. Excluding those pupils in Year 6 who will have moved onto secondary school in September 2011, there are expected to be 102 pupils to transfer to an alternative local primary school.

At alternative Birkenhead primary schools in the Birkenhead area within 1 mile (excluding St Laurence's), there were 382 surplus places in January 2010, falling to 340 surplus places in 2011. Dependant on parental preferences, additional accommodation may be required locally at The Priory CE Primary 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.

Not applicable

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.

Cole Street is a mixed sex community primary school providing 210 places for day pupils aged 4 to 11. In January 2010 there were 113 pupils on roll.

The school has a part-time Foundation 1 class which in January 2010 was attended by 17 pupils (8.5 FTE).

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.

It is proposed to divide the catchment zone of Cole Street Primary School between Cathcart Street Primary School and Christ Church CE (Controlled) Primary School Birkenhead. All former Cole Street Primary pupils on roll at this date who opt to transfer to Cathcart Street Primary School, regardless of home address, will be guaranteed a place at Cathcart Street Primary School. Pupils may transfer to any local primary school, subject to availability of places and the admission arrangements published in the Authority's information booklet for parents.

All streets currently zoned to Cole Street Primary School will be rezoned to Cathcart Street Primary School, with the following exceptions, which will be rezoned to Christ Church CE (Controlled) Primary School.

Alfred Road, Balfour Road, Balls Road (2 to 60 and 1 to 29), Balls Road East (even numbers), Barton Street, Belmont, Belmont Grove, Borough Road (254 to 300), Carlisle Mews, Carnforth Close, Cartmel Close, Clarendon Close, Clayton Place, Clayton Street, Cook Street, Devonshire Road (2 to 10 and 1 to 47), Euston Grove, Grafton Street, Grange Mount (odd numbers), Grange Road West (odds 1 to 69), Grange View, Grosvenor Road (odds 1 to 15), Henthorne Street, James Street, Maritime Park, Mather Road (1 to 5 and 2 to 40), Midland Street, Oak Bank, Oxton Road (Birkenhead), Penrith Street, Quarrybank Place, Quarrybank Street, Reedville, Ridley Street, Slatey Road (evens 12 and above, odds 15 and above), Tetbury Street, Town View, Town View Mews, Turner Street, Warwick Close, Westbourne Road, Whetstone Lane (2 to 22), Wilkinson Street and Windsor Street.

Maps showing the current and proposed catchment zones are attached as [Appendix E](#).

- a) not applicable
- b) not applicable
- c) 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.

Dependant on parental preferences, additional places may be required at The Priory CE Primary School.

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.

A significant proportion of community and Church of England choice parents living within Cole Street’s catchment zone already choose alternative primary schools (71%) – principally The Priory CE (20%), Cathcart Street (12%), Christ Church CE (Birkenhead) (10%) and Woodchurch Road (9%). There will be 30 alternative primary schools within a 2 mile radius of the school at the time of it’s proposed closure.

In January 2010, there were 17 part-time pupils in the F1 class (8.5 FTE) at Cole Street Primary School. In school nurseries within 2 miles there were 269 empty F1 places, of which 53 were at schools within 1 mile.

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

After school activities, mainly sports, are provided at Cole Street, including Touch Rugby, football, netball and athletics. A gardening club is also provided.

Cathcart Street Primary School operates an After school club until 5.30 pm and holiday clubs out of term time. The governing body will be encouraged to maintain existing out of school activities as part of the Extended Schools and Healthy Schools agenda.

Travel

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

All former Cole Street pupils on roll at this date will be guaranteed a place at Cathcart Street Primary School if they wish to accept it. Pupils may transfer to any local primary school, subject to availability of places and the admission arrangements published in the Authority’s information booklet for parents. The Cole Street catchment zone will be divided between Cathcart Street Primary School and Christ Church CE (Controlled) Primary School. An aerial photo showing the relative positions of these schools and others in the immediate area is attached as [Appendix D](#).

Of the 113 pupils on roll in January 2010, three would travel more than 2 miles to both Cathcart Street and Christ Church CE Primary schools, but already travel more than 2 miles to Cole Street Primary School, so can be expected to use whichever means of transport they are already utilising.

NCY	Cole Street	Cathcart Street	Christ Church CE Birkenhead
0	0.1	0.9	0.5
0	0.1	0.9	0.5
0	0.1	0.8	0.6

0	0.1	0.9	0.4
0	0.2	0.8	0.5
0	0.2	0.8	0.5
0	0.2	0.9	0.6
0	0.2	0.9	0.4
0	0.2	1.0	0.7
0	0.2	1.0	0.7
0	0.3	1.0	0.4
0	0.3	1.0	0.5
0	0.3	1.1	0.8
0	0.3	1.1	0.2
0	0.3	1.0	0.7
0	0.4	0.9	0.7
0	0.5	1.0	0.8
0	0.5	1.3	0.3
0	0.6	1.2	0.7
0	0.6	1.4	0.2
1	0.1	0.8	0.6
1	0.1	0.8	0.5
1	0.1	0.9	0.4
1	0.2	0.8	0.5
1	0.2	0.8	0.5
1	0.2	0.9	0.7
1	0.2	1.0	0.4
1	0.2	1.0	0.4
1	0.2	1.0	0.7
1	0.2	0.9	0.5
1	0.3	1.1	0.2
1	0.4	0.9	0.7
1	0.6	1.4	0.2
1	0.7	0.7	0.7
1	0.8	0.5	1.0
1	0.9	0.6	1.1
1	1.7	1.4	1.9
1	4.2	4.0	4.6
2	0.1	0.9	0.6
2	0.1	0.9	0.6
2	0.1	0.9	0.6
2	0.3	1.1	0.7
2	0.4	1.2	0.5
2	0.4	0.7	1.0
2	0.5	1.3	0.3
2	0.6	1.4	0.2
2	0.7	0.7	0.7
2	0.8	0.5	1.0
2	0.8	1.4	1.1
2	1.1	1.0	1.5
2	2.1	2.5	2.3
3	0.1	0.9	0.5
3	0.1	0.9	0.5
3	0.1	0.8	0.6
3	0.1	0.9	0.5

3	0.2	0.8	0.5
3	0.2	1.0	0.4
3	0.2	1.0	0.4
3	0.2	1.0	0.5
3	0.2	0.9	0.5
3	0.2	1.0	0.7
3	0.2	1.0	0.7
3	0.4	1.1	0.8
3	0.5	1.3	0.3
3	0.6	0.4	1.1
3	1.3	0.9	1.7
4	0.2	1.0	0.4
4	0.2	1.0	0.4
4	0.2	1.0	0.4
4	0.2	1.0	0.7
4	0.2	1.0	0.5
4	0.2	1.0	0.7
4	0.3	1.0	0.7
4	0.3	1.1	0.7
4	0.5	1.0	0.8
4	0.5	1.0	0.8
4	0.6	0.4	1.0
4	0.7	0.7	0.7
4	0.8	0.5	1.0
5	0.1	0.9	0.5
5	0.1	0.9	0.5
5	0.2	0.9	0.5
5	0.2	0.9	0.4
5	0.2	1.0	0.7
5	0.2	1.0	0.7
5	0.2	1.0	0.4
5	0.3	1.0	0.7
5	0.3	1.0	0.5
5	0.6	1.3	0.4
5	0.9	0.9	1.3
5	0.9	1.6	0.6
5	1.3	0.9	1.7
5	1.6	1.6	1.9
5	1.7	1.4	1.9
5	2.1	2.5	2.3
6	0.1	0.9	0.5
6	0.1	0.8	0.6
6	0.1	0.9	0.4
6	0.2	0.8	0.5
6	0.2	1.0	0.4
6	0.2	1.0	0.4
6	0.2	0.9	0.5
6	0.2	1.0	0.7
6	0.3	1.0	0.7
6	0.3	1.0	0.5
6	0.3	1.1	0.5
6	0.5	1.0	0.8

6	0.5	1.3	0.3
6	0.6	1.4	0.2
6	0.6	1.4	0.2
6	0.7	0.7	0.7
6	1.0	1.0	1.3
6	1.2	1.2	1.5

under 1 mile	under 1.5 miles	under 2 miles	over 2 miles
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For 100% of pupils on roll, travel to one or more alternative primary schools would be shorter or similar in length.

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

The distance to alternative primary schools is not significantly longer than the current journey distance and pupils can be expected to continue to travel to school by whichever means they are currently using, with no significant increase in car use.

Pupils may transfer to any local primary school, subject to availability of places and the admission arrangements published in the Authority’s information booklet for parents.

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.

There are no related proposals that have been, are 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 ghe 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)

Not applicable

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.

Not applicable