



Ingleby Arncliffe C of E (VA) Primary School

Consultation Document

**Proposal to close Ingleby Arncliffe Church of
England Voluntary Aided Primary School with
effect from 31st December 2017**

Ingleby Arncliffe Church of England Primary School

Ingleby Arncliffe

Northallerton

Consultation on a Proposal to Close the School from 31st December 2017

I am writing to let you know that the Governing Body has decided to consult on a proposal to close the school.

The Governing Body has not reached this decision lightly and has examined different options. The Governing Body now feels that this decision is in the best interests of the school. It is proposed that the school will close with effect from 31st December 2017.

Enclosed is a copy of the Consultation Document that sets out the position in which the school finds itself and will allow you to formally provide your views on the proposal. You can also see the consultation document online by visiting the dedicated website provided by the Local Authority:

<http://northyorks.gov.uk/article/23998/Childrens-services---consultations>

You can respond to the proposal online by following this link:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=149200889275>

The closing date for the submission of responses is **Friday 9 June 2017**.

As part of the consultation process a Public Meeting will take place to allow anyone who wishes to make their views known in person to do so. This event will be attended by representatives of the Governing Body; the Diocese and the Local Authority. It will take place on:

8th May at 7 pm

at Ingleby Arncliffe Primary School, Ingleby Arncliffe

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support for the School and to encourage you to take part in the consultation process by attending the Public Meeting and by submitting a response sheet.

There is also a separate proposal to close Swainby and Potto CE VA School to the same time-scale for similar reasons. However, that is a separate consultation and if you have any comments on that proposal please respond to the separate consultation paper.

The Governing Body of Ingleby Arncliffe Primary School, Ingleby Arncliffe



Ingleby Arncliffe C of E (VA) Primary School

April 2017

This paper sets out details of a proposal to close Ingleby Arncliffe Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School with effect from 31st December 2017. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting on:

Monday 8th May at 7 pm

At Ingleby Arncliffe Primary School

The Current Position

The Governing Body of Ingleby Arncliffe Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School has decided to consult on a proposal to close the school.

The Governors have worked closely with officers from the Diocese of York and North Yorkshire County Council. They consider that the closure is necessary to secure the interests of current and future pupils from the school.

The Governing Body has not reached this decision lightly and has already considered alternatives, such as working with other schools to make sure that good standards of teaching and learning will be available for all pupils.

There is also a separate proposal to close Swainby and Potto CE VA School to the same time-scale for similar reasons.

However, that is a separate consultation and if you have any comments on that proposal please respond to the separate consultation paper.

The previous three-school "Mount Grace" federation with Swainby & Potto CE VA Primary School and Osmotherley Community Primary School was dissolved in January 2017, although informal collaboration between Swainby and Potto and Ingleby Arncliffe Church of England Voluntary Aided Schools continues. The pairing of these schools reflects their shared status and Christian values as Voluntary Aided schools. There is currently no substantive Headteacher in post at the school. Interim leadership support is being provided to both schools by a single Interim Headteacher (and previously by the executive Headteacher from the Mount Grace Federation). It is not considered sustainable to continue

with interim arrangements into the future even if such arrangements could be put in place.

There are four key concerns: 1) Very low pupil numbers; 2) Breadth of curriculum experience; 3) The school's financial position; 4) Leadership.

Pupil Numbers

The number of children at Ingleby Arncliffe School has been falling gradually over the past few years. At the time of publication, there are now only 10 pupils on roll. However, this number is subject to any changes that may be requested by parents and we will update the figure at the public meeting. This is against a physical capacity of 86 so the school is significantly under-subscribed. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover significantly in the longer term and may reduce still further, given the three Year 6 pupils leaving in September and that no new children are joining Reception.

The proportion of parents living in the catchment area and choosing to send their children to other schools is significant.

In these circumstances, it is considered difficult for teaching staff to deliver an age appropriate curriculum to such small groups of children. This has been recognised in the informal working arrangements with Swainby and Potto which the school has introduced.

Quality and Breadth of Curriculum

As numbers fall, it is increasingly difficult to provide the remaining pupils with access to the quality and full range of experiences they need.

As numbers have fallen, the school governing body, the Diocese of York and North Yorkshire County Council have become concerned that pupils will not have access to a high quality curriculum and to the full range of experiences they need, particularly opportunities for working and playing with children their own age. For example, when there are only one or two children in a year group, it is difficult for pupils to share and compare the same work.

There are now only three children in Key Stage 1 and no new Reception children will join the school in September.

It is likely to become increasingly difficult to ensure a high quality curriculum and to meet children's educational and social needs, even with the existing partnership with Swainby and Potto, another local Church of England Voluntary Aided school. These concerns about being able to preserve the quality and breadth of the curriculum are the key concerns arising from the rapid decline in pupil numbers.

It is considered by Local Authority Education Advisors that the School is at risk of not retaining the previous Ofsted judgement of good nor have the capacity to do so in the future. The school has been re-inspected and the outcome will not be known for some time but in the lead up to the inspection there was concern that the school was at risk of being deemed inadequate.

The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. With these lower numbers, and a reduced budget, the school may have to further reduce staff.

Examination of the predicted financial

position has led to concerns about the school's ability to preserve the quality of education. The school is predicting an in-year financial deficit for 2017/18 significantly increasing for 2018/19, and a higher deficit for 2019/20. The two schools currently operate on shared staffing and resources but even under these circumstances the schools have been unable to demonstrate financial viability going forward. In the 2017/18 financial year there is a predicted deficit of £56,900 across the two schools rising to £257,000 in 2019/20 showing the immediacy of the situation and that there is a need for consultation now. The financial forecast is based on 20 pupils across the two schools but with current pupil numbers now falls below that originally assumed and increases the deficit further. Even with the lower numbers existing staffing levels may be required to be maintained. With the low pupil numbers predicted all children may be taught in a single class but a single class across the 4-11 age range is not advised. Changes to school funding formulas are likely to make the school even more financially vulnerable and the Local Authority will have increasingly limited ability to provide on-going financial support to schools in this position.

Leadership

There is currently an interim Headteacher in post shared by both schools. Given the very low number of pupils entering the school it is considered that an attempt to recruit a substantive Headteacher with the caliber to make the necessary improvements is unlikely to be successful. The current interim arrangements cannot continue into the future. Without secure leadership the quality of teaching at the school is at

further risk.

The Proposal

For the reasons outlined above it is proposed that Ingleby Arncliffe CE VA Primary School should close with effect from 31 December 2017.

The nearest local schools are Appleton Wiske Community Primary School and Osmotherley Community Primary School. Each school will be nearer for some pupils.

There are places available at Stokesley Primary School, which is 8.1 miles from the school.

The nearest Church of England Voluntary Aided School at 5.3 miles away is Carlton and Faceby Church of England VA School.

It is proposed that the catchment area of Appleton Wiske Community Primary School is expanded to include the current Ingleby Arncliffe catchment area. This school has the capacity to take the additional pupils and has indicated a willingness to do so.

Consultees may prefer to see a different arrangement for future catchment areas and they are invited to comment on this in the response to the consultation. It could be proposed that the current catchment area is divided to take account of the geography of the area, in particular by the division through it by the A19. The views expressed in the consultation on redrawing catchments will be factored in to any closure proposal.

For any children currently at the school, North Yorkshire County Council would work with each family to try to meet their

individual preferences for other schools.

Eligibility for home to school transport will be determined in line with the County Council's current home to school transport policy and procedures based on each child's home address and individual circumstances.

Parents have a right to express a preference for any school and, in the case of community and voluntary controlled schools, the relevant Local Authority is the admissions authority and will meet that preference provided there are vacant places or the school is happy to admit above the published admission number. In the case of Voluntary Aided schools, the governing body decide the conditions for admission to their particular school. Where a child attends a school which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

North Yorkshire County Council's Admissions Team is always happy to give advice to parents – please contact Jill Wilson 01609 534825 or Lisa Herdman 01609 534953.

Staff

A separate consultation process, including a staff meeting, will run in parallel with the consultation on the closure proposal.

Impact on Community

As Ingleby Arncliffe Church of England VA Primary School is designated as a rural school it is important to take into consideration the impact on the community of any school closure. In some communities the school is the only community facility. In this case there is a

village hall in Ingleby Cross which is available for hire with a fully equipped kitchen and large room licensed for up to 115 persons seated or for functions and events without tables for up to 180 persons.

The Building

Any decision about the future of the site and the buildings would be taken separately from the decision on whether to close the school. However, for information the following might happen, should the proposal be supported.

The school playing field is owned by the County Council. If the playing field were sold, Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 determines that the proceeds have to be spent on sport and in this case it would probably be on improving sport in the school(s) whose catchment area is expanded.

At this stage it is unclear what would become of the school buildings. The Ingleby Arncliffe school buildings and car park are owned by the Diocese of York. The decision on their future is a Diocese decision. One option is for the Diocese to lease the building. Another is for it to be sold and any capital receipt from the disposal of the school would be determined with reference to the appropriate legislation and regulation which includes Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010.

Should the proposal be supported, the building and grounds would be maintained while decisions on its future are taken. While the options are appraised, the grounds and the building would be maintained, in a reduced form, in partnership between the Diocese and the LA. Also, at this stage there are no proposals to secure the site with security fencing and if there were ever a proposal

to erect security fencing, this would be the subject of planning approval.

What Happens Next?

Your views about this proposal are welcomed. You can either complete and return the attached response sheet, or submit an online response

Paper responses should be returned to North Yorkshire County Council, who are administering this consultation on behalf of the governors of the school, at the address below:

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS
Ingleby Arncliffe
Strategic Planning
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted via the link on the response form below.

The closing date for responses is **9th June 2017**. All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the School's Governing Body in July 2017.

If the Governing Body decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press. These notices provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision would be made by North Yorkshire County Council's Executive Committee in September 2017. If agreed the school would close on 31 December 2017.

Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	28 April 2017
Public meeting	8 May 2017
Consultation closes	9 June 2017
Governing body considers consultation response	4 July 2017
Statutory Notices published	7 July 2017
Representation period ends	4 August 2017
Final decision by NYCC	5 Sept 2017
School closure	31 Dec 2017