

Statutory proposals and statutory notice

Statutory proposals for school closures

As set out in the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations the information below **must** be included in a proposal to close a school:

Contact details

The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the proposals and the name, address and category of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Proposal published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, to discontinue Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School, Broughton Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1TE from 31 December 2017.

Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is a 3-11 community primary school in the Skipton town area.

Implementation

The date on which it is proposed to close the school or, where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.

It is proposed to close the school from 31 December 2017.

Reason for closure

A statement explaining the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.

There are four key concerns: 1) Standards of teaching and learning 2) Low pupil numbers; 3) The school's financial position 4) Staffing

1) Pupil Numbers

The number of children at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School has been low for several years. During the summer term of 2016/17 only 42 children were on roll in the school and 5 in the nursery. At the start of the new school year in September there was just one pupil on roll. The school is designed to accommodate up to 180 pupils if all spaces are in use. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover in the longer term.

In these circumstances, it is difficult to deliver quality education.

2) Standards of teaching and learning

In July 2013 the school was judged by Ofsted as Inadequate and became subject to Special Measures. The school has been re-inspected by Ofsted in October 2014 and November 2016 and on both inspections was judged as Requires Improvement.

The school has been trying to improve standards following the inspections but the low pupil numbers lead to a need to further reduce staff which compromised any further attempts the school could take to deliver an acceptable quality of education. The governors took the decision at during the summer term to reduce to a 2 class structure from September and reduce teaching assistant support.

3) The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. Revised budget projections based on lower pupil numbers of 31 have shown larger in-year financial deficits for 2017/18 and 2018/19 at £56,300 and £105,300 respectively and a projected cumulative deficit at the end of 2018/19 of £249,400. Clearly with now even lower numbers this position is much worse.

4) Staffing

During the last academic year Governors made the decision to reduce to a two class structure from September 2017 and advised that a number of teaching staff had already left the school and others were exploring other opportunities. They had been heavily reliant on supply teachers during the summer term 2016/17 and subsequently a number of staff did leave at the end of fixed term contracts or due to resignation.

The current position is that appropriate staffing is being maintained in accordance with our obligation to provide the best possible education while the school remains open.

Pupil numbers and admissions

The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.

There is now only one pupil on roll at the start of this academic year.

The school's age range is 3-11 years, and provision is available for boys and girls. There is no boarding provision. Information on special educational needs of pupils is not provided as this would contravene the Data Protection Act. Total pupil numbers are significantly lower than the capacity of the school which is designed to accommodate up to 180 pupils.

Displaced pupils

A statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and
- c) in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school.

Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

- a) No interim arrangements have been necessary. All but one pupil at the school has moved to an alternative primary school.

There are other schools in Skipton town within walking distance of the Skipton Ings site.

Travel distances to other schools:

Walking distance in miles	Christ Church	Ings CP	Water Street	Parish Church CE	St Stephen's Catholic	Greatwood CP
Christ Church		0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Ings CP	0.8		1	1.1	0.9	1.4
Water Street	0.4	1		0.6	0.1	0.9
Parish Church CE	0.4	1.1	0.6		0.5	0.5
St Stephen's Catholic	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.5		0.8
Greatwood CP	0.5	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.8	

At the start of the school year 2017/18 all pupils had been offered alternative places at local schools. All but one pupil took up those places offered.

41 pupils were offered alternative places at local schools for September 2017. All but one pupil has subsequently transferred to another school.

The transfer details are as follows:

Christ Church CE VC – 7 pupils
St Stephens Catholic Primary – 5
Skipton Greatwood CP – 1
Skipton Parish CE VC – 14
Carleton Endowed – 5
Cracoe and Rylstone VC CE – 4
Gargrave CE VC – 1
Embsay CE VC – 4

There remain 127 places available across three Skipton Town primary schools as of 3 October 2017. This represents an 11.5% vacancy of all available places excluding the Ings capacity.

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.

- b) Not applicable in this case
- c) Not applicable in this case

Impact on the community

A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The school has in the past run a wide variety of after school and extra-curricular clubs and activities for children, including a before and after school club. There have also been a wide variety of sport clubs on offer such as football, netball and cricket. The reduction in pupil numbers has meant that these clubs have now stopped.

The governing body has encouraged community use of the school buildings and has attempted to increase lettings of the premises to support the budget. The school has also made links with the Adult Learning Service to broaden the range of services offered with a view to increasing regular contact with the community. Despite these attempts community uses of the facilities remain low. Given the small number of community uses of the school premises, and the alternative venues available locally, the impact on the community should be minimal.

Rural primary schools

Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of Section 15 (Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA), a statement that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered Section 15(4) EIA.

Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is not designated as a rural school.

Balance of denominational provision

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

Maintained nursery schools

Not applicable

Sixth form provision

Not applicable

Special educational needs provision

The existing provision at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School is not reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

Travel

Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use.

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.

Where a child attends a school which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

Parents were and will be reminded of the County Council's home to school transport policy when considering alternative schools. Pupils up to the age of 8 would normally be eligible for free home to school transport if they live more than 2 miles from their normal area school (or 3 miles for those over the age of 8). Parents can always express a preference for a school other than their normal area school however they would usually be responsible for making transport arrangements. Eligibility is assessed on an individual basis taking into account the child's home address.

North Yorkshire County Council's Home to School transport policy states that 'Transport will be arranged so that children will not normally spend more than 1 hour 15 minutes travelling to a secondary school or 45 minutes to a primary school. Journey times might need to be longer than this in some more rural areas and where road or weather conditions mean that these times are not practical.' This is in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education. The journey time for children living within the current Skipton Ings School catchment area would depend on which other school they attended and their home address. There are five other schools that are less than two miles from Ings CP School.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director-Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 23 November 2017.

Consultation

The decision to consult on closure was taken by the Executive Member for Schools following a request from governors on 13 June 2017. A consultation paper setting out the proposal was sent to parents of pupils on roll, staff at the school as well as other interested parties and individuals. A copy of the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 1. A list of the consultees is attached as Appendix 2. The consultation period ran from 26 June to 15 September 2017, extended over the summer period to ensure six term weeks. A public meeting was held at the school on 19 July 2017, a note of that meeting is attached as Appendix 3. There have been 17 consultation responses received (Appendix 4).

Appendix 1: Consultation Paper

Appendix 2: List of the Consultees

Appendix 3: Notes of the Public Meeting

Appendix 4: Consultation Responses



Consultation Document

**Proposal to close Skipton Ings Community Primary and
Nursery School from 31 December 2017**

Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School

June 2017

This paper sets out details of a proposal to close Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2017. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting on:

Wednesday 19 July at 7 pm

at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School,

Broughton Road, Skipton, BD23 1TE

The Current Position

Following a request from the School's Governing Body, North Yorkshire County Council is consulting on a proposal to close the school.

It is considered that the closure is necessary to secure the interests of current and future pupils from the school because of concerns about standards of teaching and learning and related concerns about low pupil numbers and the school's financial position.

This decision has not been reached lightly, and not before alternatives have been considered, such as collaborating with other schools.

Standards of teaching and learning

In July 2013 the school was judged by Ofsted as Inadequate and became subject to Special Measures. The school has been re-inspected by Ofsted in October 2014 and November 2016 and on both inspections was judged as Requires Improvement.

The school has been trying to improve standards following the inspections but the low pupil numbers will lead to a need to further reduce staff which compromises any further attempts the school might need to make to deliver an acceptable quality of education. The governors have had to reduce to a 2 class structure from September and reduce teaching assistant support.

Pupil Numbers

The number of children at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School has been low for several years. There are

currently only 42 children on roll in the school and 5 in the nursery. The school is designed to accommodate up to 180 pupils if all spaces are in use. Forecasts indicate that these numbers will not recover significantly in the longer term and may reduce still further.

In these circumstances, it is difficult to deliver quality education.

The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. With these low numbers, and a reduced budget, the school will have to reduce staff. The school is projecting deficits at the end of the year of £70k in 2018/19 and £150k in 2019/20. There is no reasonable prospect of recovery.

Staffing

A number of staff have already left the school. The school is now heavily reliant on supply teachers including the upper Key Stage 2 and lower Key Stage 2/Year 2 classes and temporary arrangements for other staff posts.

The Proposal

For the reasons above it is proposed that Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School should close with effect from 31 December 2017.

The catchment area of another local school will be extended to include the

current school catchment area.

For children currently at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School, North Yorkshire County Council will work with each family to try to meet their individual preferences for other schools. Staff and governors at Skipton Ings Community Primary and Nursery School are also committed to supporting families in their choice of school and in making a smooth transition.

Other primary schools in Skipton town are:

Christ Church Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Craven Street, Skipton, BD23 2AP.

Skipton Parish Church Church of England VC Primary School, Brougham Street, Skipton, BD23 2ES.

Greatwood Community Primary School, Pinhaw Road, Skipton, BD23 2SJ.

Water Street Community Primary School, Elliot Street, Skipton, BD23 1PE.

St Stephen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, a Voluntary Academy, Gargrave Road, Skipton, BD23 1PJ.

There are also spaces available in some year groups in schools in surrounding villages.

Some schools may be able to admit over their published admission numbers for some year groups.

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 travel distances from 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 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 decides 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 Vickie Hemming-Allen 01609 535481 or Lisa Herdman 01609 534953.

Staff

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

The Building

The school building is owned by the County Council. Decisions about disposal of the school site and buildings will be taken after the closure proposal has been determined.

Academy options

The County Council is exploring with the Regional Schools Commissioner the possibility for a high-quality academy sponsor to take over Ings school. Potentially this could provide continuity of education for current pupils. More likely, however, would be the opening of a new academy on the site after a period of closure. This would ensure that the Ings site continues to provide primary school places for children in Skipton. These discussions are continuing in parallel with this consultation on potential closure and, should a future academy option emerge, consultees will be informed of this.

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 at the address below:

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS

Ings

Strategic Planning

North Yorkshire County Council

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwe>

bhost/s.asp?k=149571892135

The closing date for responses is

15 September 2017

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive in autumn 2017.

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

Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	26 June 2017
Public meeting at the school	Wed 19 July at 7pm
Consultation closes	15 September 2017
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	17 October 2017
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	26 October to 23 November 2017
Final decision by County Council's Executive	5 December 2017
Proposed school closure date	31 December 2017

Appendix 2

Skipton Ings Primary and Nursery School - List of Consultees

School distributed to	Parents of pupils
	Staff of school
	Governors of school

Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of other local primary and secondary schools within a 3 mile radius of Ings CP School	Cononley
	Carlton Endowed
	Bradleys Both
	Embsay
	Greatwood CP
	St Stephens Catholic Academy
	Parish Church of England CE Primary
	Christchurch CE Primary
	Water Street CP
	Ermysteds Grammar
	Skipton Girls' High
	The Skipton Academy

Unions and Professional Associations

Local County Councillors;	Cllr A. Solloway Cllr R. Hestletine Cllr P. Mulligan
District Councillors	Cllr C. Rose Cllr P. Madeley
Local Parish/Town Council	
Julian Smith MP	
Secretary of State via School Organisation Unit	

Local Early Years providers within 3 miles:	Brougham Street Nursery School
	Cherry Tree Farm Day Nursery
	Craven Children's Holiday Club
	Embsay Children's Centre
	Embsay with Eastby Pre-School Playgroup
	First Steps Day Nursery Broughton Road
	Greatwood Community Primary School Before & After School Club
	Regent Private Day Nursery
	Rocking Horse Day Nursery
	6 Child minders
	St Stephen's After School Club
	Stepping Stones

Other consultees	Community Cohesion Worker, NYCC
	Specialist Teacher, Minority Ethnic Achievement (MEA) Team
	Refugee Council
	Leeds CE Diocese
	Catholic Diocese Leeds
	Islamic Society
	Mosque
	Bradford Council
	Regional Schools Commissioner
	Imam

Notes of public meeting at Skipton Ings Community Primary School

Wednesday 19th July 2017 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Patrick Mulligan – NYCC Executive Member
David Portlock – Chair of Governors
Graham Hamilton – Vice Chair of Governors
Donna Makepeace – Headteacher
Simon Ashby – NYCC School Improvement
Andrew Dixon – NYCC Strategic Planning

Together with parents and grandparents, members of the community, staff of Skipton Ings CP School, and a representative from the local MP's office.

Julia Temple, Strategic Planning Officer was taking notes and there was an interpreter present.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Mulligan opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The rest of the panel were introduced; Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager), Donna Makepeace (Headteacher), David Portlock (Chair of Governors), Graham Hamilton (Vice Chair of Governors) and Simon Ashby (School Improvement Advisor).

2. Presentation

A joint presentation was given by the members of the panel that explained the purpose of the meeting, the current position the school is in, and why the change is proposed now. It set out the actions that have been carried out over the past few years to improve both the educational standards at the school and its perception within the community, and explained what alternative options have been considered.

3. Questions and comments

Following the presentation Cllr Mulligan opened up the meeting to the members of the public to raise any questions or make comments on the proposal.

A parent thanked Donna Makepeace (DM) for her tireless efforts which have been acknowledged by many parents, but wondered if DM is certain that she has received sufficient support from the LA?

DM said yes she felt she has had really good support from colleagues in the LA especially in terms of driving up standards. However, in terms of issues around pupil numbers she recognises that the LA is tied by national policy on parental preference. Similarly the LA does not have the power to force other schools to amalgamate or federate with Ings and whilst it can encourage staff to work at the school it can't force staff to take up posts.

The same parent asked if the Secondary Schools had also been approached. David Portlock (DP) confirmed that Governors had had preliminary discussions with one secondary school, but these had not progressed.

A grandparent commented that it is clear the school is not in a sustainable position and asked if it is seen as a failure of North Yorkshire that there has been a deterioration of pupil numbers at Ings?

Cllr Mulligan explained that this has been a result of parental choice and despite all DM has done to improve local perception parents have chosen other schools.

Simon Ashby (SA) added that since the school went into special measures a number of things have been done, including establishing a partnership with the Teaching School Alliance. Governors have been appointed based on specific skills and experience in an attempt to drive the school forward and it is worth pointing out that the school doesn't currently have a governing body and is operating under a shadow governing body. DP added the school has had difficulty in appointing parent governors due to lack of interest from parents at the school in which a few parents responded to say they had not seen any communication about this.

A question was also asked about whether members of the community could be governors. SA confirmed that Governance structure is national policy and not one the LA is able to deviate from. Parent governors do have to be parents of pupils at the school or can be parents with children at other local schools. Recruiting good quality staff has also been difficult and the school has had to rely on agency staff to take up the positions.

If there are 140 pupils in catchment why can't the LA make parents send their children to this school? This again comes back to national policy on parental preference.

A local resident questioned why parents don't send their children to this school? Cllr Mulligan said the LA is not able to speak on behalf of parents.

A local resident who used to be a pupil at the school commented that Ings used to be a great school and that it is local perception of the school that has made this happen.

A question was raised in relation to all the extra housing that is planned?

Andrew Dixon (AD) explained that recent housing developments along with additional housing allocations set out in the draft local plan has been a consideration, however the crux of the problem is that the children are not coming to Ings. DM added that she has worked closely with colleagues in admissions who have allocated places to Ings but despite being oversubscribed last year only one pupil new to the school turned up at the start of term. A further question was raised asking could it not be an option to force parents to send their children to Ings. AD went on to explain the admissions process and explained schools have a duty to admit first preference if they have places available. Schools can also choose to admit over their published admission number if they are able to accommodate over that number.

A parent commented that DM has done everything in her power but felt that North Yorkshire should have stepped in earlier.

SA said that when the school first went into special measures in 2012 the LA, by law, had to consider closure. To prevent that happening the LA made every effort to improve educational outcomes at the school.

A parent talked about her dissatisfaction with the recent admissions process and said that her child had not been accepted at any one of the three preference schools she had applied for.

AD said he could not comment on her particular circumstances but explained the process that had been followed. What tends to happen when communities learn of the uncertainty of their school is that parents begin to move their children from that school. To avoid parents making preferences without full knowledge of provision in the area they were invited to meet with the admissions team and places have been offered following a mini admissions round. As part of that process transfer requests from pupils at other schools also had to be taken into consideration.

A parent asked if they didn't send their child to another school what would happen in September.

DM said the school would be open in September but will be operating under a different class structure. The decision on closure will not be taken until later in the autumn term and that decision cannot be pre-judged. The school will continue to operate but if the decision is to close the earliest this could happen is at the end of the autumn term.

A parent raised concern over the school her child had been offered a place saying the distance was such that she had no way of getting her child to that school. She asked if support could be given by way of transport.

AD said there are occasions where exceptions can be made but without knowing the particular circumstances in this case it was difficult to comment. AD advised having a conversation outside of this meeting to discuss further.

A grandparent felt that if it is the case that only two or three pupils are expected back at this school in September the LA should be honest with parents that the outcome of the consultation is likely to be closure.

AD said the position on pupil numbers for September is uncertain and no decisions have been made. Offers of alternative places have been made to nearly all pupils but there is no certainty that those offers will be taken up in September.

We now have a situation where other schools will be over-subscribed, what assurances will North Yorkshire give to ensure high standards are met in those schools? SA said that individual schools make a judgement about admitting over their published admission number and this is done with careful consideration and headteachers would not do so if they felt it would impact on the quality of teaching. AD added that it should be noted that given the number of schools involved and the age range of pupils, the actual impact is that no one particular year group has increased significantly at any of the schools involved.

What about housing and additional numbers coming into the town?

AD confirmed that proposed new housing in the town would lead to additional places being required and options are currently being looked into for how those places could be provided in Skipton. **A further question was asked about whether the LA could make new parents coming into the town send their children to Ings.** AD confirmed this would not be possible as parental preference and admission laws would apply to them in the same way.

What about the other school that has gone into special measures?

The school in question has received a lot of support from advisers recently in an attempt to bring them out of special measure and a support plan has been in place. A positive outcome from a recent Ofsted visit is expected and new leadership is in place which should see the school improve further over the next year.

What will North Yorkshire do to ensure that a faith school would not be provided on the Ings site? AD said the LA has been working with the Regional Schools Commissioner recently looking at options available to

provide the places needed in Skipton and the LA has been clear that whatever is provided needs to be attractive to the whole community.

Can the community be given the opportunity to convince parents to send their children to this school, and what would happen if more pupils were to arrive than expected in September? AD explained that closure is not an officer decision and that in October when a report is produced for the Executive an update on current numbers will be included. This will ensure the Executive can make a decision based on the position at that time.

Why didn't we have a meeting with the community prior to meeting with parents?

DM explained the initial meeting with parents was arranged to explain the change in class structure and it was at that time parents began to question the likelihood of closure. This was before the decision was taken to commence consultation.

A grandparent said there is a need for the local community to lobby the support of the MP around change of national policy. The MP Representative said he would be happy to take any comments or views back to Julian Smith MP.

A member of staff commented that they have done everything they can to make the school attractive to parents.

A local resident commented that they had attended a school with only two classes when they were younger so why can't it work here?

SA said there are schools in North Yorkshire that work well with just two classes but financial pressures here does not make that viable. Educational sustainability is a concern due to issues around staff recruitment.

A comment was made that the community should have been consulted before now and felt the closure was already underway.

AD confirmed there are statutory processes that must be followed but assured the public this is a consultation and no decisions on closure have yet been made.

4. Closing remarks

Cllr Mulligan closed the meeting shortly after 8.45 and expressed thanks to all those involved and to the members of the community who had come along to the meeting.

Consultation Responses

Number	Comments	Interest
1	<p>You will be aware that Craven District Council are currently consulting on the Pre Publication Craven Local Plan, which, once adopted will set out the planning framework for Craven outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park for the period 2012-2032. NYCC Education has commented on previous drafts of this plan in terms of the number of houses proposed and the educational requirements resulting from this level of housing growth. NYCC Education have indicated that 1 or 2 new schools will be required in Skipton and that new classrooms will be required at surrounding village schools (details have been provided). The proposals to close Skipton Ings Community Primary School has not been raised by NYCC Education in response to past consultations on the Craven Local Plan. Given the current proposal it is hoped that NYCC Education will provide a detailed consultation response to the Pre Publication Craven Local Plan June 2017 in terms of future education requirements in Craven given the level of housing growth proposed in the draft Local Plan and the current proposal to close Ings Primary School, Skipton. Details of the Craven Local Plan consultation can be found at: http://www.cravencdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan</p>	Craven District Council
2	<p>NYCC have the perfect opportunity now to convert Ings Primary School into a Pupil Referral Unit for primary aged children and here are some reasons why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in primary schools are being witness to hitting, spitting, kicking, shouting, climbing furniture, swearing, throwing objects, screaming etc. from children who are in crisis because they simply cannot cope within a mainstream school. Classrooms have to be evacuated and this is damaging to the children in crisis and to those who witness it. Schools are also losing valuable teaching time. • All children should have access to the right learning environment from the beginning of their education, and not have to struggle on because there is no alternative long term provision for them. A fully supportive and positive educational experience is needed for all and this can be provided intensively at a PRU. • There is a Secondary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) on Keighley Road, Skipton but no Primary PRU and we have more Primary 	Parent of child who attends Christ Church School, Skipton

	<p>schools in the Skipton and Craven area than Secondary Schools. Having a Secondary PRU highlights a need for a Primary PRU where issues can be addressed earlier in a child's education. NYCC needs to support children from an earlier age so they can return to mainstream education, if this is appropriate for the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money is available when needed to provide one to one, or two to one, staff in mainstream schools to support individual children. This money could be re-directed into providing more intensive support to children in a PRU and makes sense on a long term financial level. 	
3	<p>I think closing a valuable school unit in Skipton is madness, especially when every other school aside one, is oversubscribed!? Why not keep the school setting and split one of the other oversubscribed schools into KS1 & KS2? Why waste a school when there's two many children? Sticking all the kids in brougham Street will only allow that to be oversubscribed further down the line. Spilt an already oversubscribed school to even put the numbers and free up space? Why turn it into an academy? Parents still won't want to send their children to an academy? Use the space for good, use it as a primary school, invest in the teaching and staff and allow Skipton to save this precious educational establishment.</p>	<p>Parent of pupil at Brougham Street School</p>
4	<p>If the school closes, it would be ideal for a Primary Pupil Referral Unit to serve the area.</p>	<p>Holistic therapy tutor working in Craven</p>
5	<p>Yes it should.</p>	<p>Parent of pupil at Cononley School</p>
6	<p>I teaching Keighley so out of NY but we have no classroom supports because everyone we do have works with specific children leaving no support for others. The children who have got places in a PRU have had a wait or one of my 6 year olds had to travel to Bradford for a place! We need more help in primaries and with the same view as nurture rooms / systems it needs tackling early to try to get children back into mainstream education early. I did some supply at the school and felt it was a great setting with some excellent staff and pupils.</p>	<p>Local resident Teacher at Nessfield Primary, Keighley</p>

7	It should be kept open and used as a primary PRU.	Governor at Cononley School
8	It is shortsighted. With other schools being oversubscribed and struggling with large numbers, plans to build 100s of homes in the area, there is a desperate need for a primary education facilities add to this that many of the parents have no form of transport and are now having to walk for miles in the Yorkshire weather just so their child can get to school. Let's also consider the impact this will have on other schools in the area.	Parent of pupil at Ings
9	I'm utterly disgusted that a school like Ings is being close, It's a hub of the local community ... I was at a meeting last night and I do feel that the decision has already been made and the council is just going through the motions	Parent of past pupil at Ings
10	I'm shocked that there is a proposal to close a school, from my understanding places are needed in the Skipton area and there has been a struggle for parents of children attending Ings primary to find suitable places for their children at other schools. One Skipton resident has put forward the idea of Ings Primary being turned into a Pupil Referral unit for primary, if Ings is to close as it currently is. I believe a PRU sounds like the next best option and would be beneficial for every child in the area.	Pupil at another school
11	Obviously my first view is that the school shouldn't be closed, especially since it services an area of Skipton that is otherwise a considerable distance from the other Primary Schools in Skipton. I also think that there needs to be more support for other Schools who will be taking in the children from Ings as well as for the families who have been offered places at Schools out of Skipton. If the School does close I strongly think that the premises should be converted into a Primary PRU, a service that is desperately needed for the Craven area!	Local resident
12	It really needs to be remain a school due to the increase in demand for places.	Local resident
13	I think it would be a terrible shame to lose this school. It seems really unfair on the people who live in the Broughton Road end of town not to have a local school they can easily walk to. I have been told they will now fall into the Gargrave catchment area - if this is true, it's completely unacceptable/ bonkers! I also understand that all the other primaries in town are	Parent of child who attends a local upper school

	<p>oversubscribed/ and or in special measures. Why would you close Ings when this is the case? There are various factors contributing to the falling numbers at Ings, not least of which is racism - the "white flight" to other local schools, which I saw when my own children were at Christchurch. This has been followed by the more aspirational Asian parents also applying "anywhere but Ings", as they don't want their children to be educated in isolation from the rest of the Skipton community. A community without a primary school will struggle even harder to feel like/ integrate as a community. There must be an alternative to closing Ings. If Ings does shut, it must retain an educational function and I feel very strongly this should be under NYCC control. Under no circumstances should it become a free school for any particular interest/ faith group. It has been suggested it would be suitable for conversion to a Primary PRU, which seems a sensible idea. I know from friends who work in, or have children at, local schools that there is a small but significant problem with primary-age children who can't cope in mainstream education disrupting their own and others' learning, sometimes for years on end. These children often receive (very costly) one-to-one support within the mainstream environment, but this isn't sufficient to address their complex needs. They need access to the intensive, appropriately qualified support only available in PRUs. And their classmates have a right not to have their education disrupted while this intensive support takes place. Some children struggle in mainstream education for the whole of primary school, only to end up in a secondary PRU later. It would make more sense financially, educationally and socially for them to receive the support of a PRU at an earlier age, hopefully avoiding the need for a PRU when they move up to secondary education.</p>	
14	<p>To whom it may concern these are my points as to why the school shouldn't close down because, 1 the children that have SEN in place are settled, 2 what about the impact on the schools in Skipton that are already packed to the rim and schools are already failing the current students. 3 the impact on the school children that are at the other schools that are in a routine! 4 The 300 new homes that Skipton is supposed to be getting where are these children going to go? 5 siblings that currently go to school due to practical reasons being split up now last time I checked no one can be in 2 places at once!</p>	Local resident
15	<p>We are having problems with older children playing football on Broughton Road Play Area to the extent that parents are preventing their younger children from playing there for fear of</p>	Skipton Town

	<p>injury. There have already been several reports of small children being hit in the face and/or knocked down by leather footballs and the problem seems to be getting worse. We've put up special signs asking older children not to play football in the play area but they just keep tearing them down. We are told that the problem may have been caused by older children being prevented from playing ball games at the nearby MUGA on Ings Road. We have heard from several children that they "can no longer play at Ings", since it was announced that the school is closing, and at least one parent has said that the holiday club has stopped her taking her children into the MUGA. From my point of view it is important that the MUGA remains available to the community whatever happens to the school; not just in the short term, to prevent our football problem in the play area, but for the longer term. Is there any way we can ensure that, if the school is closed, whoever buys the land – presumably for development – has to leave the MUGA in place and makes it available to the general public?</p>	Council
16	<p>I think its a disgrace. Poorly managed by NYCC, they have allowed the school to close by not intervening earlier. This consultation is a box ticking exercise and is trying to sweep the underlying issues of Ings being deemed and asain primary school under the carpet. NYCC needs to work with the local community to increase community cohesion, rather than take the easy way out.</p>	Local resident
17	<p>As you are aware one of Skipton's primary schools Ings is due for closure in December. I'm lucky because my daughter is not primary school age as of yet. If this school was to close this would put more pressure on the other schools in the area. Not to mention the fact that a lot of children that do attend Ings have special educational needs. Parents have been given other choices for schools but these are either unfit especially for the children that have SEN in place or have siblings and the school can't take both children. Apart from that Skipton is supposedly having 300 more homes built which is great but where are these children going to go? Parents have tried contacting you in regards to this matter and you have stated that you are either at other meetings etc, I can appreciate that, that maybe the case but this should be a priority as Skipton's MP.</p>	Parent

