

Co-Chair of Governors Letter Jan23 Rev 4

Emailed 16/01/2023 to Co-Chair of Governors Email: questions@wsp.org.uk

Dear Co-Chair of Governors

Proposal to NYCC to Close Eskdale School.

We are mindful of the assertions that finance, pupil numbers and educational opportunities have been the driver for the proposal to close Eskdale school. However, we have a number of concerns regarding this proposal, namely;

- Seemly indecent haste in the decision and consultation process
- Lack of consultation with parents and the wider community
- Lack of transparency over the decision making process
- Lack of present sixth form and skills training available necessitating 70% of pupils travelling for education, some outside North Yorkshire
- Appointment of three Head Teachers in the last year

In light of these concerns, we have a number of questions to which we request your written response;

1. What role has the Local Authority played in the process thus far?
2. What statutory guidance is being followed in this process?
3. What review of 11-19 education in Whitby has taken place in recent years, and if any, how has this influenced the decisions made?
4. What is the business case for this decision and what makes it viable?
5. What are the predictions for future pupil numbers aged 11-19?
6. What is the long term plan for education and skills training in Whitby & District?
7. How does the possible formation of an Academy under the proposed "Schools Bill" fit with this plan?

Whitby Community Network look forward to hearing from you in response to the questions raised above, as we believe this information should be available to all pupils, parents and residents of the school catchment area. An open and transparent process is necessary for residents and in particular parents to make an informed decision on an issue which will affect the sustainability of this area for many years to come.

Yours sincerely

Joyce Stangoe

Secretary, Whitby Community Network

Cc: J. Henshaw, Executive Head Teacher, NY Cllrs, SBC Cllrs, WTC, Parish Councils, NYCC Portfolio Holder for Education & Skill, MP for Scarborough and Whitby.