

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

Extract of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 (as amended):

Contact details

1. 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.

The proposal to close Hameldon Community College, Coal Clough Lane, Burnley, BB11 5BT is published by Lancashire County Council, the relevant local authority. Hameldon Community College is a community school. The local authority can be contacted at the following address: Learning and Skills Service, Room C24, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD.

Implementation

2. 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 on 31 August 2019, with implementation commencing from 31 August 2018. It is proposed to phase the closure of the school to minimise the impact on pupils. The table below sets out the proposed transition plan should a final decision be made to close Hameldon Community College:

Current year group	Movement of Pupils
Year 7	Will move to other local schools in September 2018 to continue Key Stage 3
Year 8	Will move to other local schools to complete Key Stage 3 in September 2018
Year 9	Will move to other local schools in time to start Key Stage 4 and GCSE options in September 2018
Year 10	Will be given the opportunity to remain on the roll at Hameldon to complete Key Stage 4 and leave 11-16 provision in August 2019
Year 11	Will remain on the roll at Hameldon to complete Key Stage 4 and leave 11-16 provision in August 2018

In this way, the pupils that will be directly affected by any closure of Hameldon Community College would be those in current year groups 7, 8 and 9, who would need to move to an alternative school for September 2018. The current year group 11 will be able to remain at the school until they complete their key stage 4 education and take their GCSEs. Arrangements will also be made for pupils currently in Year 10 to remain on roll at Hameldon Community College to complete their key stage 4 education, take their GCSEs and leave 11-16 provision in August 2019. Please note that the Year 10 pupils who opt to do this would be kept together as a group, but may not be educated on the current site of Hameldon Community College. Should the proposal be approved, the local authority will ensure that intensive support continues to be provided to the school with the aim of ensuring that the pupils who remain on roll receive a quality education and are not disadvantaged by the impact of closure.

Reason for closure

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

The reasons for the proposal are concerns about the quality of current educational standards, pupil numbers, and the school's financial deficit position.

Educational Attainment

The educational standards achieved by pupils at Hameldon Community College have been variable over the past five years and have only been above the Government's minimum standard in two of these years. In 2015, 36% of pupils gained 5 or more good GCSEs, including English and maths. In 2016, this situation deteriorated further, with only 21% of pupils gaining 5 or more good GCSEs, including English and maths. In addition, the school is also below the new 2016 'Progress 8' floor standard, placing the school in the bottom 3% nationally. Initial unvalidated data suggest there has been no improvement in the school's results in the 2017 exams.

Whilst it is acknowledged that a high proportion of pupils at the school are from disadvantaged backgrounds, their progress does not reach the Government's minimum requirement and does not currently compare well against other Lancashire schools with pupils of similar ability.

The table below shows the educational standards at all secondary schools in the area:

School	Progress 8		Attainment 8	% pupils obtaining A*-C GCSE grades in English and maths (Grade 4+ in 2016/17)				Ofsted Grade
	Score	Significance		Score	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	
Hameldon	-0.85	Significantly Low	35.1	56	42	30	(24)	Inadequate
Sir John Thursby	0.23	Significantly High	49.3	37	48	48	(59)	Good
Burnley High School	Not applicable as no pupils in Key Stage 4 yet							Good
Unity College	-0.15	Not Significant	47.2	44	44	56	(65)	Good
Blessed Trinity	-0.04	Not Significant	50.1	57	64	62	(58)	Good
Shuttleworth	-0.52	Significantly Low	40.9	41	37	46	(55)	Requires Improvement

The small size of the school and the extent of the financial challenge add considerably to the difficulty in making the necessary rapid improvements in education outcomes required to meet the Government's targets.

Despite the efforts of the school and the support of the local authority, Hameldon Community College has been unable to make sustained improvements over time and now these circumstances require the local authority to consider its future. The school is no longer in a position to provide an acceptable standard of education and is unable to deliver the required curriculum. In addition, due to the problems which the school has had in recruiting and retaining permanent teachers over many years, it is expected that the overall quality of teaching the students will receive after moving to other schools will improve.

Inspection Outcome

The latest published inspection of Hameldon Community College was in December 2017 when it was judged as Inadequate in all areas. Since 2007, the inspection history of the school has been poor, being placed in a category of concern four times and it has never been judged to be good overall. The school has not found it possible to sustain the improvements made with additional support from the local authority.

With regard to the education standards across the other state-funded secondary schools in Burnley, as judged by Ofsted, four are deemed to be 'Good' and one is deemed to be 'Requires Improvement'. This is Shuttleworth College, which is currently on track to be judged 'Good'.

Pupil Numbers and Parental Preference

The number of pupils attending Hameldon Community College has been falling for some years. It has experienced a 14% decline in the numbers on roll and a 34% decrease on intake into Year 7 over the last five years. As at the October 2017 School Census, the pupil numbers at the school were 216, compared to the capacity for 750.

The school is currently 70% empty and this looks set to continue as only 36 pupils expressed a first preference for joining the school in September 2017, falling from a high of 91 pupils in 2013. There are between 88 and 123 places left unfilled in each year group at the school, as at the October 2017 School Census.

As a result of the consultation which took place from 11 September to 20 October 2017, all parents who had expressed a preference for a place for their child at the school from September 2018 have been asked to put forward a further preference for another school, with the local authority providing support for pupils and parents in making the transition to another school.

The local authority's pupil projections take into account the number of pupils moving in to and out of the area (known as migration) as well as additional pupils resulting from new housing developments. Any new housing that is expected to come forward within five years has been included in the pupil projections for the Burnley area. The overall decline in pupil numbers across Burnley has started to reverse and there have been increases in the total number on roll in all but two schools in the area in recent years. This growth is expected to continue based on information contained within the Burnley Local Plan.

If Hameldon Community College were to close, there is sufficient capacity in other local schools to accommodate the current pupil population. However, without the capacity at the school, it is forecast that there will be a shortfall of 444 places in five years, taking account of the impact of planned housing and current levels of migration. Additional physical capacity will be required to accommodate these pupils, either in the existing school building or by the expansion of other schools. This capacity starts to be required from September 2018, when the total number on roll exceeds the current net capacity of all other secondary schools in Burnley.

Pupil numbers on roll in each year group as at the October 2017 School Census, together with the published admission numbers (PAN) and physical net capacities of the schools, were as follows:

School	Type	Number on Roll as at October 2017 School Census						PAN in 2018	Net Capacity
		Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total		
Hameldon	C	27	45	39	43	62	216	150	750
Sir John Thursby	FT	216	227	212	212	201	1068	225	1125
Burnley High School	FS	120	91	87	46	0	344	90	450
Unity College	FT	251	250	217	202	191	1111	240	1200
Blessed Trinity	VA	266	264	258	256	245	1289	250	1290
Shuttleworth	FT	152	153	137	129	158	729	210	1050
Total		1032	1030	950	888	857	4757	1165	5865

(C = Community; FT = Foundation Trust; FS = Free School; and VA = Voluntary Aided)

There is evidence that schools with a small number of pupils may experience challenges in providing diversity within the curriculum as school budgets are largely determined by the numbers of pupils on roll. Schools with falling pupil numbers are unable to maintain the same staffing levels, so the choice of subjects may be affected and there may be challenges around staff recruitment and retention. This can lead to lower pupil attainment as measured by Ofsted and GCSE results, which often results in lower pupil admissions to Year 7 and leads to an even further reduced budget in the following year. Once schools find themselves in this cycle, it is very difficult for the situation to be reversed unless there is a rapid and significant increase in pupil numbers across the whole area.

Staffing

Recent staffing cuts made in an attempt to curb the increase in the school's significant budget deficit mean that the school does not, in the local authority's opinion, have the capacity to make the required improvements. The school continues to struggle to recruit and retain good teachers, particularly in subjects such as mathematics, and is currently reliant on a disproportionate number of supply teachers to fill staffing gaps. Currently, a third of the staff in the school are either temporary or employed on a supply basis and this has impacted on the curriculum they are able to offer, the quality of teaching, pupil behaviour and, inevitably, upon educational outcomes.

Following the retirement of the Headteacher in August 2016, and bearing in mind the school's budgetary position and uncertainty over its future, an attempt to recruit a permanent replacement Headteacher has been deferred as it is highly unlikely that governors would be able to recruit someone with the experience and quality that the school requires. A new Acting Headteacher is currently in place at the school, with a commitment to remain in post until the future of the school is determined and permanent arrangements can be made.

Financial Viability

With regard to their financial position, the school has been running a large deficit for a number of years and a significant amount of time and professional resources have been allocated to this school by the local authority. By law, schools must set a balanced budget. Unfortunately, the school is not able to set a balanced budget, which means that it is no longer financially viable.

As at 31 March 2017, the school held a cumulative deficit balance of £2.2m which is forecast to increase by £0.3m in the current 2017-18 financial year, taking the overall cumulative deficit to £2.5m. The current 3 year forecast for the school indicates that this cumulative deficit is likely to exceed £3.8m by March 2020. The financial position of Hameldon Community College has been in steady decline over the last 4 years, with annual deficits forecast to increase from 2016-17 onwards.

Consultation

The stage 1 consultation period ran from 11 September to 20 October 2017. During the consultation period, a total of 124 responses had been received by non-pupils, such as staff, parents, governors and members of the community. The school undertook a consultation with its pupils and 108 responses were received as a result of this. In addition, a consultation event was held at the school on 11 October 2017. At this event, 29 appointments took place, with 43 interested parties in attendance.

Conclusion

The local authority has concerns that Hameldon Community College is not able to implement and sustain the required improvements in standards. Taking into account the small and reducing number of pupils, the challenging nature of the intake resulting from parental preferences and the pattern of low attainment and progress, it is unlikely that the school will be able to implement and sustain continued improvement over time. It is considered that the school will continue to experience significant challenges in providing a good quality of education, as defined by the current inspection framework. There are also concerns that the school will be unable to deliver an appropriate secondary curriculum, of sufficient range and breadth of subjects and with appropriate specialist teachers, to all levels of pupils, across all key stages.

As evidenced from the information above, the status quo position is untenable given the educational standards, pupil numbers and financial deficit. The local authority has a statutory duty to secure high quality school places for its residents. A failure to address the decline in educational standards, falling numbers and consequent concerns around the future educational viability of the school runs the risk of the authority being seen by the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted to be failing in its statutory responsibilities. Alternative school places can be secured for current pupils affected by the proposed closure.

Pupil numbers and admissions

4. 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.

Hameldon Community College is a co-educational day secondary school, providing for pupils of all abilities. The published admission number of the school is 150 and the physical (net) capacity of the school is 750. As at the October 2017 school census, there were 115 male and 101 female pupils aged between 11 and 16 on roll.

A Hearing Impairment Special Educational Resource Facility (SERF) is located at Hameldon Community College. This provides additional resourced provision for up to 18 students with hearing impairments. In September 2017, there were five pupils within the SERF. During the Stage 1 consultation process, two of these pupils expressed a preference to move school and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Service at the local authority accommodated these moves. The three remaining pupils in the SERF are all from within the east geographical area of Lancashire.

In 2017, the national figures for SEND showed that 2.8% of children had an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) or a Statement and 11.6% had identified special educational needs or disabilities without an EHC Plan or a Statement. The statistics at Hameldon Community College are as follows:

	January 2017	January 2016	January 2015	January 2014	January 2013
SEND with EHC Plan or Statement	3.7%	3.1%	5.4%	3.5%	3.7%
SEND without EHC Plan or Statement	31.7%	28.8%	29%	23.2%	21.8%

Displaced pupils

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

Pupil numbers on roll in each year group as at the October 2017 School Census, together with the published admission numbers (PAN) and physical net capacities of the schools, were as follows:

School	Number on Roll as at October 2017 School Census						PAN in 2018	Net Capacity
	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total		
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If Hameldon Community College were to close, there is sufficient capacity in other local schools to accommodate the current pupil population. However, without the capacity at the school, it is forecast that there will be a shortfall of 444 places in five years, taking account of the impact of planned housing and current levels of migration. Additional physical capacity will be required to accommodate these pupils, either in the existing school building or by the expansion of other schools. The need for additional places in Year 7 starts to be required from September 2018, when the projected Year 7 intake exceeds the combined admission number of all other secondary schools in Burnley. The need for additional capacity is then required as the total number on roll exceeds the total net capacity of the existing schools in September 2019.

The forecast requirement for secondary school places in Burnley over the next five years can be seen in the table below:

Autumn 2017 Forecast Data and 2016 Housing Land Supply	Pupil Places
Net capacity of Burnley secondary schools (11-16 capacity)	5865
Current number of pupils on roll, as at September 2017	4757
Projected number on roll in 5 years, excluding housing and migration impact	5465
Projected number on roll in 5 years, including housing and migration impact	5559
Surplus places in Burnley in 5 years, including housing and migration	306
Surplus places in Burnley in 5 years, excluding 750 place capacity at Hameldon Community College	-444

6. Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including:
- any interim arrangements;
 - 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
 - in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

There is a wide diversity of secondary school provision in the Burnley district comprising one community school; three foundation (trust) schools; one voluntary aided Catholic school; and one free school. Education standards, as judged by Ofsted, range from 'Good' to 'Inadequate' and, as at the October 2017 School Census, pupil numbers range from below 220 in the smallest school to almost 1,300 in the largest. It should be noted that the free school only has four year groups at present, having only been established in 2014.

- It is proposed to phase the closure of the school to minimise the impact on pupils. The table below sets out the proposed transition plan should a final decision be made to close Hameldon Community College:

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In this way, the pupils that will be directly affected by any closure of Hameldon Community College would be those in current year groups 7, 8 and 9, who would need to move to an alternative school for September 2018. The current year group 11 will be able to remain at the school until they complete their key stage 4 education and take their GCSEs. Arrangements will also be made for pupils currently in Year 10 to remain on roll at Hameldon Community College to complete their key stage 4 education, take their GCSEs and leave 11-16 provision in August 2019. Please note that the Year 10 pupils who opt to do this would be kept together as a group, but may not be educated on the current site of Hameldon Community College.

All parents who had expressed a preference for a place for their child at the school from September 2018 have been asked to put forward a further preference for another school, with the local authority providing support for pupils and parents in making the transition to another school. Parents are free to express a preference for a place at another school at any point and under any circumstances. Any such request would be dealt with as normal in-year admissions.

- b) The Special Educational Resource Facility (SERF) located at Hameldon Community College is commissioned by the local authority through the Schools Forum High Needs Block funding. A Suitability and Sufficiency study is currently being undertaken with all of the special schools, SERFs and short stay schools in Lancashire. The draft report will be produced by the end of March 2018 and a consultation will take place with stakeholders and partners. During this period, the local authority's SEND Service will continue to work with the three young people and their families remaining at the Hameldon SERF to identify an alternative provider to meet their special educational needs.
- c) Not applicable.

7. 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.

The 'Displaced pupils' section above confirms that there are sufficient places at neighbouring schools to admit the current pupils from Hameldon Community College. The local authority will endeavour to secure places in accordance with parental preferences wherever possible. If necessary, the local authority will negotiate with schools to admit above their published admission number in order to satisfy parental preference.

Impact on the community

8. 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 local authority recognises that the closure of a school can impact on the wider community.

The vast majority of, if not all, schools provide community activities and/or facilities and, if a school is closed, these are normally provided by other schools or are picked up by other organisations in the area.

Hameldon Community College has a range of facilities which are available for use by the local community or businesses, such as sporting and recreational facilities as well as meeting rooms and function facilities. During the 2017 calendar year, 13 different groups have used the community facilities at the school in the evenings. The facilities being used are as follows: dance studio, sports hall, all weather pitch and grass football pitch. The activities being undertaken have included football, netball, rounders and cricket. The facilities are available for use by the community from Monday to Friday, between 4.30pm and 9.00pm. It is noted that the facilities are used extensively during the period October to April. However, usage reduces during April to September as local grass football pitches can be used free of charge.

The community facilities at Hameldon Community College are easily accessible for all families in the area, including those who rely on public transport. However, in order to retain the facilities at the school they would need to be completely self-funding and self-managing. If any such organisation wishes to inherit the facilities as a community asset it would need to be on the basis that they were operated without the need for revenue funding from either the Borough or the County Council. If Hameldon Community College

is closed, the community facilities will be unavailable from the point at which the closure takes place.

Rural Primary Schools

9. 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 local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered section 15(4):

N/A

Balance of denominational provision

10. 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

Maintained nursery schools

11. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the local authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the 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
- b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

N/A

Sixth Form Provision

12. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, the effect for 16 to 19 year olds in the area that closure will have in respect of:

- a) their educational or training achievements;
- b) their participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.

N/A

Special educational provision

13. Where existing provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) believe the proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

The Special Educational Resource Facility (SERF) located at Hameldon Community College is a commissioned by the local authority through the Schools Forum High Needs Block funding for 18 places. There are currently three pupils within this facility.

The SERF is led by a specialist Teacher of the Deaf, supported by other colleagues and external agencies trained to meet the individual needs of these young people. The three hearing impaired students are fully included in the life of the school, attending the majority of their lessons in mainstream classes and being full members of a tutor group.

A Suitability and Sufficiency study is currently being undertaken with all of the special schools, SERFs and short stay schools in Lancashire. The draft report will be produced by the end of March 2018 and a consultation will take place with stakeholders and partners. During this period, the local authority's SEND Service will continue to work with the three young people and their families remaining at the Hameldon SERF to identify an alternative provider to meet their special educational needs.

Travel

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

The closest alternative schools measured by walking distance from Hameldon Community College are:

Burnley High School	2.0 miles
Blessed Trinity RC College	2.2 miles
Shuttleworth College	2.2 miles
Unity College	2.4 miles
Sir John Thursby Community College	3.1 miles

Eligibility for home to school transport is measured from the child's permanent home address to school so the above distances are only a guide as to the possible distances. The local authority will provide transport assistance to the following groups of pupils who live in Lancashire and attend Hameldon Community College at the time that their year group is scheduled to move to another school:

- Pupils who live over 3 miles* away from the school they move to provided it is their nearest suitable school
- Pupils who live over 3 miles* away from their allocated school even when it is not their nearest suitable school (this is an exception to current policy)

*For those pupils from low income families (these are pupils who are eligible for free school meals or the parents are receiving the maximum amount of working tax credit) then travelling expenses will be awarded where the school they move to is one of their three nearest schools from their home and the distance from home to the school is between **two** and six miles.

If parents want local practical advice on school transport, they can contact the East Area Pupil Access team on 01254 220708.

In addition, free transport must also be provided where walking routes are not suitable, regardless of the distance from home to the nearest school.

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

It is likely that this proposal will lead to an increased use of transport, although it is difficult to provide an estimate for this increase as it depends on the alternative schools chosen by parents.

Where transport is provided by the local authority, the type of transport provided is at our discretion. If your child is entitled to free transport to and from school, the local authority will normally provide them with a travel pass for a bus service, a contracted vehicle, such as a coach or minibus, or a railway service. In exceptional circumstances, a taxi may be provided.