

## MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE HENDON BROOK SHORT STAY 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 Hendon Brook Short Stay School, Townhouse Road, Nelson, BB9 8BP is published by Lancashire County Council, the relevant local authority. The local authority can be contacted at the following address: Education, Quality and Performance Service, Room 2:27, Lancashire County Council, 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 2020. No pupils are currently being educated at the school site. All have been found places at other schools in the area. Consequently, there will be no stages of closure.

#### **Reason for closure**

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

The proposal arises due to a fall in educational standards and the availability of placements for pupils at other establishments.

##### Low educational standards

The most recent Ofsted inspection of the school took place in November 2019, rating the school as inadequate and in need of special measures in order to improve. This followed the Ofsted inspection of April 2017, which also rated the school as in need of special measures. The local authority is of the opinion that the school has not shown sufficient evidence of improvement during this period.

##### Conversion to an academy

In line with national policy, the Regional Schools' Commissioner and the local authority sought to convert the school to an alternative provision academy in order to prompt improvements at the school. Despite repeated attempts, a sponsor could not be found to lead this conversion.

##### Pupil numbers

As of January 2020, the school had 12 pupils on roll, none of whom were being educated on the Hendon Brook site, which has a capacity for 34 pupils. It is anticipated that all pupils will have been found places at other educational establishments by August 2020.

##### Consultation

Between 9 September and 18 October 2019, the stage 1 consultation took place. During this consultation period, a total of seven responses were received from staff, governors and members of the community. In addition, a consultation event was held at the school on 25 September 2019. At this event, eight interested parties attended.

#### Conclusion

The local authority has concerns that Hendon Brook Short Stay School is no longer able to provide the standard of education required. The local authority is satisfied that alternative places can be secured for pupils affected by the proposed closure within a reasonable travelling distance.

#### **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.

Hendon Brook Short Stay School is a pupil referral unit (PRU), providing primary day education for pupils who have been permanently excluded from primary schools or are at risk of exclusion. The capacity of the school is 34. As of January 2020, there are 12 pupils on roll, none of whom are being educated on the school site. None of these pupils currently has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

#### **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.

If Hendon Brook Short Stay School were to close, there is sufficient capacity in other local schools to accommodate pupils. Those who remain on the school's roll are already being educated off-site, principally at Cribden House School in Rawtenstall and the Rose School in Burnley. School places for these pupils will have been identified well before August 2020, and negotiations are already well advanced to secure these places. The nature of a short stay school, where two terms attendance or less is the norm, means that the vast majority of pupils would have moved to new schools by August 2020, whether or not Hendon Brook closes. Forecasts strongly indicate that there will be sufficient capacity in other schools to accommodate potential future admissions.

6. 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 authority which maintains the school.

There are several alternative providers within the local area, many of which are nearer to pupils' homes than currently. Given the nature of pupils' individual needs, these providers encompass mainstream primary and secondary schools, special schools and alternative providers. The local authority's focus is on providing places at establishments rated as good or better by Ofsted.

- a) Interim arrangements for the remaining pupils on roll are outlined in section 5. At

the point of the proposed closure, there will be no pupils remaining on the school roll.

- b) There are no pupils at the school who are receiving educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with 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.

Section 6 confirms that there are sufficient places at alternative providers in the area at the point of the proposed closure. The local authority is reorganising the way in which it meets the needs of pupils at risk of exclusion to increase the availability of more suitable places.

### **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, particularly when a school is on a shared site, as is the case with this proposal. Measures have been put in place to maintain and secure the school building and surroundings to avoid any adverse effect on the site.

There are no facilities on the school site to which the local community has regular access. The entrance drive to the site, which is also used to gain access to the neighbouring nursery school and to a footpath across farmland will be maintained to the required standard.

### **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):

Hendon Brook Short Stay School is not deemed by the Department for Education's categorisation to be a rural school.

### **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.

Not applicable.

### **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.

Not applicable.

### **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.

Not applicable.

### **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.

Not applicable.

### **Travel**

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

Hendon Brook admits pupils from across four districts of Lancashire: Pendle, Burnley, Hyndburn and Rossendale. As a consequence, many current pupils have significant journeys to school. Alternative provision will be arranged as close to pupils' homes as possible, and for many pupils this will result in reduced journey times. For a small number there may be slightly increased journey times. Initial estimates indicate that overall journey times will be reduced.

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 not lead to any increased use of transport as many of the proposed alternatives will be nearer to pupils' homes, although it is difficult to provide an accurate estimate for this as it depends on the range of alternative school places offered. It is the intention of the local authority to try to offer places on a district rather than a regional basis, which should reduce the distances involved.

Where transport is provided by the local authority, the type of transport provided is at our discretion. If a 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.