

## Appendix A

### 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 discontinue Glenburn Sports College, Yewdale, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6JB, is published by Lancashire County Council, the relevant local authority. Glenburn Sports College is a foundation school. The local authority can be contacted at the following address: Directorate for Children and Young People, Provision Planning Team, Room B34, PO Box 61, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ, Lancashire.

##### **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 2016. It is proposed to phase the closure over two years with some year groups leaving the school on 31 August 2015. Below is the proposed transition plan should a final decision be made to close Glenburn Sports College:

Pupils in current year group 11	Will be able to remain at Glenburn unaffected by the proposal and will leave school in July 2015 as planned
Pupils in current year group 10	Will remain at Glenburn to finish key stage 4 and take their GCSEs, leaving Glenburn in July 2016
Pupils in current year group 9	Will move to a receiving school in time to start key stage 4 and GCSE options for September 2015
Pupils in current year group 8	Will remain at Glenburn to complete key stage 3 and move to a receiving school for September 2016 to start year 10
Pupils in current year group 7	Will move to a receiving school for September 2015 to continue key stage 3
Pupils who have a Y7 place offer for Glenburn for September 2015	Confirmation of a guaranteed alternative offer for Lathom High will be available and parents will be informed of their rights to seek places at other schools and academies. There will be no intake to Year 7 at Glenburn in September 2015.

##### **Reason for closure**

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

The reasons for the proposed closure are three fold: low educational standards; low pupil numbers and financial non-viability.

### Educational Attainment

Pupil attainment at Glenburn, as measured by raw results (the percentage of pupils obtaining 5 A\* - C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics); the percentage of pupils making expected progress (which takes into account pupil ability); and OFSTED is poor. The following table provides the information for Glenburn Sports College and other schools in the area over the past five years:

School	% pupils making expected progress		% of pupils obtaining 5 A* - C grades at GCSE including English and maths					Ofsted Grade
	English	Maths	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	
Glenburn	44	41	38	29	39	41	27	Inadequate
Lathom	63	72	47	50	49	67	43	Req. Imp.
Up Holland	73	80	53	53	69	58	68	Inadequate
OLQP	56	66	51	62	62	66	46	Good

From these results it can be seen that attainment at Glenburn Sports College has remained at or below government floor standards over time and below the attainment and progress levels of other schools in the area by a significant margin. However, it is important to recognise that Glenburn Sports College has more than twice as many pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds than any of its neighbouring schools.

On 25 November 2014, Glenburn Sports College received its second monitoring inspection since it was placed in special measures in March 2014. The Inspection concluded that the school was not making enough progress towards the removal of special measures. The report stated that the school needed to improve the quality of teaching and urgently improve the impact of leadership and management, though it recognised the context in which the school was working. There is a range of recent factors around falling pupil numbers, staff leaving and the consultation on closure itself which clearly contribute to exacerbating the challenges around school improvement, even though the acting head teacher is committed to the school and has the support of a loyal leadership team and there is strong support from the local authority.

The local authority has provided intensive support to Glenburn Sports College since 2008. However, this support has not yielded a sustained improvement at the school and the quality of educational provision remains at an unacceptable standard.

### Pupil Numbers and Parental Preference

Overall pupil numbers in secondary schools across Lancashire fell significantly over the past ten years, due to a 17% fall in the birth rate between 1992/93 and 2002/03. In the Skelmersdale area (including Upholland), the declining birth rate has led to a 24% fall in secondary school pupil numbers between 2005/06 and 2013/14. There are now 36% surplus places amongst the four schools in the area and pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly in the near future.

Between 2005/06 and 2013/14 both Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) Catholic High School and Lathom High School have almost maintained their pupil numbers; the decline in pupil numbers at Upholland High School mirrors the decline in overall numbers at around 25%; whilst Glenburn Sports College has experienced a 54% fall in pupil numbers.

Pupil numbers on roll in each year group as at Spring 2015 together with the published admission numbers (PAN) and physical net capacities of the schools (Net Cap) were as follows:

School	Type	Number on Roll Spring 2015*						PAN	Net Cap
		Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total		
Glenburn	FT	64	63	61	61	79	328	167	1020
Lathom	FT	87	97	89	129	146	548	160	861
Upholland	C	105	120	142	112	154	633	180	900
OLQP	VA	191	184	153	142	163	833	185	945
Totals		447	464	445	444	542	2,342	692	3726

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

\*provisional figures for the Spring term census and subject to minor change

It is generally desirable to have secondary schools of at least 600 pupils and above in order to manage a sustainable staffing structure that can deliver a diverse and quality curriculum. The table above shows the following:

- Glenburn Sports College is now a very small secondary school with 328 pupils on roll;
- Lathom High School has two larger year groups in Year 10 and Year 11 and, once these have left, pupil numbers are likely to be much lower at between 450 and 500 pupils;
- There are between 150 and 248 places left unfilled in each year group; and
- If Glenburn Sports College was to close, the other schools have sufficient places to provide for pupils in the area

Future secondary age pupil numbers in the Skelmersdale area suggest that three schools are sufficient for the area in the medium term.

Glenburn Sports College has had low numbers of first preference applications for some time and other schools in the area are and have been more popular as evidenced below:

First Preference Applications and Intake Year							
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	PAN*
Glenburn	49	64	62	77	71	82	167
Lathom	78	70	87	108	145	167	160
Up Holland	88	103	128	136	112	153	180
OLQP	209	226	187	157	149	163	185
Totals	424	463	464	478	477	565	692

\*Published Admission Number

#### Financial Viability

As a result of falling pupil numbers and changes to school funding, Glenburn Sports College now experiences significant budgetary difficulties. A considerable accumulated deficit of around £450,000 is anticipated for the current financial year. The Scheme for Financing Schools in Lancashire requires the Governing Body to establish a budget which does not result in an accumulated deficit at year end; in such cases a financial recovery plan is required. In the case of Glenburn Sports College a stabilisation plan is initially required to address the situation. If no action is taken, the deficit is expected to double and then triple in 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively, given the predicted continued decline in pupil numbers. The action plan will need to consider a radical reshaping of the curriculum offer and a reduction in staffing accordingly. This, in turn, will present further

challenges to improving education standards to the school.

### Conclusion

The local authority has concerns that Glenburn Sports College will not be able to drive through the required sustained improvements in standards. Taking into account the small and reducing pupil roll, the challenging nature of the intake resulting from parental preferences and the pattern of low attainment and progress, there is concern that the school will not have sufficient capacity to 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 at all key stages.

### Consultation

The stage 1 consultation period ran from 3 November to 14 December 2014. During the consultation period a total of 244 responses were received. A consultation event was held at the school on 20 November 2014. Staff at Glenburn Sports College also carried out a consultation with pupils from the school.

### **Pupil numbers and admissions**

4. The numbers (distinguish 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 made at the school.

Glenburn Sports College is a co-educational day secondary school providing for pupils of all abilities. The published admission number of the school is 167 and the physical (net) capacity of the school is 1,020. At the spring 2015 termly school census there were 177 male and 151 female pupils aged between 11 and 16 on roll.

Glenburn Sports College does not have a designated special education facility or reserved places for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). In 2013, the national figures for SEND were: 2.8% of children had statements of SEND and 16% had identified SEND without statements. The statistics at Glenburn Sports College are as follows:

	Jan 2015	Jan 2014	Jan 2013	Jan 2012	Jan 2011
SEN Statemented	3.4%	3.1%	5.4%	3.5%	3.7%
SEN Non- Statemented		28.8%	29%	23.2%	21.8%
New EHCP*	11.6%				

\*New Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) introduced as part of the SEND reforms in September 2014

### **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.

Current numbers on roll at the schools are as follows (Spring term 2015 provisional):

School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total	PAN*
Glenburn	64	63	61	61	79	328	167
Lathom	87	97	89	129	146	548	160
Up Holland	105	120	142	112	154	633	180
OLQP	191	184	153	142	163	833	185
Totals	447	464	445	444	542	2,342	692

\*Published Admission Number

This information demonstrates that there are sufficient places available at other schools with higher educational standards than Glenburn should the school close; and that these places are available at both Lathom and Up Holland High schools in the main. Should Glenburn Sports College close and the pupils be allocated to the remaining schools in Skelmersdale there would still be between 60 and 80 surplus places per year amongst the remaining schools in each of the year groups 7 to 9.

The guarantee of a place at Lathom High School does not prevent parents from applying for other schools and Up Holland High School has available places in Year 7 to 9 for most current Glenburn children.

The secondary pupil roll projections for the Skelmersdale area, which take into account parental preferences (and thus pupil migration into and out of the area) and adds pupil yield for all potential future housing development in the area, are as follows:

	Projected Intakes to Y7 at September										
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Glenburn, Lathom and OLQP Total	354	368	351	371	383	363	362	344	339	343	336
Grand Total including Up Holland	480	499	476	503	520	492	491	466	459	465	455

The total number of places available, should Glenburn Sports College close, is 525 and it is predicted that there will be sufficient places available in the area for all year groups for the foreseeable future.

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.

- a) It is proposed that Lathom High School be named as the receiving school in any proposals to close Glenburn Sports College. This would mean that pupils at Glenburn would be guaranteed a place at Lathom but it still allows parents to express a preference and secure a place at an alternative secondary school, if this is wanted and places are available. The benefits of this approach are that it provides a degree of security for pupils whilst the proposals are being consulted upon and it facilitates a smoother transition to the receiving school as the two schools can work closely together in terms of curriculum planning and transfer of pupil information prior to the closure.

Like Glenburn, Lathom High School is a Foundation Trust School; its admission criteria are identical to Glenburn's with the schools sharing the geographical priority area of Skelmersdale; and pupil residence maps are very similar with almost all pupils at both schools living in Skelmersdale.

Lathom High School has higher pupil numbers than Glenburn and higher levels of attainment as measured by both Ofsted and the percentage of pupils achieving 5A\* - C GCSE grades. Whilst the Ofsted report for Lathom graded the school as 'Requires Improvement' overall, this contained two 'Good' grades for leadership and management and the behaviour and safety of pupils. Should Glenburn close and the majority of pupils transfer to Lathom High School, the Local Authority will provide capital investment into the site and premises of Lathom High in order to address condition and suitability issues.

When a secondary school closes it is vitally important to secure the continued curriculum options chosen by those pupils in Year 10. For this reason it is proposed that, should the proposals to close Glenburn be approved, the school would have a phased closure with pupils transferring to receiving schools by year group as follows:

Pupils in current year group 11	Will be able to remain at Glenburn unaffected by the proposal and will leave school in July 2015 as planned
Pupils in current year group 10	Will remain at Glenburn to finish key stage 4 and take their GCSEs, leaving Glenburn in July 2016
Pupils in current year group 9	Will move to a receiving school in time to start key stage 4 and GCSE options for September 2015
Pupils in current year group 8	Will remain at Glenburn to complete key stage 3 and move to a receiving school for September 2016 to start year 10
Pupils in current year group 7	Will move to a receiving school for September 2015 to continue key stage 3
Pupils who have a Y7 place offer for Glenburn for September 2015	Confirmation of a guaranteed alternative offer for Lathom High will be available and parents will be informed of their rights to seek places at other schools and academies. There will be no intake to Year 7 at Glenburn in September 2015.

In this way, the pupils that will be directly affected by any closure of Glenburn would be those in current year groups 7 and 9 who would need to move to an alternative school for September 2015 and current year group 8 who would need to move to an alternative school for September 2016. Current year groups 10 and 11 will be able to remain at Glenburn until they complete their key stage 4 and take their GCSEs. However, parents are free to express a preference for

other schools at any point and under any circumstances. In these circumstances, any requests for transfer will be dealt with as normal in-year admissions.

- b) There is no provision at Glenburn Sports College reserved for pupils 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.

The 'Displaced pupils' section above confirms that there are sufficient places at neighbouring schools to admit pupils from Glenburn Sports 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. The local authority is the admitting authority for the community school in the area.

### **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, if a school is closed, these activities are normally provided for by other schools or are picked up by other organisations in the area.

Glenburn Sports College has a range of outdoor and indoor sports facilities that are used by the school; other schools; community clubs and the public. There are 303 hirers currently using the facilities throughout the year and the facilities are available for wider community use in the week day evenings and at weekends.

West Lancashire Borough Council (WLBC) is currently conducting a Strategic Review of Sports and Leisure Facilities in Skelmersdale and has identified a need for a new 'wet and dry' sports centre to serve the area (this has been identified regardless of the future of Glenburn). The view of WLBC is that there is sufficient outdoor provision, including AstroTurf pitches, at various locations around Skelmersdale and in particular at Blaguegate, and that no further provision needs to be established, even if the facilities at Glenburn are closed. There is spare capacity at Blaguegate which can easily be accessed by most groups and individuals who use the Glenburn pitches, most of whom live outside of the area and / or drive in.

With regard to the indoor facilities, West Lancs College has an Arts Theatre and other secondary schools have indoor sports facilities that could be utilised by the public.

Clearly, the community facilities at Glenburn are easily accessible for all families in the area, including those that rely on public transport. However, in order to retain the facilities at Glenburn they would need to be completely self-funding and self-managing. West Lancashire School Sports Partnership is based at Glenburn and delivers a physical education and sports service to a network of primary, secondary and special schools across West Lancashire. 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 Glenburn Sports College is closed, the facilities at Glenburn will be available until August 2016. In the meantime, the County Council will work with WLBC and West Lancashire School Sports Partnership or any other interested groups who may wish to establish a viable social enterprise or community interest company.

### **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 LA 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.

N/A

### Travel

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

The closest alternative schools measured by walking distance from Glenburn Sports College are:

Maharishi Secondary School	1.55 miles
Lathom High School	1.68 miles
Our Lady Queen Of Peace RC High School	1.80 miles
Up Holland High School	3.46 miles

Eligibility for home to school transport is measured from the child's permanent home address to school so the above distances are a guide only to possible distances.

The local authority will provide transport assistance to the following groups of pupils who live in Lancashire and attend Glenburn Sports College at the time that their year group is scheduled to move to another school:

- Pupils that live over 3 miles\* away from the school they move to (whether it is Lathom High School or another school) provided it is their nearest suitable school;
- Pupils that live over 3 miles\* away from Lathom High School even when it is not their nearest suitable school (this is an exception to current policy and will be extended to pupils currently in Year 6 who would have gone on to attend Glenburn Sports College in September 2015 if the school remained open)

\*For those pupils from low income families (these are pupils who are eligible for free school meals or whose parent(s) 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.

In addition, the local authority will investigate any routes that are claimed to be unsuitable in accordance with current policy, and will provide free transport to any pupil where there is no alternative but to use an unsuitable route, regardless of distance from home to 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.

The transport provided by the local authority for eligible pupils will be in the form of contracted bus services. If there is any spare capacity on these buses fare paying pupils may also use them.

The Skelmersdale area is served by a system of paved footpaths that are away from the traffic and present traffic safe transport corridors for pupils who travel to school on foot or by bike.