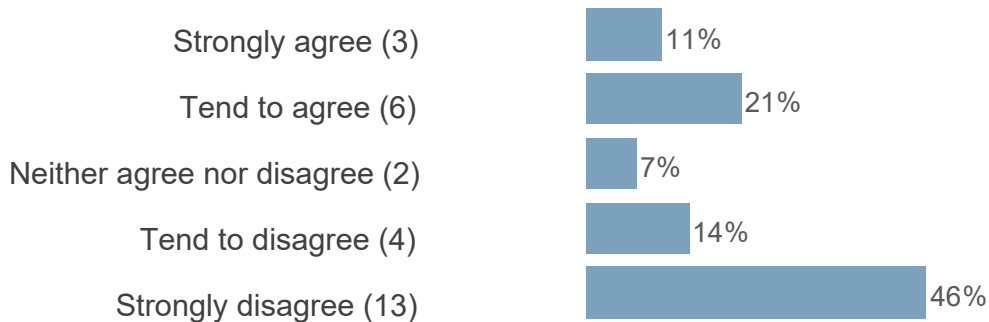


Bleasdale formal consultation

The following provide top line summary of results from the online survey which generated 30 responses.

We are proposing to close the residential provision at Bleasdale School.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposal? *Please tick one option only*



Why do you say this?

I still have grave concerns around closing the residential part of the school when there are a lot of pupils and families who would benefit from the provision. I think it's confusing in what the proposal is around, as I think there are lots of provision options for residential still available including when the pupil grows past school age e.g. 19, short breaks residential care, pupils residential that could attend the school, term time only. To be clear I strongly disagree, and would like to further explore residential options.

Hello all, I just wanted to share my views regarding the Bleasdale residential provision. I'm of the opinion that the residential provision continues. Our special kids already have more restricted options of care compared to the general population that closing the residential provision will only widen the inequalities they face in society. It may mean there won't be availability for people who need it and if any, it would be far from home. I also think that if the service is underutilised, perhaps revising the criteria for admission would be one way to address this. Increasing publicity about the residential provision would be beneficial as well. By this I mean improving awareness among families of neurodivergent and SEN kids and SEN services in the locality. Stopping the residential provision should be a last resort after all options are exhausted and should not only be about cutting down costs. Many thanks, [REDACTED]

Although [REDACTED] has not used permanent facilities I feel there is a lack of respite provision. Could the building not be utilised as it has such fabulous facilities. As well young adults are having to attend short breaks (which is great)but with much older people. They might be more comfortable with their own age group. Many thanks.

The consultation is difficult because what your posing is a juxtaposition of thinking. What I mean by this, is that it's an unfair thought process in explaining what something isn't without a view of what it's going to be. If I said this is not a chair, the first question we all have is, if it's not a chair, what is it?

What seems to be coming through to me loud and clear over the past 46 days of [REDACTED] at Bleasdale is: People aren't comfortable naming what the building isn't with out naming what it is. People are comfortable with the idea that the building could stay within Bleasdale school's educational use. People would like local community use from the building. What you are leaving us with is lots of question marks: Questions such as: Is the building being sold off? For what? To whom? What affects does this have on the local area? What access do the profound and multiple learning difficulties pupils of Bleasdale still have access to that supports their life quality? Includes Hydro, Rebound, Green space, What access do staff have to attending work e.g. no parking, how does that affect the village? What repercussions will it have if the house is closed down on the school? Will we be able to stay open as a school even? With all of these questions I would firmly appose the close of the residential provision and look to supporting more pupils in the borough back into residential care?

Or I would be taking social care proposals that have been put in for residential care seriously. Thoughts around what it could be are the following: Continue residential care with pupils being signposted to our provision. It's the last in the whole borough. Why not utilise it? Why pay for out of county? Work with Social care who seem to have put in a sensible option. The pupils who then go there will/can attend Bleasdale school. It would be mutually beneficial. Post 19 provision - instead of paying for pupils to attend out of county or Beaumont College, why not allow an outstanding provision create and run it from Bleasdale. This could also be term time residential or not as the need requires. Every day I get a call from the LA asking - if only there was a building next to an outstanding school which could take more pupils?! I'm sat looking at it!? I have plans for each of these proposals, some of which include residential, so I strongly disagree with the proposal. Here is our example of a post 19 provision with residential care: Proposal to Offer Extended Provision at Bleasdale School, Silverdale For 19-21 (25) year olds April 2023 Background Bleasdale School is situated in Silverdale,

Lancashire. The school consists of 2 buildings, situated across the road from each other. One building is the day School and the other is the residential building which also houses our swimming pool and Rebound therapy room. Although we mainly cater for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning

Difficulties (PMLD) our pupils are increasingly becoming more complex. We now have pupils with ASD, Pupils with SLD, pupils with SLD and physical difficulties and pupils who have quite

challenging behaviours, yet still falling within the lower quartile. The skills and expertise of all the staff have increased considerably. This has been recognised with the Outstanding Ofsted Grades over the past 5 inspections (both Education and Care Standards). Currently we offer provision for 2-19 yr olds but hope to extend this provision to age 21 from 2023/2024. Current School facilities Bleasdale School currently takes pupils aged 2-19, as day pupils (from Lancaster and surrounding areas). The residential facility previously offered educational activities into the evening and Care staff work closely with the school staff to ensure learning continues within the 2 activities on offer each evening. The school opens 38 weeks a year and follows Lancashire's holiday pattern. We previously offered fortnightly and weekly boarding term time only as well as a residential holiday club during the first 2 weeks of the summer holidays. However current provision is not operating. At the age of 19 our pupils have to leave school. There are not the appropriate facilities within Lancashire which can fully cater for our pupils needs. Many young people are not able to transfer to a specialist college due to their very sensory and complex needs and those that would benefit, often find themselves travelling a long way in order to have their needs met. Many end up going to Out of County Independent Specialist Provision, costing the Authority a great deal of money (The average cost being £150,000 a year). Questionnaire A questionnaire was devised and sent out to all parents asking their views on a proposed 19-25 provision at Bleasdale School (in 2019). The response was very positive, with 100% of returned questionnaires agreeing that a Post 19 provision at Bleasdale School would be extremely beneficial. Quotes from parents included: 'it would be fantastic piece of mind, knowing that our child would be able to access the fantastic resources at Bleasdale School, where he is learning and is happy and safe' 'it would be fantastic to have continued support Post School. It is worrying what will happen to your child once they leave school. It almost seems support would disappear'. 'it would take a lot of pressure off a lot of mums' 3 year provision: Average cost of students Post 19 attending Out of County/Specialist college Provision Cost of pupils attending Bleasdale School Post 19 Savings to the

Local Authority Per Annum Total for 3 years Per Annum Total for 3 years Per Annum Total for 6 years

1 student £150,000 1 student £450,000 1 student £75,000 1 student £150,000 1 student £75,000

1 student £300,000 6 x Students 1 year @ Bleasdale = £450,000 12 x Students 1 year @ Bleasdale =

£900,000 6 x Students 1 year @ Out of county = £900,000 12 x Students 1 year @ out of county = £1,800,000 6 year provision: Average cost of students Post 19 attending Out of County/Specialist college Provision Cost of pupils attending Bleasdale School Post 19 Savings to the Local Authority Per Annum Total for 6 years Per Annum Total for 6 years Per Annum Total for 6 years 1 student £150,000

I appreciate that there are no current pupils accessing the provision however as nearly 50% of the cohort are primary age pupils however what happens to them when their conditions deteriorate as they get older and education can be provided in the evening through residential?

There is no point in retaining expensive resources if they are not needed in the near future. I say 'tend to agree' because (a) it is important for the pupils that they have access to the swimming pool --

also (b) there will be some pupils now and in the future who need residential provision. I presume the County can provide for these pupils.

With no residential pupils likely to attend in the near future the space can be used in more creative ways to support sen families

No families require residential care

there is no residential provision for students with complex needs, although pupils tend to stay at home more and use direct payments, but parents cant find people to cover the direct payments, so would it be better use of puplic money that they have a residentail place ?

It costs a lot of money just to have it very underused it would make a fabulous nursing home with the extensive gardens. The swimming pool could still be accessed via the back entrance for the school.

Costly to the LA

Surely this type of provision has demand? Can evidence be provided that there is no such demand or need for residential care of PLMD children within this or neighbouring counties? Have all avenues been explored to promote the facility? The facilities used by the day school at Bleasdale as well as the local primary school and residents will be affected. Can Council provide

Once lost it will be impossible to commence residential programmes again. As there is an existing facility, efforts should be made to expand the possibilities of how it could be repurposed

I find it disgusting that you can take away such a resourceful building to my child, my child has severe learning, disabilities and autism is non-verbal, and has behavioural issues, this is not only a building, but my sons major part of his life, because of his behaviour difficulties. He is not able to access any of the swimming pool. This is the only place you can go. I cannot take my child to normal park. This is the only place that he is safe, when there are our problems at home, this is where we discuss it with all the parents and have all parents meeting, this is the building that we hold events in such as Christmas, Easter, birthday celebrations brings us all together, we cannot do this in any other area and neither are our kids able to adjust or be accepted. This is a safe haven for all our children and the benefits of profound, it's not luxuries that this building provides, it's the basics that all our children to be entitled to, I find it awful that you can take away, such a big part of my child's life, without this, my child cannot take part within the wider community or be accepted, it's not only a learning tool it is part of our children's life. It's totally wrong. If you take this away from my child, our children do not fit inside a classroom and learn, they need to be outdoors the park play the major role in this, it's unfair and morally wrong to isolate our children. It's neglectful and that's a horrible situation for us. Parents consider. Leave our children facilities alone it's all they have.

The facilities available in the residential building play a critical role in the day to day activities of children with severe disabilities. Removing these and the opportunity for children to use the residential facilities will have a detrimental impact on these children now and in the future. This will also impact the ability of children who desperately need this service in future generations. These individuals need society's help and removing it seems unjustifiable and cruel.

No clear information has been given about how the closure of the residential area at Bleasdale will impact current students who use this same building and facilities inside for some of their day to day learning and for holiday clubs and activities. The students who attend this school are some of the most vulnerable members within our society. Indeed, their challenges are so great that they are unable to voice their opinions about the closure of this facility and so this task befalls their parents/carers. I think I speak for most/all parents at this school when I say we are profoundly concerned at the impact this will have on our children and their holistic care. If the residential area at Bleasdale school is repurposed for anything other than the care of vulnerable young people, then it will be a total disgrace and a damning reflection of societies values.

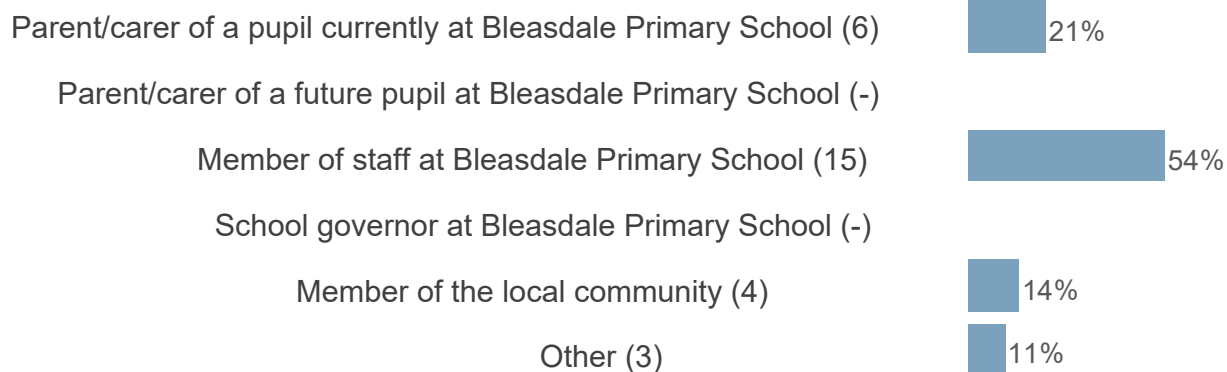
Could be used for respite care.

I worked at bleasdale from on the residential side 2006 till 2014 its the nicest school ive ever worked at. It was a proper family feel with the children being well looked after and giving parents the restpit they needed

THE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IS REQUIRED FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR PUPILS. I AM QUITE SURE THAT OVERALL PARENTS HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE FACILITIES AT OUR RESIDENTIAL SUITE DUE TO NOT BEING INFORMED THAT THE FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE. HAVING WORKED AT THE BLEASDALE SCHOOL/RESIDENTIAL FOR A VERY LONG TIME I MUST INFORM YOU THAT PRIOR MANAGEMENT PROMOTED THE SCHOOL FACILITIES MORE THAN THE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES. THERE WERE MANY CARE STAFF WHO ENJOYED WORKING WITH THE RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN BUT AS TIME WENT ON AND DUE TO ZERO PROMOTING TO PARENTS THE RESIDENTIAL PROVISIONS WERE PUT ASIDE MORE WHICH SADLY EXHAUSTED THE NEED FOR THE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING. CARE STAFF WERE SLOWLY BUT SURELY ERADICATED AND THEIR PRESENCE DID NOT FEEL WELCOME ANYMORE AND IT WAS A CASE OF JUMP OR BE PUSHED OUT. WE ALL MUST REALLY CONSIDER WHAT WE THINK IS BEST FOR THE PARENTS BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY THE CHILDREN TO BE GUARANTEED THE HELP THEY ARE GOING TO REQUIRE IN THE FUTURE AND OFTEN AT VERY SHORT NOTICE. THERE WAS NO ISSUE EMPLOYING CARE STAFF IN THE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING, BUT AS I SAY ABOVE HEAD TEACHER AT THAT TIME INCLUDING SCHOOL MANAGEMENT MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE STAFF AS CARE STAFF ROTAS AND THEIR JOB ROLES CONTINUED TO CHANGE ON A WEEKLY BASIS TO THE EXTENT THAT WORD GOT AROUND THAT THE ONCE BLEASDALE SCHOOL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDING WERE NO ONE EVER LEFT UNLESS THEY RETIRED OR PASSED AWAY WAS A NO GO AREA FOR THE UNEMPLOYED OR AGENCY STAFF LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE SCHOOL AND CARE SECTOR. THIS HAS NEVER BEEN REVEALED BEFORE AS STAFF WERE TOO SCARED OF REPERCUSSIONS TO COMPLAIN OR WHISLTEBLOW ON HOW STAFF WERE TREATED BY MANAGEMENT. THE CHILDREN WERE ALWAYS WELL CARED FOR AND TAUGHT BY FANTASTIC STAFF BUT POOR DIRECTION WITH A NO INTEREST OTHER THAN EDUCATION WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP. I MUST STATE HOWEVER THAT NOW WE ARE BEING HEAVILY SUPPORTED BY OUR NEW HEAD TEACHER AND STAFFING LEVELS ARE ONCE AGAIN THRIVING I CAN SEE A HUGE TURNING POINT AHEAD WHERE THE RESIDENTIAL RESIDENCY SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY COUNTY COUNCIL WHICH WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE THE FACILITIES TO THE PARENTS OF OUR CHILDREN ONCE AGAIN. PERHAPS PUTTING A TIME LIMIT ON HOW LONG WE COULD BE GIVEN TO PROMOTE OUR RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES WHICH COULD THEN BE RE-ADDRESSED AFTER THIS PERIOD, AS THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO LIASE WITH PARENTS PROPERLY, INTRODUCE THE RESIDENTIAL TO NEW PARENTS AND FOR THEIR CHILD TO ALSO ATTEND SCHOOL. EVEN THOUGH WE WERE 38WKS PER YEAR WE COULD EASILY CHANGE THIS NOT ONLY FOR THE PARENTS BUT ALSO CHILDREN, STAFF AND THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OF SILVERDALE WHICH MANY LOCALS WORKED AND GIVE YOUNGER PEOPLE WITHIN SILVERDALE AND SURROUNDING AREAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN AND REBUILD OUR FANTASTIC SCHOOL/RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR THE FUTURE.

Are you responding to this proposal as...?

Please select one option only

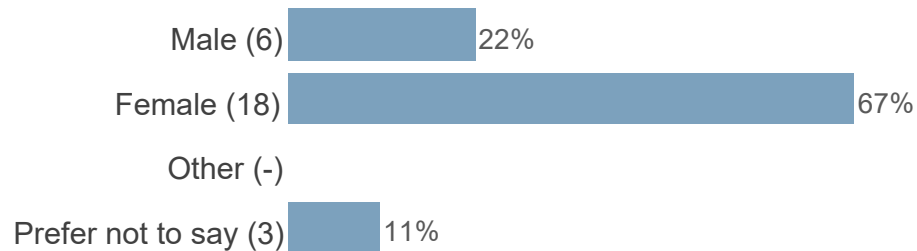


Other,

- Member of staff at other special school
- Old staff member

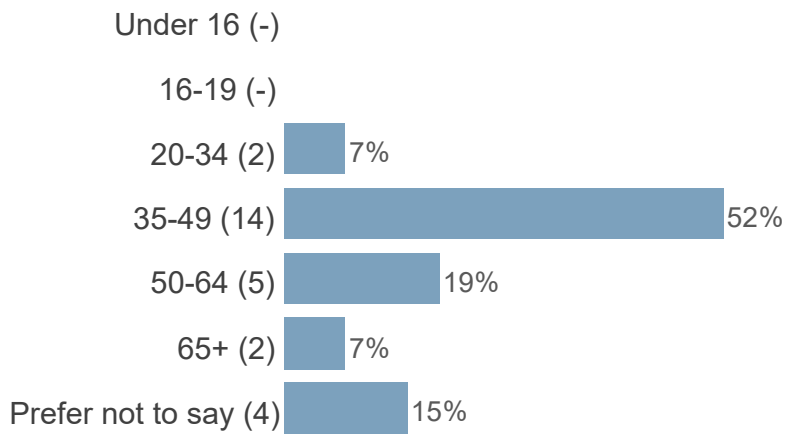
Are you...?

Please select one option only



What was your age on your last birthday?

Please select one option only



Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

Please select one option only

