

THE HENRY PRINCE CE (C) FIRST SCHOOL, MAYFIELD

Proposal to close The Henry Prince CE (C) First School, Mayfield with effect from 31 August 2018

Formal Consultation – 13 October to 8 December 2017

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

1. On 4 October 2017, the school's governing body approved a period of statutory consultation on a proposal to close The Henry Prince CE (C) First School, Mayfield on 31 August 2018.
2. Both the county council and the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education are supporting the governing body with its consultation process and have assisted the school in producing this document to ensure that parents are aware of the key issues.
3. The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on the proposal to close The Henry Prince School.
4. As yet no final decisions have been made, so it is vital that you make your views known to the governing body by 5pm on Friday 8 December 2017.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?

5. It is proposed that The Henry Prince CE (C) First School, Mayfield will formally close on 31 August 2018.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES?

6. The Henry Prince CE (C) First School is a small Church of England controlled school in Mayfield, within the district of East Staffordshire and on the outskirts of Ashbourne, Derbyshire. It currently has thirty six pupils on roll with a capacity to admit a maximum of seventy five pupils (not including nursery).
7. As a First School pupils are admitted from reception age through to Year 4. The school also operates a nursery class.
8. With such a low number of pupils, and therefore attendant funding, the governing body, the county council and Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education have considered in detail The Henry Prince's financial capacity to sustain, in the future, the high quality of education that the school is renowned for, and concluded that urgent action is needed to address this.
9. The Henry Prince First School achieved a "good" judgment from Ofsted following the last inspection during June 2013. On 10 October 2017, the school was inspected by Ofsted and the report is expected after October half term.

10. The county council undertook a quality assurance visit during the autumn term 2014 and the evaluation showed attainment as good. Pupil progress was also good because of the increase in pupils reaching expected standards and above from the end of reception to the end of Year 2.
11. Schools receive an amount of funding for every pupil they have at the school. As a small school with low pupil numbers, the financial burden on the headteacher and the governing body from extremely limited funding has meant that the school has been unable to set a balanced budget.
12. The number of pupils attending the school from the catchment area is not expected to increase to a sustainable level in the immediate future. There is no realistic predictive model to show that the number of parents choosing to send their children to the school will increase at this time.

The Henry Prince	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Pupil Total	Vacant Places
2017	6	10	7	9	4	36	+39
2018	6	6	10	7	9	38	+37
2019	11	6	6	10	7	40	+35
2020	10	11	6	6	10	43	+32
2021	9	10	11	6	6	42	+33
2022	9	9	10	11	6	45	+30
2023	9	9	9	10	11	48	+27

INTAKES AND NUMBER ON ROLL

13. The latest data shows that there are 36 children attending The Henry Prince School, Mayfield from reception through to Y4.
14. The school also operates a nursery which currently has 4 pupils on roll.
15. The table below sets out the current number of pupils by year group (this reflects the allocations for September 2017 for R and NOR (number on roll) for the other year groups).
- 16.

Summary	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Total (R - Y4)
NOR	6	10	7	9	4	36

ADMISSIONS

17. In the event of The Henry Prince closing, for children starting school in September 2018 parents will be provided with the opportunity to make an application for their preferred school. This applications process will be centrally managed by the Local Authority's School Admissions Service.
18. Parents will be able to apply for places at any school and, where there is a vacancy, a place would be offered in accordance with the school's admission arrangements.
19. Pupils who live within The Henry Prince catchment area will be offered a place at Dove First School, which is also a feeder for the Ryecroft Middle School which is traditionally where pupils transfer to. For pupils who live outside The Henry Prince catchment area, there will be no change to their catchment area school.
20. Ryecroft Middle School, near Uttoxeter will continue to be the catchment area middle school for children presently residing within the Henry Prince catchment area in Year 5 to Year 8.
21. It is important to state that no final decision on the future of The Henry Prince has been made and there is no need for parents to apply to move their children from the school at this stage.

BIRTH DATA

22. There are only normally a small number of births in families who live in the catchment of The Henry Prince, Mayfield. The table below shows the number of children born in the catchment over the last 4 academic years and, based upon previous intakes, the current and projected numbers.

Reception intake	Births	Number On Roll
2016	11	9
2017	11	5
2018	3	n/a
2019	16	n/a
2020	n/a	n/a

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

23. Based on the current number of pupils attending the school and the likelihood that this will not increase significantly in the future, budgeting models show that the school is likely to have a funding gap of £86,739 in 2017/2018. This will grow to £151,511 in 2018/19 and will increase further in 2019/20 to £218,170.
24. The governing body have been active in seeking to look at sharing head teacher costs with other local schools through a federation or sharing headship costs but these have been unsuccessful. They have also sought to create a federation of the school with a number of other partner schools and again this has proved unsuccessful and they have exhausted all other options available to them to secure the future of the school.

CURRENT HOME-TO-SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

25. The county council's current transport policy provides free transport to the catchment area or nearest school where a pupil's home is over a set walking distance.
26. This entitlement would continue to Dove First School for those children who either live within The Henry Prince catchment area or for whom Dove First is the nearest school, and it is over two miles away from their home.
27. Pupils who live outside The Henry Prince First School current catchment area would be entitled to free transport to either their catchment area school their nearest school (including schools outside Staffordshire) if it is over two miles walking distance from home.
28. Older pupils would continue to receive free transport to Ryecroft Middle School where they live within the catchment area, as they are over the statutory walking distance from home.
29. The county council's home to school transport policy can be viewed at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schooltransport.

STAFF

30. In the event of school closure, staff will be supported in accordance with the school's Redundancy and Reorganisation Policy. The Policy provides an open and transparent process, with a focus on supporting and providing the necessary assistance to employees during a period of change. Governors will ensure that staff are fully consulted, with the school's HR Advisor available to provide support and advice as needed.

LAND AND BUILDINGS

31.No decision can be made at such an early stage about the potential future use of the school buildings and land, which are both owned in part by the county council and the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESAN VIEW?

32.As a strategic partner with the county council, the Diocesan Board (DBE) shares the county council's concerns about securing the long term provision of high quality education for pupils at The Henry Prince in view of the current financial situation.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY VIEWS KNOWN?

33.**Please send your views to the school's governing body by 5pm on Friday, 8 December 2017.** All the written views received will be considered by the governing body before a decision is taken on whether to continue with the closure proposal and to move to the "Representation Stage" in January.

- Write to the school address or email your views to Mr C Kinman (the chair of governors) at office@henryprince.staffs.sch.uk.

Meetings will be held at the school on 2nd November 2017 (at 4pm for staff and at 5.30pm for parents).

A further public meeting will be held at the school at 5pm on the 22th November 2017.

WHAT IS THE TIMESCALE FOR CONSULTATION?

34.The consultation timetable is shown below. We are in the Consultation Stage, which is the first of five statutory stages that must be completed.

Statutory Stages	Action	Dates
1. Consultation	8 week formal consultation period	13 October to 8 December
2. Publication	Governing Body to consider the consultation responses and decide whether to publish a "statutory notice"	15 December 2017
3. Representation	Following publication of a statutory notice, the representation period allows a further 4 weeks for the receipt of comments and objections	6 January-12 February

4. Decision	Governing Body to consider any representation made and makes a recommendation. The County Council's Cabinet will be the decision-maker.	19 February 2018
5. Implementation	Proposed closure date if this is the planned course of action	31 August 2018

35. The Department for Education's guidance to local authorities is that there is a "need to preserve access to a local school for rural communities. There is therefore a presumption against the closure of rural schools and alternatives to closure should be considered carefully." No final decisions have been taken and the governing body can decide whether to continue with, postpone or cease the closure proposal unless there is a material change in circumstances. A final decision on any recommendation to close the school will be taken by the county council's Cabinet in March 2018.