



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

Contact details

1. The name of the local education authority or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Local authority publishing the proposals:

Wigan Council

Local authority contact address:

Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Place
Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan,
WN3 4HH

School it is proposed should be discontinued:

Hesketh Fletcher C E High School, Hamilton Street, Atherton, M46 0AY

Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

It is planned that the school will be discontinued on 31 August 2012.

There will be no Year 7 intake into the school from September 2010 onwards. Pupils currently in years 9, 10 and 11 will be unaffected by the proposals and will complete their education at the school.

Pupils currently in years 7 and 8 at the school will transfer to alternative schools for their key stage 4 education as follows:

- current year 8 will transfer on 1 September 2011
- current year 7 will transfer on 1 September 2012

Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with as follows:

- adequate time was allowed: at least 6 weeks outside school holidays (5 May 2009 to 26 June 2009);
- sufficient information was provided: in the consultation document, at drop-in sessions for parents and the community and at meetings with the staff and governors of the school;
- it was made clear in the consultation document, on the council website and at the drop-in sessions and meetings how consultees could express their views: in writing, by completing the response form in the consultation booklet or by making comments at meetings;
- all the views expressed were presented within a report to elected members at the Cabinet meeting on 30 July 2009 at which the decision to publish the proposals was made;
- all parties specified in school organisation guidance were consulted; and
- pupils were consulted.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- (d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a) List of persons and parties consulted: appendix 1

b) Minutes of the drop-in sessions for parents and the community: appendix 2

Minutes of the staff meeting: appendix 3

Minutes of the governors' meeting: appendix 4

Minutes of the meeting with pupils: appendix 5

c) The views of the persons consulted: appendix 6

d) Copies of the consultation documents:

Consultation booklet: appendix 7

Consultation with pupils: appendix 8

Details of how these documents were made available is included in appendix 1. The student consultation was made available to pupils online. The School Council and the Headteacher were requested to publicise the unique URL in school. Students could access the consultation online either at school or at home.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objectives of the proposal are to secure viable, high quality educational provision for children living in Atherton. It is necessary to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School to do this because:

- There is a falling secondary school population across the borough. Pupil intakes into year 7 have fallen from 4290 pupils in 2003-2004 to 3796 in 2008-2009.
- The decline in pupil numbers is expected to continue until 2013-2014 when 3289 pupils are expected to be in year 7. Despite an expected increase 2013-2014 onwards, numbers are not anticipated to return to 2003-2004 levels.
- When pupil numbers fall, more parents are able to obtain their first preference of school as there are fewer pupils competing for the available places. The result is that some schools experience a very steep decline in first preference applications, whilst others continue to fill up to their admission number.
- The current admission number at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School is 200. For the past 3 years the school has received below 100 first preference applications for admission into year 7, though more pupils have been admitted because some children could not obtain a place at their first preference school.
- There are expected to be 574 pupils on roll at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School in September 2009. If no action is taken this is predicted to fall to below 400 in September 2012 because of the decline in pupil numbers overall and trends in parental preferences.
- As pupil numbers decline, the school budget will decline and the school will not be able to attract and retain the range and quality of staff to deliver a high quality education or provide sufficient choice in the curriculum.

Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Standards and quality of education

The proposals will maintain or improve the standards and quality of education in the area.

The 5 A*-C GCSE results, including English and Maths, at Hesketh Fletcher fell below floor targets in 2008. This resulted in the school becoming a Greater Manchester Challenge 'key to success' school. The contextual value added score for the school is also low. The school has received a significant amount of support form from the local authority and organisations such as Greater Manchester Challenge and results for 2009 are expected to be above floor targets.

Standards at the schools that will accommodate pupils displaced from Hesketh Fletcher are as follows:

Westleigh High School: The school has been above the floor target for the last four years and in 2006 was significantly above. The contextual value added score for the school is satisfactory.

Bedford High: The school performed well above floor targets for 2008 and its contextual value added score was also significantly high.

Fred Longworth: the school consistently performs at well above floor targets and its contextual value added results are well above average.

The latest OFSTED judgements for the four schools are shown below:

School	OFSTED judgement
Hesketh Fletcher C E	Satisfactory with the exception of two areas which were judged to be inadequate.
Westleigh	Good with some outstanding features, except standards which were judged satisfactory.
Bedford	Satisfactory with a significant number of areas judged to be good.
Fred Longworth	Good or outstanding in all areas.

Diversity

The closure of Hesketh Fletcher C E High school will reduce the diversity of educational provision as it is the only Church of England secondary school in

the area. However, first preference applications for the school at year 7 have been low for the past three years. Manchester C E Diocese has identified alternative provision for those seeking an Anglican education at the Deanery C E High School in Wigan and Canon Slade, St James and Rivington and Blackrod High Schools in Bolton, all of which have an Anglican foundation and are within accessible travelling distance from Atherton by public transport.

Provision for 16 -19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

- (a) the educational or training achievements;
- (b) participation in education or training; and
- (c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

Need for places

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

Details of falling rolls and the trend in parental preferences are given in section 5 above.

In order to ensure sufficient places in the east of the borough in future years, it is proposed to enlarge Westleigh High School for September 2012.

To ensure that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils before September 2012 the local authority will take the following action if necessary:

Year 7 intakes: If necessary, the local authority will over-admit up to 20 pupils more than the admission number in year 7 at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in September 2010 and 2011 solely for the purpose of accommodating all pupils in the area.

Pupils transferring to alternative schools: If necessary, the local authority will over-admit up to 20 pupils more than the admission number at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in year 10 in 2011 solely for the purpose of accommodating all pupils transferring from Hesketh Fletcher C E High School. Pupils may be admitted to alternative schools of their parents' preference if places are available at the time of transfer.

9. 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.

Hesketh Fletcher C E High School has a Church of England religious character. The Manchester C E Diocese has identified that those parents and students that want an Church of England based education will be received at the Deanery C E High School in Wigan and Canon Slade, St James and Rivington and Blackrod High Schools in Bolton, all of which have an Anglican foundation and are within accessible travelling distance from Atherton by public transport.

Current School Information

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

Number of pupils

The school provides 1000 places. Pupil numbers in September 2009 are expected to be:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
91	100	75	146	162	574

Note on pupil numbers

Year 7:

The figure is the number of places allocated for year 7 in September 2009. The actual number of pupils starting will only be known on the first day of the Autumn term, that is 2 September 2009.

Years 8 to 11:

These figures are based on the number of pupils on roll at the school on the last day of the Summer term in July 2009. New applications for children wishing to start on the first day of the Autumn term 2009 which were received before the Summer holiday have also been included.

Age range of pupils

The age range of the pupils is 11-16.

Sex of pupils

The school caters for boys and girls.

Special educational needs

The school does not have any provision that is recognised by the local authority as being reserved for pupils who have special educational needs but does provide for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs that names the school and a number of non-statemented pupils who are receiving additional help for their special educational needs through SIS funding.

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- (a) any interim arrangements;
- (b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- (c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

From September 2012 onwards it is intended that children living in Atherton will access Westleigh and Fred Longworth High Schools at year 7.

It will be necessary to enlarge Westleigh High School and to amend the oversubscription criteria for Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools to achieve this.

a) Interim arrangements

Future year 7 intakes: In 2010 and 2011 it is intended that children living in the Atherton area will access Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools at year 7

Pupils transferring to alternative schools: Pupils who will transfer to alternative schools at year 10 will be offered a place at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools according to parental preference and the oversubscription criteria.

b) Not applicable

c) Not applicable

12. 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.

It is proposed to increase the capacity of Westleigh High School from 775 to 1250 places from 1 September 2012 onwards to accommodate predicted future pupil numbers as a result of the proposed discontinuance.

Impact on the Community

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

It is intended that if the proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School is agreed, the school site will be used to provide a 14-19 education centre for the east of the borough. This means that there would still be an educational facility in the Atherton community which could also provide extended services. The receiving schools will also provide extended services that the Atherton community can access.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Hesketh Fletcher C E High offers an extensive range of extended services, over and above the core offer, for pupils and the wider community of Atherton and beyond.

If the school is discontinued, officers will work with the receiving schools, the 14-19 Centre and charitable organisations with the aim of maintaining the extended services provided by Hesketh Fletcher. The aim will be to ensure that the Atherton community will still have access to extended services within a reasonable travelling distance from their homes.

Travel

15. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

The walking distances from Hesketh Fletcher C E High to the alternative schools are:

Fred Longworth High School	1.45 miles
Westleigh High School	2.34 miles
Bedford High School	2.47 miles

Many pupils living in the Atherton already access Fred Longworth and Westleigh High Schools and either walk, use public transport or travel by car. Bedford High School is also accessible by public transport.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

Many of those pupils living in the Atherton area who will access Fred Longworth High School will be able to walk to school. School buses already operate from the Atherton area to Westleigh and Bedford High Schools. Additional school buses may be provided if necessary in consultation with the transport companies.

From September 2010 Wigan Council will provide a free bus pass for any child aged 11 to 16 who has to travel more than three miles to their nearest suitable school. The Council will also provide a free bus pass for a child aged 11 to 16 who is eligible for free school meals or whose parents or guardians receive the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, and if the child attends:

- any one of the three nearest suitable schools, where the distance travelled is between two and six miles; or
- the nearest school they have chosen because of their religion or belief, where this is between two and 15 miles away.

The combination of these measures will help work against increased car use.

Related Proposals.

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

The proposals are related to the proposal to enlarge Westleigh High School – A College of Technology, by extending the school premises and increasing the admission number.

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

- (a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;
- (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

Not applicable

Maintained nursery schools

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

- (a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- (b) the local education 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
- (c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Hesketh Fletcher C E High is a mainstream school and does not have any specially resourced provision for pupils with special educational needs. However, there are a number of pupils at the school whose special educational needs can be met in a mainstream setting.

The local authority believes that the proposal will lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of education for pupils with special educational needs because:

- according to the most recent Ofsted reports, the quality and standard of education provided at the receiving schools is equal to or better than that at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School (details in section 6 above); and
- the receiving schools have higher pupil numbers resulting in greater flexibility in the budget for staffing and the ability to provide a wider ranging curriculum.

List of those consulted at Stage 1 and the ways in which the consultation document was made available to them

The consultation was part of the wider consultation on phase one BSF proposals and therefore the consultation document had a wide circulation. It was also available on the Wigan Council website.

Consultee	Way in which the consultation document was made available
The local authority	Copies were distributed to all elected members via the council's internal mail system.
Staff of all schools including Hesketh Fletcher CE	The headteachers distributed copies to all members of staff.
Governors of all schools including Hesketh Fletcher CE	Copies were posted to governors' home addresses.
Parents of nursery, primary and secondary pupils currently attending all Wigan schools including Hesketh Fletcher CE	A copy was sent to each family by 'pupil post'.
Parents of other pre-school children in the area	A number of copies were sent to Children's Centres and voluntary and private providers. Managers were asked to place them where they would be accessible to parents and staff.
MPs for the area	Copies were posted.
Trade Unions and other professional associations	Copies were posted.
Local Diocesan authorities	Copies were posted.
Neighbouring local authorities	Copies were posted
Local Colleges	Copies were posted
The Learning and Skills Council	A copy was posted
The NHS Trust and the PCT	Copies were posted
Other members of the community	Copies of the document were made available at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Halls • All libraries • Children and Young People's Services reception

Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

Meeting:	Hesketh Fletcher High School – Drop In Sessions
Date:	20 May 2009
Time:	3:30pm
Present:	A number of officers from Wigan Council and the Diocese
Sessions attended:	A total of 41 sessions were attended plus around 30 individuals who were received as a group.

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School

- Numbers falling – rumours?
- Why wasn't the rumour quashed by the LA in 2008 when things first started to develop?
- This does not feel like a consultation, more of a done deal.
- Not happy with the publication.
- Parents do not want bigger schools.
- Concerns over Conservative versus Labour government. If there is a change of government, what will happen to Hesketh Fletcher?
- Could there be a guarantee for staff remaining loyal to Hesketh Fletcher?
- What will happen to the out of school provision, e.g. home from home, in 2013 when the school closes?
- Would it be possible to maintain a smaller school and have a sixth form as well?
- What are we going to do as a LA to ensure that standards are improved, even if the school moves to closure?
- Rumours have not been helpful.
- Concerns over 'Every Child Matters' in Atherton. How is Wigan making sure that every child matters?
- What are Wigan doing to maintain a Church of England presence in the Atherton area?
- If my daughter does not achieve her potential, who do I go to?
- Parent feels as though she has been told lies over her daughter's future
- Strong feeling that this is not a true consultation.
- What happens if we don't have specialist teachers teaching subjects?
- Will there still be a full curriculum at Hesketh Fletcher?
- How can you guarantee that my daughter in Y10 will not suffer as a result of the consultation?
- The brochure mentions that Westleigh is the heart of the community; can you explain who wrote this and on what basis they base their thinking?

- My daughter has developed so well as a result of the relationships that have developed, how will this be maintained?
- Can you guarantee that the LA will not just use supply teachers to fill the gaps in teaching
- Our main concern is continuity – can you guarantee this?
- Will Wigan be able to transport pupils to other schools in future?
- Will the LA make sure that the school has enough money to maintain quality provision?
- Will BSF affect ITP, i.e. will the LA pay for my child to receive music tuition and other services?
- Is it possible that my child could stay at Hesketh Fletcher 14-19 Centre depending upon the options she chooses?
- Y10 pupil: Why have we got sub-standard, hand-me-down equipment, e.g. IT?
- What will be done about pupil welfare in the 14-19 Centres, because younger pupils will be very vulnerable?
- Diplomas, 14-19 Roadshow, why have we not heard about this?
- Teacher: Retention is one of my concerns.
- Current options – are pupils being refused access to certain subjects on the basis of staffing or timetabling?
- If a large number of students choose to leave early, could the school close earlier than planned?
- What courses will be provided in the 14-19 Centres?
- Will the staff at Hesketh Fletcher now be offered jobs in the 14-19 Centres?
- Will I still get the same standard of learning that I would at Fred Longworth High School, if that's where I go?

Community:

- Requested email for CE Diocese.
- We would prefer a joint school between Westleigh and Hesketh Fletcher High Schools on a site in-between the two. Atherton children feel let down.
- Fred Longworth cherry pick. There will be no choice for Atherton children.
- Atherton children are stigmatised and lose out.
- The church (diocese), have not done enough.
- St Philips numbers have dropped.
- The league tables show no difference between Westleigh and Hesketh Fletcher.
- Noticed difference in the behaviour of the children.
- Home from home project, 2 hats, will this continue or will this be lost? This is part of the school.
- Atherton people are disadvantaged.
- Parent of Y6 pupil and 3 older children currently at school – one SEN child in Y8 said that the Y8 child would struggle and the LA will be doing him an injustice. Concerns for Y6 child expressed.
- The consultation is just going through the motions.
- 'Andy Burnham' said that the school is not closing. Uncertainty has affected the results and caused a negative spiral.
- Falling grades – unfair – damning in the consultation document.
- Concerns over those children that have left, that the parents don't care as much.
- Transport, those who currently walk to school, this will now lengthen their day.

- Concerns over after school activities.
- Concerns over issues with buses.
- Costs – not on benefits and just within 3 miles.
- Unsupportive families – children won't arrive.
- Teaching is a major concern – school has lots of supply teachers.

Parent of Y7 child:

- Concerns about proposals.
- Transport concerns – not travelling alone – safety. Can currently walk and pick up if need be.
- School uniform costs.
- Stop intake now.
- Daughter loves this school – didn't like other schools.
- Not pleased with Labour councillors, putting this town down.
- Really angry, older son done really well and now age 24.
- Daughter worried about transferring and whether to change now or later?

Parent of Y7 child:

- Wanted Westleigh and given Hesketh Fletcher, forced to make the numbers up.
- Former Head Teacher assured parent that her child would see their education out at this school.
- Really wanted Westleigh and appealed – now she has to go through this again.
- Grave concerns of how continuity of education and needs will be met.

Parent of Y6 child:

- Uniform, cost of buying new.
- Exams performance may drop.
- Based on promises by former Head Teacher that the school would stay open while these children finished their education and so parent did not appeal for Fred Longworth.
- Don't want Bedford or Westleigh High Schools, prefer Fred Longworth.
- Afraid of knock on effect on the progress they have made so far at Parklee. Child youngest in year.
- Pressure on child.
- If Hesketh Fletcher is to close, parent would prefer that any children at, or stating at the school in September, should see their education out at this school.

Parent of Y8 and Y4 child:

- Main concern is the continuity of education.
- Bedford is their local school.
- Former Head Teacher comments about school not planned to close and would be open for their children to finish all their education.
- Disruption not good.
- Happy educational standards here.

- Concerns that when the pupils get to Y10 and Y11 – will the children achieve what they should?
- Howe Bridge Y4 child – concerned that he is likely not to get a school with his friends as they live in Leigh.

Parents x3 of Y7, Y9 and Y11 children:

- Would much rather see education through for all children at or due to start this school.
- Why not build a secondary school in Atherton?
- Finish what's been started – as promised by Former Head Teacher.
- After school activities – one of preferences for this school.
- This school is in the community and serves the needs of local people.
- Supply teachers, good members of staff are leaving, and quality of education for those left is a concern.
- Build a sixth form separately and leave Hesketh Fletcher as a school.
- 5 Year phase out detrimental.
- Councillors made promises that the school was not planned to close.
- Disadvantaged children are a concern as they will not get to a school out of the area
- Y6 and Y7 most traumatic years of their lives.
- Fitting in at another secondary school at Y10 will be a difficult experience.
- Why not build a new school for all rather than Hesketh Fletcher pupils having to fit in with others who are already settled .

Parent of Y9 child:

- Options are limited at Hesketh Fletcher. Daughter in tears and wants to do French and Music – she is very academic.
- 14-19 Centre could offer 'A' levels for current Y9 child.

Parent of Y7 and Y10 children:

- Concerns are that Fred Longworth is full, Westleigh is full and Bedford will be the only one available to them and parent does not want Bedford.
- What will make the staff at Hesketh Fletcher stay?
- Concerns regarding quality of education going down now as already suffering. Some of the best teachers have already left. Too many supply teachers.
- Bedford is not in the area.
- What about after school.

Two parents of Y6 and Y7 children:

- Child has recently moved to St Richards RC and is not happy.
- Know moving school will be disruptive.
- Difficult to adjust to new situation.
- KS2 results have not been as good as they would have been.
- Concerns regarding new uniform and also younger child.

- Concerns regarding cost of travel – a concern they do not feel they should have as it is not their choice.
- Don't really want child to start at Hesketh Fletcher and then have to move later on
- Atherton will not have a high school.
- Child can walk to school at the moment.

Parent of Y9 and Y11 children:

- Concerns regarding GCSE's for Y9 child.
- Staff will leave.
- Has the decision been made to close Hesketh Fletcher already – parent sure that it has.
- Is Cabinet open to public?
- Can the report be accessed?
- Concerns regarding staff leaving.
- Bedford is too far away having said that we do not want children to travel far at Post-16.
- Parent lives in Hindley Green but chose a CE school – choice of CE education taken away.
- Results of Hesketh Fletcher are better overall. Education is all about subjects saying we are aware some pupils are not as academic.
- Will there be any criteria to get into Post-16 at Hesketh Fletcher 14-19 site – if not will affect quality of provision.
- Home from home – safe haven – what will happen to this and other extended services? Other schools would not have the same link to Atherton.
- Some children are vulnerable and will not cope in a big school.
- What is an area-based trust?
- What about travelling expenses for those who have to move schools – those from a deprived area?
- Too many rumours; that is why pupils are not choosing Hesketh Fletcher.
- Will Atherton pupils push other e.g. those from Astley out of Fred Longworth?
- Not happy about the comments made in the consultation booklet on the standards at Hesketh Fletcher.

Parent of Y6 and Y8 child:

- Concerns about staff leaving.
- Every child doesn't matter in Atherton and go to secondary schools.
- There will not be enough places as primary schools are full.
- Decision has already been made to close Hesketh Fletcher.
- We were told all children who started would be able to stay to the end.
- Schools are about pupils and not buildings.
- Some parents cannot afford to travel.
- Atherton is growing – council has allowed it, but school is closing?
- If I had known about the proposal, I would not have applied.
- Atherton has always had its own High school and there are strong feelings about it.

Parent of Y2 and Y7 children:

- We want the school to stay open.
- Worried about teachers moving.
- What schools are available? There are not many places at other schools.
- Concerns about child mixing.
- Prefer the option of child seeing school out at HF and not moving.
- We have nothing in Atherton.
- Building more houses and more children.
- School has been part of Atherton for generations.
- Travel – can't walk to other schools.
- Will we send letters to let parents know what has happened in July?

Parent of Y6 and Y10 children:

- Y10 child done really well Parent is very impressed with teaching and very happy with child's progress.
- Y6 child has chosen Hesketh Fletcher to start in September 09.
- Disappointed that parents haven't supported school Rumours have been spread about behaviour etc.
- Can't expect school to stay open if no support from community.
- All family have attended Hesketh Fletcher and done well.
- Ideally, would like the school to stay open.
- Younger child has a disability; travel is an issue and a big concern.
- Would prefer current Y6 child to stay at Hesketh Fletcher until Y11.

Two parents of two Y6 children:

- Who makes the decision?
- If the school is closing, when would this be?
- What about funding if the decision is made to close?
- Would prefer children to go all through the school.
- Where are the other places?
- Very concerned about standard of education the children would receive from Y7 to Y11 if members of staff are leaving.

Grandparent of Y6 and Y10 children:

- Worried about the standard of education for Y8 who will be doing GCSE's.
- Who makes the decision about closure?
- When will Fred Longworth be enlarged?
- How many of the other schools are church schools?
- If you are building at Parklee, does this mean we are expecting more children?
- This will make a big difference to the town as a community and will affect local shops, etc.

Two parents of Y7 child:

- Key stage for moving pupils.
- Will make grades worse, teachers, social groups, etc will change.
- Must have known last year due to rumours.
- The only people that will suffer will be the children.
- Other people went to other schools because of the rumours.
- Parent thinks that closure is a foregone conclusion.
- Where will the money for funding diplomas at 14-19 centres come from?

Parent of Y6 child:

- Parent really does not want the school to close and has two older children who received good grades at Hesketh Fletcher.
- Concerns about travelling a distance to an alternative school.
- If parent had known beforehand, would not have applied for Hesketh Fletcher.
- When will parents know the decision?
- Parent hopes the school does not close.

Parent of Y7 child:

- Is it definitely going to close?
- Will you take into account what people say?
- This will be a big upheaval for such an important year group.
- They will have to be moved just when they have settled.
- Will classes be bigger at Westleigh and Fred Longworth?
- Everyone I have spoken to is against the closure.
- What about costs of uniform; will we get help with it?

Parent of Y6 and Y7 children:

- Is it definitely going to close?
- Family has moved to Bolton and wondering whether to move their children now (one Y7 and one Y8 children).

Parent of Y7 and Y10 children:

- Would not have brought Y7 child to Hesketh Fletcher if I had known the proposal.
- Y10 child is concerned about standards.
- Can we move Y7 children now? Is the LA considering doing this?
- Hesketh Fletcher is the only CE school in this part of the borough.
- Concerns about continuity of education / staff leaving.
- Concerns surrounding transport.
- Atherton does need a school in the community.

Parent of Y7 child:

- Hesketh Fletcher High School is the heart of the community.

- Feels that it has been precipitated by the announcement of the head teacher 18 months ago that the school was closing.
- Will leave only one CE secondary in Wigan.
- Feels school has improved markedly since appointed a new head teacher.
- Action should be to employ strong leadership rather than close the school
- Lots of staff have said they will move.
- School has lots of history connected with it.
- Where was adviser when he knew the school was in trouble with pupil numbers?
- Feels the school has been abandoned by the LA.
- Why was the decision made to extend Westleigh and not Fred Longworth in the first instance?
- Parent would prefer Fred Longworth and it would be nearer

Parent Y6 and Y7 children:

- How would admissions be dealt with at Y9?
- Children will not know the staff.
- There would be a difficulty in adapting for Y7 pupils who will find it difficult to integrate at Y10.
- We don't want the school to close.
- Why can't you put the funding into this school?
- Staff at Hesketh Fletcher are brilliant.
- The head here has done very well in the past few months and we feel that they could turn the school around.
- We feel that we could change things if the perception is altered and buildings altered.
- My child loves it here and gets on well with all staff and students.

Parent of Y6 and Y10 children:

- Rumour about school closing has been around for 2 years This has caused pupil numbers to fall.
- Everyone thinks it is a done deal and are not happy.
- Y10 child loves school.
- Teachers are very good but have to deal with some disruptive children and there have been leadership issues.
- Not happy with the previous head teacher.
- Why has no action been taken about the previous head teacher?
- Feel aggrieved that LA using standards as an issue but LA could have done something about it.
- Concerned about moving child at the end of Y9.
- A new school will not stop there being trouble and feel that by moving a whole group will make the situation worse.
- Feel disadvantaged by proposals and children will be affected and let down by secondary education.
- What staff will stay here and carry on?
- Feel that education will suffer.
- Not happy.

Parent of Y7 and Y10 children:

- Where is the local school for the local Hag Fold estate? There is one bus to Westleigh High School and one yellow school bus to Bedford.
- Son is on a supported transfer at the moment.
- Travelling a lot further to access a school.
- This is one of the most deprived areas.
- Want children to walk to school (health agenda).
- Children know their own area and boundaries now.
- If parents need to go into school, how will they get there?
- Truancy will increase if children have to catch two buses.
- Need to offer transport contracts to the best, not to the cheapest.
- Atherton is being penalised to make room for BSF.
- A local school for local children.
- Take teenage children away from school and it will become a ghost town.
- 0 to 16 activities are needed.
- This school fits the bill for this community.
- Staff are leaving – this will leave daughter with no teaching staff They have had 4 supply teachers already.
- Disruption to pupils' education.
- Concerns surrounding getting to know new people and bullying.
- No school, no hope, no future.
- Taking away the heritage of Atherton.

Parent Y6 and Y9 child:

- Westleigh and Fred Longworth have told parents that school was closing; this is why school has only 64 first preferences.
- Hesketh Fletcher is a very good school.
- We feel it is down to the headship. The new head teacher is doing very well.
- School has brought the eldest child out of her shell.
- What about uniform?
- Disruption is a concern and losing friends.
- Atherton people will not take Bedford as an option as it is too far.
- Hope the school stays open –try to get every out of school activity there is.
- It is wrong that the school is closing.

Parent of Y6 child:

- I did not want my child to go to Hesketh Fletcher and appealed for a place at Fred Longworth but was turned down.
- The two new heads are good.
- Moving will be disruptive.
- Cabinet are not qualified to make the decisions they make.

- The majority of children at Hesketh Fletcher are here because they have been knocked back from other schools.
- The consultation document was sent out after Y6 SATS and 3 days before the appeals.
- The open evening at Hesketh Fletcher did not do the school any good.
- Atherton needs a secondary school but it needs to have a good reputation.
- What will happen about uniform?
- It is disruptive to family arrangements and friendship groups.

Parent of Y5 and Y6 children:

- Hesketh Fletcher was not my first choice and my appeal was refused
- Y6 child to come to Hesketh Fletcher but Y5 child won't be able to come here if the decision to close goes ahead
- Other schools (Hindley and Beford High) are too far to travel
- Experience of bringing teachers from one school to another shows it doesn't work

Parent of Y5 and Y6 children:

- Concerns regarding the transition of Y5 and Y6.
- Quality of the school.
- Rumours and speculation.
- Teaching from home.
- Viable education.
- Transport issues and safeguarding.
- Y7 commitment to taking through to Y11.
- Two children from different schools.

Parent of Y7 child:

- Advisory team – issue regarding retiring staff. There are already problems with the quality of education via supply teachers and lack of interest of pupils.
- Support for children – if they fall behind with the process.

Parent of Y8 and Y11:

- Message to Atherton / Tyldesley communities.
- Proposal for changes – invest money in Hesketh Fletcher, change the name and keep the school.
- Church school in the Atherton area.
- 14-19 centres.

Assistant Head Teacher of Fred Longworth High School; representing staff, governing body, parents and councillors:

- 1500 pupils is far too big.
- Promises to extend.
- Issues surrounding port-a-cabins.

- Deprivation factor.
- The consultation document is befuddling and confusing, needs re-writing for parents – taking advice before doing so.
- Pupil voice.
- Why can't Hesketh Fletcher be a 12 -19 school?
- The proposal would kill Fred Longworth.
- Reference made to LA Officer's history in another authority.

Parent of Y3 and Y6 children:

- Children have already moved.
- Admissions on first preferences but the children are not happy and we are considering appealing, not just regarding these proposals.
- Boundaries of councils, proposal to move Atherton into Bolton and Tyldesley into Salford?
- Atherton Council has made fundamental mistakes.
- The way the process is being handled – not against the closure.

Parent of Y6 child:

- Transition for child / continuity of staff.
- Supply already impacting on current provision.
- Worries for the future.

Parent of Y6 and Y7 child:

- Admissions.
- Rumours and speculation.
- Transition.

Parent of Y7 child:

- Admissions and appeal process prevents a place for our child at Westleigh.
- Feels like it is irrelevant.
- Supply staff.
- Provision.
- Continuity.

Parent of Y6 child:

- This is a done deal – can't trust anyone.
- Supply / retention of staff.
- Consultation process – trusting the process.
- Rumour.
- Speculation.
- Closure.
- Staff told school would close.
- Head Teacher encouraging, but backtracked on closure.

- Let down regarding the decision on leadership.
- School improvement – timescale for change.
- Children flourishing here.
- Earlier information should have been provided to outline proposals to help parents make decisions.
- Behaviour management issues in the school.

Parent of Y6 and Y9 children:

- Supply / retention of staff, maintaining and sustaining quality of provision
- Issues already in existence.
- Out of school activities – retaining this provision – sport.
- Angry regarding Atherton losing its secondary education facility.
- Rejected by other schools through the admissions process.
- Consultation document is manipulative and misleading.
- Speculation.
- Rumour.
- Where is the money coming from?
- Members of staff at Fred Longworth are informing people that they don't want expansion or Hesketh Fletcher learners.

Parent of Y8 child:

- Retention of staff.
- Curriculum.
- Parklee – is there expansion work going on?
- Why are we not consulting on expanding Fred Longworth now?

Parent of Y9 child:

- Retain staff.
- Continuity.
- Supply staff.
- Ethos – extra curricular – how do we maintain this through the process?
- Something should have been done earlier?
- Leadership issues should have been addressed earlier.
- One remaining secondary school in Atherton and a church school.

Parent of Y3 child:

- Supply staff.
- Continuity.
- Retention of staff.
- Disruption.
- Options year, most important year.
- Peer groups.
- Appeal on medical grounds.
- It is about money.

Group of parents:

- Comments on how to get a place at Fred Longworth.
- Process for allocation of places in Years 10 and 11.
- Travel – concern re cost of buses.
- Staff leaving – how will we maintain standards.
- Staff leaving to other schools – issue of supply teachers.
- Why not tell them before preferences expressed in October.
- Bullied at Westleigh.
- Three – don't want Westleigh.
- Fred Longworth saying shutting for four years – 2012.
- Daughter liked Hesketh Fletcher – good teachers.
- People of Atherton angry.

Drop-in session attendants were provided with comment cards during their appointment. Comments are detailed below:

10 were received:

- 1. As parents of children in Y6 and Y10 we feel very strongly against the closure of Hesketh Fletcher CE High School. This school has been in the past a successful church school of our community and we feel very let down in that performance has been allowed to fall without action being taken with poor leadership that has been in place. A risk is being taken with my children's education and whatever plans are put in place, you cannot guarantee their education. Is this a done deal.*
- 2. The decision to close Hesketh Fletcher School is the most disastrous thing to happen to this area. The school has a wonderful record in higher education and the most scope for further education and further development because of the land surrounding it. As regard to the affect on my daughters family, it will completely disrupt my grandsons education at a critical time of his GCSE's. Also his two, up and coming sibilings, would have elected to go to Hesketh Fletcher. Now Westleigh High School is too far to walk and too expensive to go by bus. The school itself is on a very busy main road and an accident waiting to happen. Why cannot Westleigh not come to Hesketh Fletcher? We are thoroughly disgusted with the proposal to close this very excellent school. But I suppose it is a foregone conclusion and yet just another procedure in the very destruction of Atherton by the powers that be.*
- 3. What a waste of time with the woman who has no heart.*
- 4. This is a community school which we need for children from low income families who cannot afford cars or bus fare. If your child is ill how do we get them from Bedford, Freddie's or Westleigh if you cannot afford to get there? Why could you not just take the children and staff from Westleigh and bring them together with Hesketh Fletcher then the money to build extra buildings on Westleigh can be spent on doing up Hesketh Fletcher. Atherton will still have a school for our children, because Leigh have plenty already. There will be a lot of late children if they have to travel that far every day with a lot of disruption at GCSE time for over 14 year olds.*
- 5. Very rude lady!!! Mind already made up. When all schools in the area are full you will be then making new areas for the 'naughty children' e.g. Lilford Centre Shakerley, you are then going to provide other schools for disadvantaged children e.g. Hag Fold, Shakerley,. Why not keep Hesketh Fletcher open because to help with over spills of schools. Because you want to spend more money as you haven't a clue on children's feelings and can cause mental issues for making these children round like sheep!!!*
- 6. I will not appreciate in a discussion being told as a whole we do not get the community in to the school to build numbers. When as an extended school team we do an excellent job in the community and we get exemplary on our school Ofsted report. Why close this school when we work so closely with all 0-16 children. She made out it was all about statistics and it should not be these children are human beings.*
- 7. Seemed as though the lady in consultation had already made her mind up to close Hesketh Fletcher without listening to what people had to say about wanting to keep our community school open for local children. You say that a community needs a high school, well what about the community of Atherton. I have a child in Y5 and do not want*

her travelling on a bus on her own especially in this day and age. Also, if children had to go to schools outside Atherton, who will pay these costs, as they don't go past the 3 mile radius. We wasn't answered this question. In fact we only got told about statistics not anything we really should know. Keep Hesketh Fletcher open!

- 8. I do not wish for this school to close. My son started this school in year 7, he has never been happier. His confidence has grown and his targets are all a lot higher than when he started. We should be able to keep the school in the community and not have to take our children out just before they take their options. I feel my child would not be as happy as he is, at another school and I think it will do a lot of damage to his education and emotional well being.*
- 9. Was told the lady would take notes to consult on but didn't write anything. Didn't find it any use. Think the decision has been made. Bottom line, kids need an education and listen to the people they are the ones what vote. Kids need a stable education moving school. Won't be any good when the weather was bad. Only Hesketh Fletcher kids went to school. This means we can provide education in the worst weather as we coped and kept the kids education and entertained.*
- 10. Local Citizen: Hesketh Fletcher High School should not close because it provides an excellent education for some of the most deprived young people and families in the North West. Parts of Atherton have complex and multiple needs that will not be met by an institution in another township. It is high on the government's index of multiple needs. The falling numbers should have been addressed at least two years ago by fixing catchment areas, something you proposed several times in your supposedly unbiased brochure. This publication also repeatedly speaks of every township having a school at its centre. How could Fred Longworth, Westleigh, Bedford or even Hindley schools be at the centre of Atherton's community? How will parents of such a deprived area as Atherton afford transport costs at £8 per week per pupil to other schools and new uniforms if they change schools at the end of year 9? The responsibility for falling roles at Hesketh Fletcher is not the schools' alone, but also the LA's because of its apathy and neglect in failing to address this situation over the past 3 years (at least). The argument that the LA can only intervene if the Diocese ask them to is nonsense. They can, and have in the past, approached the Diocese when they feel something needs addressing. It seems to me that the LA have allowed a situation to develop that means that they can step away from taking responsibility for closing the school and thus remain blameless in the eyes of local people who are their constituents, i.e. their voters. Do not tell me this is not a political manoeuvre. In addition, why does the authority repeatedly promote the myth that they will open a 14-19 centre on the site of Hesketh Fletcher school when the brochure says on page 3 'The site may be used to develop'. Local people are being misled by the brochure which is full of inconsistencies and 'gobble-de-gook'. Why spend a reported £40,000 on this travesty of the truth when the money could have been spent on children – the true end users of any education system. If we are only at the consultation stage, why does the brochure imply it is a done deal? Why is the LA officer in charge of this process writing the report? How can this be unbiased? If Greater Manchester Challenge brings the school up to government standards, does this not mean that it should be allowed to continue? Why write a report before this year's exam results are out? Why is Hesketh Fletcher the only school in the brochure whose statistics are included? Hesketh Fletcher did better overall than Westleigh last year. These questions need addressing.*

Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

Meeting: Members of staff of Hesketh Fletcher CE High School
Date: 11 May 2009
Time: 4pm

Present: Approximately 70 staff
 Trade Union representatives
 A number of officers from Wigan Council and Manchester CE Diocese

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School.

Introduction:

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Hesketh Fletcher CE High and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and reported to Cabinet.

The Council might not be able to answer all questions at this meeting but will be holding a series of meetings with Trade Unions and others.

Diocese representatives clarified their role and stated that they did not have the powers that the LA has. They are part of the consultation and they have their own criteria that they will apply when responding. Main criteria: An excellent education of a distinctive nature and parents who wish for a CE education will be able to secure one. The main concerns for Hesketh Fletcher were sustainability, leadership and standards. The Diocese will provide pastoral support to the governing body and leadership of the school.

In response to the presentation and information given, members of staff were given the opportunity to ask questions:

- Q. *Site may be used as 14-19 Centre. Does it mean Hesketh Fletcher could be closed with nothing to replace it?*
- A. This will depend on the outcome of the Hesketh Fletcher consultation. If closure is agreed, we will begin consultation on a 14-19 Centre. The specific aims are to establish a 14-19 Centre here.
- S. *If there is no secondary education available in Atherton, 300 to 400 pupils will have to travel and this will impact on attendance. Members of staff were annoyed at the consultation booklet as they felt the information provided on standards was negative.*

- Q. *There are specific guidelines that the LA has to comply with when consulting with the public. The consultation booklet is already in the public domain. LA's are held accountable by the Department for Children's Services and Families (DCSF) on standards, leadership and numbers on roll (sustainability). If we had excluded this information from the consultation booklet, the booklet would be criticised for misleading parents, etc. The information concerning Hesketh Fletcher was not intended as a criticism. As the numbers on roll are predicted to fall, what will the impact be on support staff?*
- A. The staffing pool will apply to both teaching and support staff.
- Q. *How can Hesketh Fletcher deliver on site until 2014 if it is to close in 2012?*
- A. Entitlement to Diplomas from 2013 will be delivered here.
- Q. *When do temporary contracts come into play?*
- A. The LA policy is to encourage governing bodies to appoint to temporary contracts until the future of the school has been decided.
- Q. *How long after closure will the 14-19 Centre open?*
- A. Immediately. The number on roll will be very low; we can manage to do the work to open the Centre straight away after closure.
- Q. *How will staff be appointed to the 14-19 Centre?*
- A. We are seeking to establish two area based Trusts. The core of the Trust will be schools in the East of the borough and there will be external partners. The LA will commission diplomas and apprenticeships and the Trust will determine how they will be delivered. There will probably be a core of staff at the 14-19 Centre but staff on flexible contracts at schools / colleges will deliver the courses. The 14-19 Centre will be a very different establishment and not an 11-16 school.
- Q. *Why were Hesketh Fletcher's results published and not Westleigh or Bedford's?*
- A. The LA is required to publish information when seeking to close a school and need to be open with consultees.
- S. *In 2010, there will not be enough places at Westleigh and Fred Longworth.*
- S. *The school is at the heart of the community, when Hesketh Fletcher closes, there will be no school in Atherton.*
- A. Viability is the issue here and number on roll. For the 2009 intake, Hesketh Fletcher has only received 67 first preferences.
- Q. *Where can people go to if they want a faith school?*
- A. The Deanery and out borough schools.

- S. *Propaganda in the document has damned Hesketh Fletcher, but has not said how bad Westleigh is. The LA should be ashamed of themselves. There is very selective information in the document. We have no chance of staying open.*
- Q. *How can Hesketh Fletcher stay open when the booklet has damned it and given such a negative image of school?*
- A. Responses will be presented honestly to Cabinet.
- S. *There have been rumours about closure for a long time.*
- Q. *Why haven't you gone to CE primary schools to tell them to send their children to Hesketh Fletcher?*
- A. It is not the LA's role. It is the governors and schools role to do this.
- Q. *Who will employ us when you have put out a document like this? The other schools will all think we are not worth employing.*
- A. We have not picked up any negative comments from other schools about staff capabilities and skills.
- S. *We want this school promoted though.*
- A. We will be actively seeking places for staff at other schools.
- S. *It is a consultation; you need to give information on all schools in Wigan to give the big picture.*
- Q. *Who is on the panel for this document? Who wrote it?*
- A. It is the LA's role to consult – It is not the head teacher's role to write the document. Drop-in sessions for parents will be able to address questions about Westleigh's standards. However, head teachers have been consulted for many years on school reorganisation and BSF.
- Q. *What about the heart of Atherton community?*
- A. We are back to the issue of sustainability and viability. We will end up with around 300 students if we do nothing. Student numbers have been falling over a period of time.
- S. *You could have done something about Hesketh Fletcher's numbers then in previous years.*
- A. The LA's role is to commission education, not to promote individual schools and we cannot direct parents to send their children to a particular school. Atherton parents have been expressing preferences for other schools for a number of years.
- S. *Fred Longworth has altered their criteria in recent years to take Atherton children.*

A. They would have consulted and would have consulted Hesketh Fletcher as part of the process.

Q. *Are you consulting on admissions criteria?*

A. Yes and things will move and shift due to the consultation.

Q. *The document gives no real rationale for larger schools. How do we know that BSF will make it better and how will it be measured?*

A. We will be measured on national key performance indicators. The Deanery and St Mary's are doing very well and they are large schools.

S. *There is significant research that larger schools are less successful. Which schools do you know that are better because they are bigger?*

A. All schools will have to say how they are going to improve standards as part of BSF. This cannot be done yet because staff are not in place.

S. *Most parents are going to accept what you have said and they are being led to answer in the way you want.*

A. Parental preference over past few years speaks for itself.

S. *If you were to build a brand new school here, parents would want to come here.*

A. Put your comments in.

Meeting ended at 5pm.

Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

Meeting: Governors of Hesketh Fletcher CE High School
Date: 12 June 2009
Time: 2.30pm

Present: Governors of Hesketh Fletcher CE High School
 A number of officers from Wigan Council and Manchester CE Diocese

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School.

Introduction:

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Hesketh Fletcher CE High and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and will be reported to Cabinet.

In response to the presentation and information given, governors were given the opportunity to ask questions:

- S. *This is not a consultation in the true meaning of the word.*
- Q. *Are the results of the consultation likely to have any impact on the BSF plan? In what form will the results of the consultation be published?*
- A. We are consulting on issues beyond Hesketh Fletcher; there is a wider consultation and a vision across the borough. The report is going to Cabinet on 30 July 2009. This will be an open report that will provide information on where further information can be accessed. The BSF plans can be adapted following the results of the consultation.
- Q. *Has the decision already been made and is this consultation merely a legality the Authority has to go through?*
- A. The decision has not been made and it is not merely a legality. The results of the consultation go to Cabinet in Wigan but the decision is predicated on capital funding.
- Q. *The reference to 64 first choice applications for September 2009 in the booklet is misleading, as at the time of choosing the possible closure of Hesketh Fletcher was in the public domain and had been discussed at Head's meeting.*
- A. The document was published in May 2009.

- S. *Staff thought the document was biased and some parents could not understand it. Governor thought it was garbage and asked 'has it been done like this deliberately?' If it had a free post envelope then people would send it back. The questionnaire has been hidden in the document. The LA could say no-one is bothered about the school closure, but people will not respond because of the document being so poor.*
- Q. *What account has been taken into account of the 'student voice'?*
- A. Officers met with the student council and notes were taken of their views. There is also a student consultation questionnaire on the website.
- S. *Students did not feel like they had enough time to respond and say what they wanted to say.*
- A. An hour was spent with the students during which they were passionate about keeping the school open and they thanked officers when they left.
- Q. *Other schools in the borough are being merged, why is Hesketh Fletcher not allowed to merge with another school to be an equal partner, as pupils who transfer to a new school could be considered and feel 'outsiders'?*
- A. We are not merging any schools. We are closing Lowton and Golborne High School and opening a new school via competition. We do not know who will come forward to promote it.
- A. Diocese representative: Over the last 2 years, the Diocese and school have considered various possibilities for the future of the school but this has not lead to anything.
- Q. *The consultation booklet produced to advise people across the borough of the plans has seriously undermined the morale of our staff. They feel under valued. A quote from one of the pupils after reading the booklet 'Well Miss, you can't be a good teacher if you're still here'.*
- A. Accepted.
- Q. *At the almost certain change in Government in April 2010, the Conservative Party does not support BSF and therefore the expected monies will not materialise. What then?*
- A. The funding we require is for Phase 1 only. Civic Servants have said that existing and all parties are committed to BSF. They have had assurances. The Council will hear in the next few weeks about phase 1.
- Q. *If we don't get later phases then we won't be able to extend Fred Longworth. Where will students go in that case?*
- S. *Atherton is a thriving community. The bulk of Atherton residents stay here at school. We do not understand how you can talk of the heart of the community when you are closing a school.*

- A. The 14-19 Centre is dependent on Hesketh Fletcher proposals. If we move ahead, it will be created on this site to provide a range of provision delivered by a range of providers.
- S. *It is not the same as having a school here – it doesn't have the same cohesion as a school.*
- A. We know of a 14-19 Centre elsewhere that is performing exceedingly well.
- S. *Atherton residents do not believe it.*
- A. We do understand what you are saying. We are consulting at the moment on Hesketh Fletcher and will begin consultation on the 14-19 Centre.
- S. *People out there do not understand the proposals.*
- A. A drop-in session was held with parents where there was meaningful engagement and discussion. The drop in session was supported by the Diocese.
- S. *Three primary head teachers are also saying that parents are confused. People are concerned. I accept that structures are in place, but people are not willing to trust.*
- A. We accept the need to do more work with the community of Atherton.
- S. *People think that Hesketh Fletcher School will turn into a 14-19 Centre. If 14-19 Centres cannot be delivered, there will be some disappointed people. The document does not explain the different funding streams.*
- A. We are consulting on an overall vision for the borough which includes 14-19 Centres. Funding will come via BSF.
- Q. *Will Atherton residents go out of Atherton for 3 years then come back here for 2 years? Will they only do some of the education here for 2-3 days? It is a nonsensical proposal.*
- A. Collegiate and collaborative delivery is already happening. All learners must be able to access all 14-19 options and the 4 curriculum learning pathways – it is not just about Diplomas. What you described is what will happen all across the borough.
- Q. *What happens to the extended school provision that Hesketh Fletcher have worked so hard for?*
- A. Extended school provision cannot exist if the school does not. At the moment the school is open, working and thriving and on track to receive good results this time. We are working with colleagues to see if extended provision (EY provision) can be delivered free from the 14-19 Centre.
- Q. *Will the LA pick up the tab for pupils travel if they wish to access a CE school further away?*
- A. Yes. We will consider this on a faith basis provided that the schools are 3 miles away by walking route, or 2 miles away for families on Working Tax Credit.

- Q. *Will people from Hag Fold turn up at schools further away e.g. Bedford?*
- A. Most children that live in Atherton elect for a school that is not Hesketh Fletcher i.e. they are already travelling extensively. The LA will need to re-examine transport provision and look at a transport plan to address how pupils access provision.
- Q. *How much does it cost to send children to Bedford from Hag Fold?*
- A. From a Governor: £630 per year.
- A. We will look at transport and travel arrangements. We will work up this level of detail once we are out of the consultation phase.
- Q. *What happens if we don't get the bid and all the damage has been done?*
- A. The process has been explained. We will move forward step by step. We cannot say what will happen. We are not the decision makers. We are leading the consultation on behalf of the Council. No decisions have been made.
- Q. *Why have bus fares not been put in the booklet? Bus fares have risen from 20p to 80p per journey. Over 5 years it costs £2500 for one child to go to school.*
- A. We are consulting.
- S. *We were told by the LA people that they had intended to provide transport costs in the past.*
- A. I have never said this.
- S. *Hag Fold children will not get on buses. They will be late or just not turn up. Schools will not be happy with their attendance record.*
- A. If there is quality provision, then pupils will want to go and if transport is available, it will help them to go. The slide at Hesketh Fletcher has been happening over a number of years and the community of Atherton has been voting with its feet.
- S. *We do not want Hesketh Fletcher to continue in its current form but we do want a C of E school here in Atherton.*
- Q. *We have got falling rolls at Hesketh Fletcher, but if the consultation goes ahead, students will need more support. What will be done to make sure students get the full opportunities and support? If the decision is that we are not going to close, how will falling rolls be dealt with? What support is there for staff?*
- A. In the past, we have created a School Improvement Board to maintain / improve the quality of provision and possibly make suggestions about moving to a 14-19 Centre. We have the support of Greater Manchester Challenge who are putting in packages and financial support. If members of staff leave, we can make collaborative arrangements with other schools. Staff will not be disadvantaged by staying here.

- Q. *When parents speak to admissions in Wigan, they are being told either that Hesketh Fletcher is closing, or that it is full and being directed elsewhere. Is this right or indeed legal if the plans are still only in the consultation phase and no notice of closure has been served?*
- A. The Admission team are telling parents that there is a consultation around the proposal to close the school. They are not saying that the school is a failing school. This is not the kind of language that they use and they never enter into discussions about the relative merits of each school.
- S. *If Hesketh Fletcher does close, the catchment areas and admission arrangements of other secondary schools in the surrounding area need to be reviewed. If an offer of a place is determined by distance to the school from the pupil's home, pupils from Atherton will immediately be at a disadvantage. There needs to be a fair and equitable system for all pupils of the borough.*
- A. We are looking at the admission criteria of schools and prioritising children that live within the catchment areas. Atherton children will be prioritised for Westleigh and Fred Longworth if the proposals go ahead.
- Q. *What guarantees can be made that the courses offered at the 14-19 college will be taken up and the college be viable? What will happen if there is no uptake of the diplomas on offer?*
- A. Diplomas become an entitlement in 2013. There are four pathways that pupils will have to follow. The access map is not finalised. It is very unlikely that all Diploma points will be offered in one institution and the Centres will be required to deliver them.

Meeting ended at 3.30pm.

Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

Meeting: Hesketh Fletcher High School – Student Council

Date: 20 May 2009

Attendance: 12 Members of the School Student Council (mixed year groups)
A number of officers from Wigan Council

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School.

Introductions:

Before the Council can decide what it is going to do about the future of this school, it needs to ask everyone what they think. It is very important that we know what students think as they are the ones most affected by what we are doing.

Members of the student council were thanked for attending and an overview of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and what it will mean for Hesketh Fletcher High School was given:

- BSF, a multi million pound investment programme in school buildings.
- An opportunity to make things better for learners so that they can:
 - Enjoy school life;
 - Do their best they can in exams; and
 - Are able to choose from lots of courses at age 14 and 16 at a centre that they are able to travel to easily.
- We need to make sure that:
 - Schools are in the right place and of the right size
 - Schools are large enough to deal with falling pupil numbers
 - Educational standards are raised by the use of ICT (personalised any time any place learning) and;
 - Modern buildings for a modern curriculum with social spaces (some rebuilt, some modernised and made better)
 - Locate schools with other services and encourage extended services so that everyone can use schools

Questions:

- *What will happen at this site?*
- *Why this site?*
- *I would have to travel to school instead of to college?*
- Answer: Mainly Westleigh, Fred Longworth for Atherton. Would be buses from schools to 14-19 centres.
- *What would happen to primary schools; would children stay there until they are 14?*
- An explanation of what is happening to Hesketh Fletcher was given.
- *Is it not just this school losing kids?*
- Answer: Parental preferences.
- *Will Y6 not be worried about coming if the school is closing?*
- Answer: Year Y8 onwards will stay. Y7 will carry on to Y9 then be asked where they want to go to.
- *This is the only school in Atherton. What about picking up younger siblings from primary? What if teachers start to leave, pupils will suffer. Why this school? There have been rumours about closure.*
- It was explained that the rumours are not from the authority and were started in the area.
- *Can we not be given the opportunity to turn our school around – give us help from higher up.*
- Answer: During the first part of the consultation, the council will decide if to continue and we will know by July 09. If the decision is yes, stage 2 of the consultation will begin.
- *Why make Westleigh High school bigger. Hesketh Fletcher is bigger and would cost less to extend.*
- Answer: Parental preference.
- *It is not fair. The MP came in and said that the school was not closing.*
- *Our school is only one of two Church of England schools in the borough. This limits where pupils can go because of their beliefs.*
- Answer: Parents could look at out borough provision, but councillors will have to consider this carefully.
- *The new head teachers have not been given a chance to turn around the school, but we have seen improvements already.*
- Answer: We will look again at exam results. We can see you love the school.
- *People need to come and see. All the humanities are fantastic.*
- *Some say school is not nice inside, put money into teaching here.*
- *Why don't CYPS do a flashy booklet to promote Hesketh Fletcher to primary schools.*
- *Our school doesn't get much help. We have to raise our own funds (VA) to make improvements.*
- *You said that you'd make transport available to the 14-19 centres. What about transport to Bedford, etc. will it be free?*
- Answer: In the case of buses, there are travel expenses rules.
- *Surely if they make people move, the council should have to pay extra?*
- *School is supposed to be at the heart of the communities – there wouldn't be anything here.*
- *Would there not be full time students here?*
- Answer: No, unless they are doing post 16 courses at the 14-19 Centre.

- *Pointless if 14-19 only use the school once a week.*
- Answer: Different diplomas will be offered on different days.
- In answer to the question: Is anyone currently studying for a diploma at the school? The answer was no.
- *It is a waste of money. We have a school we can improve.*
- *Won't colleges mind you taking their pupils?*
- *Can we not improve all schools?*
- *If the birth rate is dropping won't all schools be affected?*
- Answer: It is difficult to know why falling numbers affect just one school. There can be a number of reasons.
- *We can't promote our school now because people think that it is closing.*
- *Why not close Westleigh? It is smaller and not a Church of England school.*
- Answer: The government tells us that we must listen to the parents and what they want.
- *How many pupils will the 14-19 Centre take? If more numbers discipline will suffer.*
- Answer: Need to work out how many 14-16 and 16+ year olds will come to the Centres.
- *This school takes a lot of SEN pupils and they do well.*
- *Teachers here are amazing.*
- *No-one is turned away here.*
- *Is it still just a proposal?*
- *Could you not have each school holding particular diplomas.*
- Answer: This is not practical due to travelling.
- *People won't mind travelling for diplomas if they want to do it.*
- *Talking about schools for communities but there won't be a school in our community.*
- *Will it affect numbers at colleges?*
- Answer: We are having discussions with the colleges.
- *If the birth rate is falling, why are we having a 14-19 Centre?*
- *It would take years to make this right.*
- Answer: It is planned to open in 2012.
- *There is a lot of history at this school. It is a Church of England school. None of the Roman Catholic schools are closed.*
- Answer: We have closed other schools in other areas that are Roman Catholic. It is very difficult to manage very small schools.
- *You can talk to anyone, I know everyone here .*
- *If Hesketh Fletcher does close, what will happen – will children stop coming?*
- Answer: The final decision will be made in November. If the answer is yes, there will be no intake in 2010.
- *If we have to move (current and new Y7), education will be disrupted.*
- *Y7s will be very uncomfortable if they have to move school part way through a year. Why not make this school bigger?*
- Answer: If you can come up with other options, councillors must look at it.
- *I think the top priority is learning.*
- *Would Y7s get a form to say what school they want.*
- Answer: this will be part of the process.
- *This school has just been bullied. Y9 will be affected because in Y10 and Y11 they have lots of supply teachers.*
- Answer: The LA will support the school.

- *We have already had a lot of staff leave and pupils have suffered. Pupils do not trust supply staff as they cannot cope.*
- *Can you not give us a chance to fight?*
- Answer: You would have to show that the school can turn the numbers around.
- *At open evening parents were told there would be a school.*
- Answer: We can't say until the decision has been made to close the school.
- *It is ridiculous it was done at this time when people had said start in Y7.*
- *I don't see why money can't be spent on improving this and other schools.*
- *I am expecting good GCSE's this year.*
- *You have not given the new head teachers a chance.*
- *People outside don't know what goes on in school and how dedicated staff are.*
- Answer: An explanation of the staffing pool was given. Some staff of Hesketh Fletcher might go to Westleigh High and Fred Longworth High.
- *It might be hard for staff to get work at other schools if all their experience is at this one.*
- *The dedication of teachers makes this school different. What I like about this school is the relationships between pupils and staff.*
- *The booklet should give positives as well as negatives.*
- Answer: We will know the exam results before the report to the committee in November and this will be included. We need everyone to realise their full potential.
- *There is good discipline because of the respect pupils have for staff and pupils can confide in staff.*
- *We could go into primary schools and promote our school.*
- *Can we not speak to the councillors?*
- *There are no staff that we do not like.*
- *The new head teachers say they really like it here and do not want to leave – friendly atmosphere.*
- *The new head teachers have set up more after school stuff – made loads of improvements.*
- *I came here in Y8 and didn't want to. I love it now.*
- *Can we see the councillors and explain how we feel and what we could do to turn our school around.*
- *We need to show off our school – no-one else will.*
- *Why aren't all schools results in the booklets.*
- Answer: Further information was provided about pupil numbers and an explanation that councillors do look at the numbers very carefully.
- *We have the passion to keep our school open.*
- Answer: Results are public information.
- *We don't get good things put in the papers, they've written us off.*
- *We have got pupils with advantages such as the best drama but you don't hear about it.*
- *At St Marys nobody does drama – the teachers do not give the pupils the confidence.*
- *People like you should be invited to see what we do.*

In answer to what should be changed:

- *Nothing, just a bit of paint.*

How best to manage:

- *You can't do it. Just give us a chance to keep the school.*

Our role is to report on consultation and everything that you have said. Councillors make the decision. We will ask if they will meet with you, as requested.

- *This school has moulded what I want as a career in comedy, these things are not available anywhere else.*
- *Westleigh have had the chance to turn their school around.*
- *The staff have asked pupils to promote the school at Church on a Sunday morning, the pupils are willing to do this.*

Slips were distributed to members of the student council with details of how to access the website and complete an on-line questionnaire.

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE and enlarge Westleigh High School

Questionnaires	Questions	1. Do you think that this document clearly explain why we are proposing to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher and expand Westleigh High School?			2. Do you understand how to make your views known?			3. Do you support the proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher and offer alternative school places at Bedford, Westleigh and Fred Longworth?		
		Yes	No	Don't Know	Yes	No	Not Stated	Yes	No	Not Stated
Total Number	Type of Respondent									
27	Parents of Hesketh Fletcher (Y8 - Y11)	17	10	0	20	7	0	2	25	0
15	Parents of Hesketh Fletcher (Y7 and new intake)	5	9	1	14	1	0	1	14	0
42	Total number of parents	22	19	1	34	8	0	3	39	0
2	Parents of Westleigh	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
2	Total number of parents	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
34	Parents at another school	19	12	3	28	5	1	4	30	0
3	Staff at Hesketh Fletcher	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
3	Staff at other schools	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
1	Staff at Westleigh	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
5	Governor at Hesketh Fletcher	3	2	0	5	0	0	0	4	1
1	Governor at Westleigh	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
5	Governors at another school	2	3	0	4	1	0	2	3	0
12	Members of the Community	8	3	1	10	1	1	0	10	2
3	Other	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	3	0
111	Total	61	45	5	93	16	2	13	95	3

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE and enlarge Westleigh High School

Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent
Email		Individual		Circular		MP		Diocese		Governors	
2	Parents at Hesketh Fletcher	5	Parents at Hesketh Fletcher	231	Parents - Hesketh Fletcher	1	MP	1	Manchester CE	1	Howe Bridge CE
2	Atherton residents	1	Grandparent							1	Atherton St George's
2	Fred Longworth	2	Residents - Atherton							1	Hesketh Fletcher
3	Parents - local primary school	1	Resident - Westleigh								
7	Other	1	Prospective parent								
		3	Other								
		1	Governor								
16	Total Number	14	Total Number	231	Total Number	1	Total Number	1	Total Number	3	Total Number

Responses	School	Question 15: Do you agree with the proposal to increase the size of Westleigh High School, to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School and for Atherton pupils to access Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in future?		
		Yes	No	Don't Know
3	Westleigh High School	2	1	0
233	Hesketh Fletcher C E	57	147	29
236	Total	59	148	29
	Percentage	25.00%	62.71%	12.29%

Consultation Meeting – Governors of Hesketh Fletcher Church of England High School - 12th June 2009

Consultation

Are the results of the consultation likely to have any impact on the BSF plan? In what form will the results of the consultation be published?

Has the decision already been made and is this consultation merely a legality the Authority has to go through?

The reference to 64 first choice applications for September 2009 in the booklet is misleading, as at the time of choosing the possible closure of Hesketh Fletcher was in the public domain and had been discussed at Head's meeting.

What account has been taken into account of the 'Student Voice'?

Other Schools in the borough are being merged, why is Hesketh Fletcher not allowed to merge with another school to be an equal partner, as pupils who transfer to a new School could be considered and feel 'outsiders'?

The consultation booklet produced to advise people across the borough of the plans has seriously undermined the staff morale of our staff. They feel under valued. A quote from one of the pupils after reading the booklet 'Well Miss, you can't be a good teacher if you're still here'.

At the almost certain change in Government in April 2010, the Conservative Party does not support BSF and therefore the expected monies will not materialise. What then?

There is some concern regarding the independence of the 'decision makers'?

The consultation booklet does not make direct comparisons with schools across the borough leading readers to believe that other schools are doing far better than Hesketh Fletcher.

The new Leadership team is doing an excellent job and have initiated improvements in all areas since their arrival. Why can't they be given time to turn the school around?

Community

Now that the Labour Government is placing so much emphasis on the community as the heart of society and also vowing to listen to the electorate, how can closing Atherton's only High School, against the wishes of the community, be justified?

The consultation booklet mentions 'Schools are at the heart of communities. Within the community we aim to provide the right number of school places for those living in the community'. This proposal proposes removing a school from the Atherton community.

Atherton will be the only township in Wigan not to have at least one secondary school.

What happens to the Extended School provision that Hesketh Fletcher have worked so hard for?

In the words of Andy Burnham and supported by our local councilor 'Hesketh Fletcher is an excellent school and is important to the town of Atherton. It is just as good as neighbouring schools'.

Church of England School

There won't be a Church of England School in the east of the borough and pupils who would prefer a CofE School will have to travel to Wigan or out of the borough to St James at Farnworth.

Will any provision be made for those pupils currently on roll wishing to stay in an Anglian VA school if Hesketh Fletcher closes?

What is visualised for Chaplaincy arrangements in the new centre?

Other secondary schools

Westleigh High School is not a high performing School, over the last few years pupils at Hesketh Fletcher and Westleigh have similar exam grades. In some areas Hesketh Fletcher has performed better. Westleigh's performance has been achieved with a smaller intake and significantly more money. The Governors are not convinced pupils will get a better education there and if Westleigh expands it may jeopardise their results, punctuality and attendance targets.

We are aware that the schools marked for expansion who will take our pupils, are not in favour of the proposals as they don't want to expand and become bigger. Surely bigger does not mean better!

Admissions

If Wigan is unsuccessful in its bid, how will Hesketh Fletcher have a school intake at September 2010 as the decision is made in November 2009 and parents have to select their preferred school by October 2009?

When parents speak to admissions in Wigan, they are being told either that Hesketh Fletcher is closing, or that it is full and being directed elsewhere. Is this right or indeed legal if the plans are still only in the consultation phase and no notice of closure has been served?

Some parents who selected Hesketh Fletcher as their first choice have been given places at other schools. How can this happen if you tell us our numbers are falling and can we trust the figures you are providing us with.

If Hesketh Fletcher does close, the catchment areas and admission arrangements of other secondary schools in the surrounding area need to be reviewed. If an offer of a place is determined by distance to the school from the pupil's home, pupils from Atherton will immediately be at a disadvantage. There needs to be a fair and equitable system for all pupils of the borough.

Travel

The proposed closure of Atherton's High school would result in large numbers of pupils and parents traveling to other towns in the borough. Has any thought been given to the effects on the environment of the additional car and bus journeys generated and the additional congestion on the roads, not to mention the cost to parents?

There are no good transport links with Bedford, Westleigh and to some extent Fred Longworth. A school bus is not the answer as your vision for a school in the community would require close on 24/7 provision.

Consideration needs to be given to pupils who need transporting home if they are unwell.

One school mentioned as an alternative (Bedford) will require some pupils to take up to 3 buses. Surely this is not good for their welfare as more time spent traveling means less time to partake in after school activities and reduce the time available for homework. Additional traveling is also cost prohibitive for some parents. What plans will be put into place to cover the additional traveling expenses for these pupils? Will the Local Authority subsidise them?

Why has Hindley High School not been considered as an alternative school for Atherton pupils. The bus links are better than either Westleigh or Bedford?

Uniforms

What will happen to pupils who move to an alternative school if Hesketh Fletcher closes? Will the Local Authority subsidise parents for the purchase of new uniform and sports kit? If the Hesketh Fletcher pupils continue to wear their own kit they may feel they don't 'belong' to the new school.

Arrangements for Hesketh Fletcher

The young people who are now at the school must have support in place to complete their education with a wide experience and opportunity to reach their full potential.

The pupils who begin Hesketh Fletcher this year are no way disadvantaged.

There are presently 100 students in each of the KS3 years at Hesketh Fletcher. What proportion of these will go to the three alternative schools named?

We are concerned about the haemorrhaging of good staff from the School and the impact it will have on the pupil's education. What reassurance or guarantees can you give us to ensure this does not happen?

We need to ensure staff are given opportunities for early retirement or other employment as they wish?

14 – 19 College

In the booklet it mentions that a 14-19 college 'may be' developed. The Director told Governors that the closure of the school was independent of the BSF bid and would go ahead even if the 14-19 centre was not developed.

Can you clarify what the curriculum offer will be at the centre? Will it be diplomas only or include A level IB etc? The advanced science diploma has been postponed until September 2012.

What guarantees can be made that the courses offered at the 14-19 college will be taken up and the college be viable? What will happen if there is no uptake of the diplomas on offer?

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

The following response to consultation was approved unanimously by the Board of Education's Schools Committee on 26 June 2009.

The Church of England Diocese of Manchester (the Diocese) is grateful to be able to contribute to the consultation process on the re-organisation of Wigan secondary schools. Our particular interest is in the future of Hesketh Fletcher CE High School.

Hesketh Fletcher has served the community of Atherton for almost 50 years. Many former pupils have become successful in adult life grounded in the Christian education provided at Hesketh Fletcher; many staff have diligently served this educational community for considerable parts of their working lives. We celebrate this. However, education and its institutions do not, and should not, stand still as pupils are prepared for a very different life and working environment in the 21st century. In order to offer a broad and balanced secondary curriculum and secure financial viability, secondary schools have grown larger, simultaneous with the secondary school population becoming smaller. In such a context there are inevitably going to be school closures and some communities left without a secondary school. This is the case with Hesketh Fletcher and Atherton.

The Diocese would have liked to see Hesketh Fletcher school survive and thrive, and supports the presence of a secondary school in a township of the size and socio-economic make-up of Atherton. The reality for the local authority is that the school has been unable to attract sufficient pupil numbers; unable to maintain good educational standards; and unable to secure sustainable leadership and management. This being the case, the Diocese regretfully accepts the proposals of Wigan Council in this specific part of their plan.

If the proposals go forward, the Diocese will support the governing body in providing the best education possible for the pupils who remain at Hesketh Fletcher over the next few years.

In future years, applications from parents of pupils seeking an Anglican based secondary education will be received at the Deanery CE High School in Wigan; and, Canon Slade; St James; and Rivington and Blackrod High schools in Bolton, all of which have an Anglican foundation and are all within accessible travelling distance from Atherton by public transport.

Wigan Schools for the Future: Questionnaire for students

About you

Q1 Which School do you go to?

- Abraham Guest High School
- Bedford High School
- Cansfield High Specialist Language College
- Fred Longworth High School
- Golborne High School
- Hawkley Hall High School
- Hesketh Fletcher CE High School
- Hindley High School
- Hope School
- Landgate School
- Lowton High School
- Montrose
- New Greenhall School
- Newbridge Learning Community
- Oakfield High School
- PEMBEC@Kingsdown High School
- Rose Bridge High School
- Shevington High School
- St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School
- St John Fisher Catholic High School
- St Mary's Catholic High School
- St Peter's Catholic High School
- Standish Community High School
- The Byrchall High School
- The Deanery CofE High School & Sixth Form College
- Westleigh High School-A College of Technology

Q2 Which year group are you in?

- Year 7 Year 8 Year 9 Year 10 Year 11

Q3 What is your name? (This will be treated confidentially and we won't share it with schools. We only need it so that we can enter you for the prize)

Planned changes to schools

We will need to make sure that schools are in the right place and are of the right size for the towns that they serve.

Q4 Do you think that schools should give a place to people that live in their town or area before other people from outside of the area?

- Yes No Don't know

These are the main changes that we are planning to make to schools. Do you think these plans are a good idea or not?

These schools will be ready by September 2011 and 2012:

Q5 Close Golborne and Lowton High Schools and build one new school to replace them.

- Yes No Not sure

Q6 Replace Hesketh Fletcher CE in Atherton with a new centre for students aged 14-19 years.

- Yes No Not sure

- Q7** **Open a new centre for students aged 14-19 years on the Pembec school site.**
 Yes No Not sure

These schools will take longer:

- Q8** **Close Standish and Shevington High Schools and build one new school to replace them.**

Yes No Not sure

- Q9** **Close Byrchall and Cansfield High Schools and build one new school to replace them.**

Yes No Not sure

- Q10** **You can tell us what you think of any of the planned changes for schools here.**

Centres for Students aged 14-19 years

At Y10 and above, you will be able to choose from different courses depending on what you want to do in the future. This includes diplomas and apprenticeships that match certain jobs and careers and also traditional GCSEs.

Each school will not be able to offer diplomas and apprenticeships because of the space they would take up and the number of students in each class would be too small. Instead, we have to think about offering diplomas and apprenticeships at other places where students from lots of schools come together to take the same course.

We are planning to open two centres, one in Atherton and one in the Pemberton area to run diplomas and apprenticeships. If you live close by, you may be able to travel to the centre yourself or, if you live further away, there will be a bus from your school to the centres and back.

Depending on which courses you choose, you may only be at the centres for part of the week (or not at all if you decide to take just GCSEs).

- Q11** **Do you think we should open centres in Atherton and Pemberton to run diplomas and apprenticeships?**

Yes No Don't know

You can say more here.

When you finish your Y11 year, some of you may decide to do 'A' levels and others may want to take courses such as higher level diplomas and apprenticeships. At the moment, many of you will have to travel long distances to get to Sixth Form Colleges, including Colleges outside of Wigan, if you want to do certain courses. Our plan is that the 14 - 19 centres will offer 'A' levels and higher level diplomas and apprenticeships so that most students can travel to them more easily. We are working with all of the Colleges in Wigan to see if they will run courses at the centres, so that the quality of the courses is the same as those presently on offer.

- Q12** **Do you think that the 14-19 centres should offer 'A' levels, higher level diplomas and apprenticeships?**

Yes
 No
 Just 'A' levels
 Just diplomas and apprenticeships
 Don't know

You can add anything you want to say about the centres here.

Why?

The numbers of students at Hesketh Fletcher CE High are falling and we expect there will be only 300 to 400 students in the future if we don't close it. Secondary schools need to be bigger than this so that they can have enough teachers and can offer a lot of subjects for students to study.

Q15 Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes

No

Don't know

You can say more here.
