



## **Children and Young People's Services**



## **Proposal to Close Shakerley Church of England Primary School**

This booklet contains

reasons why the Local Authority is considering closing  
Shakerley CE Primary School

information on other schools in the area

dates and times of meetings for parents, the public, schools'  
staff and governors and

information on how you can make your views known.

September 2006

### Introduction

This booklet gives you background information on Shakerley CE and other schools in the area and explains why the Local Authority (LA) is proposing to close the school.

At the end of the booklet you will find a timescale of events that the LA must keep to in order to close the school by the end of the summer term 2007. This includes

details of how and when to make your views known

what steps the LA will be taking to find alternative school places for children already attending the school

and the expected dates that those taking decisions on the school's future will meet.

### Why the LA is proposing to close the school

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Shakerley CE was inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) and was found to need 'special measures'. This means that OFSTED considered that the school was not providing an acceptable standard of education to its pupils and that the school is not able to improve unless urgent special action is taken.

When schools are placed in special measures, the Local Authority must act urgently in order to look after the interests of children at the school. The law says that the LA can take the following actions

**appoint additional governors to the school's governing body** – with the purpose of bringing extra skills and expertise to the governing body so that it can take urgent and appropriate action to improve the school

**replace the governing body altogether with an Interim Executive Board**, if the governing body is stopping improvements to the school being made

**take control of the school's budget** and work with the governors to return the budget to them as soon as possible – (this may be appropriate in cases of financial mismanagement)

**close the school** if there are alternative school places available at better performing schools or

**federate the school** with another school or schools – to enable the spread of good practice and improve the school in special measures.

Central Government can also take similar actions if it feels that the LA is not taking sufficient and urgent action to recover the school.

Taking all factors into account, the LA considers that the most appropriate action is to close the school. This is because

past efforts to support the school have failed to improve standards

pupil numbers are very low and continue to fall

and there are places at nearby schools that have better educational standards.

### **Pupil numbers at Shakerley CE and other schools in the area**

In January 2006 (these are the last confirmed figures) Shakerley CE had 85 pupils on roll and 35% surplus places. The Government expects LAs to take action when schools have more than 25% surplus places. Schools that are more than one quarter empty have to spend a large proportion of their budget on the building, leaving less money to employ teachers and other staff. Also, because schools are funded according to how many pupils they have, very small schools cannot employ as many teaching staff as larger schools. This means that there is little scope for dealing with any unforeseen events and they may struggle to cover the full curriculum.

The LA has been working with the Manchester Church of England Diocese and has identified that the two closest schools to Shakerley CE can offer places to the Shakerley pupils if the school closes. These two schools are Hindsford CE and St George's Central CE. The admission number (the maximum number of pupils per year group that the school can admit) and pupil numbers at all of the schools in January 2006 are shown below:

<b>School</b>	<b>Adm No</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Y1</b>	<b>Y2</b>	<b>Y3</b>	<b>Y4</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>Y6</b>	<b>Total</b>
Shakerley CE	22	14	9	14	13	11	10	14	85
Hindsford CE	30	22	16	27	30	26	28	17	166
St George's Central CE	45	30	39	36	44	35	28	41	253

You can see that there are places available in most year groups to take children from Shakerley CE if it closes in August 2007. The Year 5 and Year 6 children above will have started, or be ready for starting, secondary school by the time the school is expected to close. There will also be enough places at the other two schools for the reception children that started at Shakerley CE this September.

The LA and Diocese will consider what building works may be needed at Hindsford CE and St George's Central CE to make the schools suitable for accommodating more pupils. Any necessary building works, which may include remodelling or extension, will aim to be completed before the Shakerley CE pupils are expected to transfer.

If Shakerley CE closes, parents will be able to ask for a school place at any alternative school and they will be given one provided that there is room. However, there will be a guaranteed place at either Hindsford CE or St George's Central CE

and these schools will be named ‘receiving schools’ in the public notices that will be published.

## Dates and times of meetings

Meetings will be held for those who are affected by the proposal. These meetings will give you more information on the proposal and you will be able to discuss any concerns or worries you may have with the LA and Diocese. Please make every effort to attend these meetings as your views are important. Only by hearing the views of everyone involved can the LA make the best decision concerning the future education of children at the school.

Meeting venue	Date and time	Who should attend
Fred Longworth High School Printshop Lane Tyldesley M29 8JN	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm	This is a <b>public</b> meeting and is open to everyone, especially parents, staff and governors of Shakerley CE, Hindsford CE and St George’s Central CE.
Shakerley CE Primary Lancaster Avenue Tyldesley M29 8LN	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October and Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October between 4pm and 7pm	On these days we will be running individual meetings with <b>parents</b> of Shakerley CE pupils. You will be able to book your own meeting slot through the school. At these meetings, you will be able to give us an early idea of which alternative school you prefer.
Shakerley CE Primary	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October at 4pm  Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm	Shakerley CE School <b>Staff</b>  Shakerley CE School <b>Governors</b>

## Next Steps

Strict legal procedure have to be followed to close any school. For schools in special measures, the timescale is shorter because of the urgency of the situation.

Overleaf is a timetable of events which include periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you want to make your views known, it is important that you do so within the consultation dates highlighted below and in the ways described. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

## Proposed Timetable

Event	Dates
<p><b>Consultation</b> – during this time you can make your views known by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attendance at the meetings detailed on the previous page (notes will be taken)</li> <li>• writing to or emailing the LA or</li> <li>• completing the response form at the end of this booklet.</li> </ul> <p>The address for correspondence is given overleaf</p>	Monday 18 September 2006 to Friday 13 October 2006
Results of consultation will go to Elected Members and they will decide whether or not to carry on with the closure proposals.	Thursday 16 November 2006
<p><b>Formal consultation</b> - if the LA decides that it wants to carry on with the proposals, statutory notices have to be published. These are public notices that appear in a local newspaper, at the entrance to Shakerley CE and in another public place in the area, such as a community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the LA at the address at the end of this booklet. This address and the date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.</p>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2007 to Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2007
If the LA receives objections to the proposals during the formal consultation stage, it has to refer the proposals and all written comments and objections to the School Organisation Committee. This committee is not part of the LA and it will take an objective view of the proposals based on all of the evidence. Its decision is final.	End of February to early March 2007
If <b>no</b> objections to the proposals are received during the formal consultation stage, the final decision is taken by the Council.	February 2007
If it is decided that the school will close at the end of the summer term 2007, the LA will offer to meet all parents of Shakerley CE pupils individually to find their child an alternative school place.	March and early April 2007.

**Please note that this timetable may alter.** Shakerley CE will be able to tell you if this happens and tell you of any new dates that we are working towards.

**Address for correspondence**

School Placements and Provision  
Children and Young People's Services  
Progress House  
Westwood Park Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 4HH

email: [schoolprovision@wiganmbc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolprovision@wiganmbc.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01942 486035 or 01942 486028

## Response form

Please **read the booklet carefully** before making your response below. Please place a **X** in the box that most closely describes your views

1. Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why the LA are proposing to close Shakerley CE?

Yes  No  Don't know

2. If Shakerley CE closes, do you understand what the LA will do, with parents, to find Shakerley CE pupils places at other schools?

Yes  No

3. Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?

Yes  No

4. Do you think that Shakerley CE should be closed?

Yes  No  Don't know

5. If you think that Shakerley CE should stay open, please say why you think this

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6. Have you any other comments to make?

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7. Are you

A parent of a child at Shakerley CE

A parent of a child at another school

please state which school .....

A member of staff at Shakerley CE

A member of staff at another school

please state which .....

A governor of Shakerley CE

A governor at another school

please state which .....

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form to:

School Placements and Provision  
Children and Young People's Services  
Progress House  
Westwood Park Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 4HH

or you can return your form to the school where they will be collected by the LA at the end of the consultation period.