



PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposal to close the Sunnydale site of Greenfield Community College on 31 August 2022 and to rebuild the Newton Aycliffe site

Notice is given in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Durham County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Greenfield Community College (Community) Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7LF.

It is proposed to close the Sunnydale site of Greenfield Community College on 31 August 2022 and to rebuild the Newton Aycliffe site. This proposal reflects the work being done across County Durham to make schools sustainable in the long term to meet the challenges in a rapidly changing educational environment.

Following an Ofsted inspection judgement of 'Inadequate' Durham County Council closed Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014 and amalgamated with Greenfield Community Arts School on 1 January 2015. However, since May 2017, concerns about educational standards, an unsustainable budget projection, a steady decline in pupil numbers (particularly those attending the Sunnydale site), and an accumulation of conditions backlog problems on both sites have made it necessary to review options for education provision.

The Council believes that this proposal provides the best opportunity for children, the school, and the communities it serves based on educational outcomes, pupil numbers and sustainable finances. Significant additional funding to transform the learning environment for all children attending the school on the Newton Aycliffe site has been secured should the proposal be agreed.

The pupil roll at Greenfield College has declined; in 2017 there were 987 pupils on roll, currently there are 769 pupils on roll. The Department for Education (DfE) views the minimum size of a financially viable secondary school to be 600. Greenfield Community College's pupil roll is above this but across two sites the economies of scale are lost, putting the school under financial pressure. In addition, repeated Ofsted inspections and DfE Advisers have identified the constraints that the split site accommodation has had upon educational improvement and progress.

This Notice is an extract from the full proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained via an email request to: **schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk**

It is also available on the County Council's website at: www.durham.gov.uk/consultations

Within four weeks from the date of this publication any person may object or make comments on the proposal by emailing them to: **schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk**

Signed:

John Pearce
Corporate Director
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