



Northumberland
County Council

CONSULTATION ABOUT SCHOOL STRUCTURES IN THE COQUET PARTNERSHIP



11 MAY – 29 JUNE 2022

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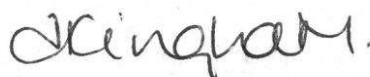
Introduction

Northumberland County Council has committed £25.5m towards the replacement and refurbishment of school buildings in the Coquet Partnership. However, before carrying out this work to schools, the Council needs to know that it is investing in a school structure that will deliver consistently good outcomes for all children and young people, and that it is sustainable for the current and future generations to come.

Over the last few months, Council officers have been talking to Headteachers and school Chairs of Governors to gain their views on the current educational structure in Coquet. While there were some varying responses, the school leaders all agreed that it is now the right time for the views of everyone with an interest in education in Coquet to be captured. The schools have therefore asked the Council to carry out a wider consultation with parents, staff, governors, pupils and the wider public.

This consultation document sets out the key issues faced by schools in the partnership and asks for your views on whether the current structure or the proposed primary/secondary school structure would deliver a good and sustainable school system in the Coquet area. We are also asking if you have any alternative suggestions that you think could be a viable option for delivering these aims.

Whether you are a member of staff in a Coquet school, a parent of school-age children, a local resident, or anyone with an interest in education in the area, I hope that you will take this opportunity to submit your views and help to shape the future of schools in the Coquet Partnership.



Audrey Kingham
Interim Executive Director of Children's Services
Northumberland County Council

BACKGROUND TO THE CONSULTATION



Current structure of schools in the Coquet Partnership

The Coquet Partnership currently has a mixed organisation of schools and academy, with 5 first schools, 1 primary academy and James Calvert Spence College (JCSC), which is an age 9-18 school.

The Coquet Partnership includes the following schools:

- Amble First – age 4-9
- Amble Links First– age 2-9
- Broomhill First – age 3-9
- Grange View CE First – age 3-9
- Red Row First – age 3-9
- NCEA Warkworth Church of England Primary (academy) – age 2-11
- James Calvert Spence College – age 9-18

Some schools also have provision for children from age 2 which are run separately from the school e.g. Amble First.

Children in the first schools leave at the end of Year 4 and transfer into Year 5 at JCSC. A school structure that includes a transfer at the end of Year 4 is in keeping with the 3-tier system that was prevalent across Northumberland, and which now remains in 5 of the 14 school partnerships in the county.

In 2016, the Governing Body of NCEA Warkworth Church of England Primary School decided to extend the age range of the school to become a primary with provision for children aged 2 to 11. Therefore, children leave this school at the end of Year 6 and transfer to either JCSC in Year 7 or more often, join a local secondary school (usually The Duchess High School in Alnwick if there are places available). Warkworth is therefore organised within the primary secondary structure and matches the structure of the National Curriculum Key Stages. As Warkworth is therefore already structured as a primary school, it does not form part of this consultation in relation to any proposals for change, but the views of staff, governors and parents of children attending the school in relation to changes to structure for other schools are welcomed as Warkworth does form part of the overall Coquet Partnership.

As JCSC was formed from the amalgamation of JCSC South Avenue (formerly named Amble Middle School) and JCSC Acklington Road, the school operates across a split site. Depending on the size of year groups in any given year, either Years 5 and 6 or Years 5, 6 and 7 are educated at the South Avenue building, while Years 7 or 8 onwards are educated at the Acklington Road site. In any event, at the of either Year 7 or 8, students transfer from South Avenue to the Acklington Road site.

The issue of which school structure would best serve the children and young people living in the Coquet area has been talked about among the local schools for a number of years, but consensus was never reached on a decision to consult on structure. However, with the difficulties caused by the COVID pandemic now being largely overcome, the Council is once again planning its investment programme in schools and it is necessary to ensure that such investment is made in a viable and sustainable school system in the Coquet Partnership.

PART 1 – RATIONALE FOR THE CONSULTATION



Key Stages within the National Curriculum

Table 1 shows the age of children within a particular Year Group and Key stage of the National Curriculum when organised within a primary/secondary system of schools.

Table 1

Age	Year Group	Key Stage	Phase
3-4	Nursery/pre-school	Early Years	PRIMARY
4-5	Reception class	Early Years	
5-6	Year 1	KS1	
6-7	Year 2	KS1 (Assessment)	
7-8	Year 3	KS2	
8-9	Year 4	KS2	
9-10	Year 5	KS2	
10-11	Year 6	KS2 (Assessment)	
Phase Change to Secondary			
11-12	Year 7	KS3	SECONDARY
12-13	Year 8	KS3	
13-14	Year 9	KS3	
14-15	Year 10	KS4	
15-16	Year 11	KS4 (GCSE's taken)	
16-17	Year 12	KS5	SIXTH FORM
17-18	Year 13	KS5 ('A' levels taken)	

Table 2 shows the age of children within a particular Year Group and Key stage of the National Curriculum as organised within the current school structure in the Coquet Partnership (note schools organised within the 3-tier system in Northumberland also have

a phase change at the end of Year 4 like JCSC, but also at the end of Year 8, unlike JCSC which has only one transition into the school at Year).

Table 2

Age	Year Group	Key Stage	Phase
3-4	Nursery/pre-school	Early Years	PRIMARY
4-5	Reception class	Early Years	
5-6	Year 1	KS1	
6-7	Year 2	KS1 (Assessment)	
7-8	Year 3	KS2	
8-9	Year 4	KS2	
Phase Change to James Calvert Spence College			
9-10	Year 5	KS2	PRIMARY
10-11	Year 6	KS2 (Assessment)	
11-12	Year 7	KS3	SECONDARY
12-13	Year 8	KS3	
13-14	Year 9	KS3	
14-15	Year 10	KS4	
15-16	Year 11	KS4 (GCSE's taken)	
16-17	Year 12	KS5	SIXTH FORM
17-18	Year 13	KS5 ('A' levels taken)	

As can be seen from Table 2, the phase change to JCSC occurs halfway through Key Stage 2, therefore the first schools have responsibility for KS2 in Years 3 and 4, while JCSC has responsibility for teaching KS2 in Years 5 and 6, including assessment at the end of Year 6. JCSC then has responsibility for the whole of KS3 to KS5.

Views of Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of schools in the Coquet Partnership 2022

Discussions about the structure of the Coquet Partnership have been going on among the teaching professionals and Governing Bodies for a number of years. In late 2019, this resulted in a letter being submitted to the Council from the headteachers of the first schools setting out their request and rationale for consultation to the Council for a consultation with the wider public. However, there was not a consensus for a consultation across all schools at that point and therefore the proposal for consultation was not taken forward.

The Council had also committed to the allocation of capital funding to refurbish or replace school buildings in the Coquet Partnership in its spending plans, but with the arrival of the COVID Pandemic, these projects had to be delayed. Now that building projects can once again be undertaken, the Council is now keen to ensure that the allocated funding for school building projects is spent within school organisation structures that will deliver

improved outcomes for all children and young people and that will have long-term viability and sustainability.

Therefore, in early 2022 Council officers arranged a number of informal meetings with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors in the earlier part of this year to ascertain whether there remained a desire to review how schools are organised in the partnership. The full outcomes of these discussions are set out in a report to the Council's Cabinet which is available at

<https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=1405>.

A key step forward arising from these discussions was agreement on a vision for the Coquet Partnership, which is:

- Improve the educational outcomes and offer for all pupils within the Coquet Partnership, to ensure every child meets their potential.
- Improving and extending SEND offer for children and young people in Coquet Partnership so that their needs are met locally, and travel times are reduced significantly.
- Ensure the Coquet community supports the education model in order that the community thrives.
- Ensure schools work together to further develop the partnership and create a sustainable and viable model of education for the future, that meets the wider needs of the community.
- Ensuring the best value for NCC capital investment as well as any wider investment opportunity which may arise.

A notable point in relation to this vision is that whatever school structure is in place in the Coquet Partnership, all schools going forward need to work together more closely to improve outcomes for children and young people. In relation to the overall structure of schools that would support this vision, officers asked the headteachers and Chairs of Governors about their views about the benefits and challenges of both the current structure of schools in Coquet Partnership with the phase change at the end of Year 4 and the primary/secondary or '2-tier' system, where the phase change occurs at the end of Year 6. The main views on the two structures were as set out in Table 3:

Table 3

Main views on current structure	Main views on 2-tier system (primary/secondary)
Current structure no longer the right fit for the partnership or educational journey	Majority of schools support consultation on 2-tier option for partnership
No accountability for key stages	One school has accountability for whole Key Stage
Transition currently splits key stages	Transition at end of KS2 in line with National Curriculum
Children not 'ready' for middle school at age 9 e.g. travelling on bus	Longer term viability under 2-tier
Schools losing children to primaries in other partnerships	Timing of any change important
Many children are happy to move into Year 5 at 'middle' phase	
Both models have their pros and cons	

There were other themes that arose from discussions with the schools, particularly in relation to provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs in the Coquet. Overall, while there were some varying views about the structure of schools, the majority of schools supported asking the Council to consult on a proposal for a primary/secondary 2-tier structure in the Coquet Partnership.

Educational standards and outcomes in the Coquet Partnership

Ofsted Ratings

All first schools in the Coquet Partnership currently have an Ofsted rating of 'Good', while JSCS has a rating of Requires Improvement, although in its last monitoring visit by Ofsted it is taking effective action.

Standards and education outcomes

KS1:

First and primary schools assess their pupils at the end of KS1 at age 7 in order to identify the support a child will need as they enter KS2. Although the results are collected by the Council for submission to the Department for Education (DfE), they are not published at the school level (although parents will be informed of their own child's results by the school).

KS2:

Primary schools, middle schools in Northumberland and middle/high schools such as JCSC carry out the national KS2 SAT tests at the end of Year 6. KS2 SAT tests were cancelled in 2020 and 2021, therefore the last available data is from Summer 2019. While JCSC is responsible for Years 5 and 6 and carries out the KS2 assessment of the whole

key stage, the first schools in the partnership are responsible for teaching in Years 3 and 4 of KS2. Table 4 shows the percentage of pupils in JCSC who achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of KS2 in 2019, 2018 and 2017, together with the average percentage at Northumberland and England level in those years.

Table 4

Year	JCSC	Northumberland Average	England Average
2019	27%	66%	65%
2018	38%	65%	64%
2017	25%	61%	61%

The Council's average is based on all schools that test at the end of KS2, which includes all primary schools and middle schools.

KS4:

At age 16, students sit their GCSE examinations which marks the end of KS4. The last verified outcomes at GCSE (Key Stage 4) for JCSC were in summer 2019 and these are set out in Table 5. GCSE grades were awarded in 2020 and 2021, but as a result of the COVID pandemic different systems had to be used to award grades in those years. While the DfE has stated that the results in 2020 and 2021 cannot be compared meaningfully to results from 2019 as a result of the change to the award systems, they are also presented in Table 5 for information.

Table 5 – GCSE results, JCSC

		GCSE 2019	GCSE 2020	GCSE 2021
Progress 8 (0 = Expected Progress)	JCSC	-0.02	0.23	0.64
	Northumberland average	-0.12	N/A	N/A
	England average	-0.03	N/A	N/A
%Achieving Grade 5+ inc Eng and Maths	JCSC	38%	31.8%	34.6%
	Northumberland average	43%	N/A	N/A
	England average	43%	N/A	N/A
Attainment 8 (higher figure is best)	JCSC	45.5	43.7	42.3
	Northumberland average	46.5	N/A	N/A
	England average	46.7	N/A	N/A

Table 5 indicates that JCSC's results in 2019 at GCSE are stronger in comparison at both county and national (England) level, being positioned 6th out of 16 high/secondary schools in Northumberland for Progress 8, 11th out of 16 for % achieving Grade 5+ including English and Maths, and 9th out of 16 for Attainment 8. Although not directly comparable to 2019 results as stated previously, Progress 8 scores in 2020 and 2021 appear to have improved. Furthermore, JCSC has reported that caution was taken in awarding Grade 5 and above in 2020 and 2021, resulting in achievement slightly below 2019.

Table 6 shows the results of the combined pass rate of English and Maths only at Grade 4 and above in 2019, 2020 and 2021, which indicates an improving picture over time

Table 6 – JCSC Combined pass rate English and Maths

2019	59.4%
2020	57.9%
2021	62.8%

KS5 ('A' level):

At the end of KS5, students undertake 'A' level examinations or assessments for technical/vocational qualifications. JCSC results at 'A' Level for 2019 are set out in Table 7.

Table 7 - 'A' level results 2019

2019		
Progress Score	JCSC	0.12 (average)
Average result per A Level (Grade)	JCSC	C+
	Northumberland average (state funded)	C+
	England average (all schools)	C+
Average Points per A level	JCSC	32.92
	Northumberland average	32.59
	England average	34.01

In relation to other high/secondary schools in Northumberland, JCSC was 4th out of 16 for Level 3 value added, 4th out of 16 for Average Point Score, 1st out of 16 for achievement of grades AAB+ in 2 or more facilitating subjects and 5th out of 16 for the best 3 A-levels.

Pupil Data and Information

Table 8, Row 1 shows the number of pupils living in the Coquet Partnership of statutory school age (Reception to Year 11 **but not including children attending specialist**

provision) and the number of children who attend a school in the partnership; Row 2 and Row 3 break this number down by school phase.

Table 8 – Number of pupils living in Coquet area (excluding pupils attending special schools) and where they attend school

Row 1	Total no. Pupils living in Coquet Partnership catchment areas (Reception to Yr 11)	Actual No. Pupils living in Coquet area who attend Coquet Partnership schools (Reception to Yr 11)
	1,651	1,234 (75% of Total)
Row 2	Total no. pupils who live catchment areas of first schools and Warkworth Primary	Actual No. pupils who live catchment areas of first schools and Warkworth Primary and who also attend those schools Autumn 2021
	698	596 (85% Total)
Row 3	Total no. pupils who live in JCSC catchment area (Year 5 to year 11)	Actual No. Pupils who live in Coquet area and who also attend JCSC Autumn 2021 (Year 5 to year 11)
	953	638 (67% of Total)

Row 2 in Table 8 indicates that parents of 15% of the pupils who live in the Coquet catchment area choose to send their children to schools outside of the area rather than to the first schools or Warkworth CE Primary. Row 3 indicates that parents of 33% of pupils who live in the JCSC catchment choose to send their children to schools outside of the JCSC catchment area.

Some schools in Coquet Partnership do attract a small number of pupils from other Northumberland catchments. Once these pupils are taken into account, Table 9 shows the number of surplus (unfilled) places by school phase:

Table 9 – Number of Surplus places in Coquet Partnership

School Phase	No. Surplus (unfilled) places
All First Schools	*194
JCSC	174

**Note – even if all children living in first school catchments attended those schools, there would still be some surplus places.*

In simple funding terms, if the first schools attracted the 15% of pupils (see Table 8) who live in their catchment areas but attend other schools, they would have an additional £338k allocated to their budgets. There are more pupils who live in the catchment of JCSC and attend other schools than there are surplus places at the school, but if JCSC was able to fill its 174 surplus places from that group of pupils (see Table 9), it would have an additional £755k in its budget. Therefore, attracting local pupils into schools is a key factor in the viability and sustainability of a school partnership.

The number of children being born in the Coquet Partnership who will enter the school system in the future has fallen slightly in the last 2 years or so, but overall it is relatively steady when compared to other partnerships in the county; also, when compared to data over a longer period the numbers of children being born in the partnership appear to be cyclical (Table 10). However, the number of future pupils does point to the need for all schools in the partnership to attract their catchment pupils in order to maintain a viable and sustainable school system. This is particularly important in relation to a school's financial viability, as under the National Schools Funding Formula each child attracts a lump sum which forms the majority of a school's budget.

Table 10 – Coquet Partnership future pupil numbers

Pupils entering Reception in September 2025	Pupils entering Reception in September 2024	Pupils entering Reception in September 2023	Pupils entering Reception in September 2022
113	119	139	143

There is some housebuilding planned within the partnership locally over the next 5 years or so which will impact on a small number of schools, but due to parental preference there is sufficient capacity for pupils within their own catchment schools for the foreseeable future without the need to create additional school places.

Special Educational Needs

There is currently no specialist provision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) within the Coquet Partnership. Currently, there are 60 pupils from Reception to Year 11 who have to travel daily to specialist provision outside of their local area for their education. In particular, the Council's data indicates there is a growing need for additional specialist provision for children and young people with Autism (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) as a primary SEN need right across the

county. This growing trend also applies to the Coquet Partnership, as can be seen from the forecasts for number of children in special schools with ASD and SEMH in Table 11 and Table 12.

Table 11 - Forecast for number of pupils with ASD as a primary need living in Coquet Partnership

Final Forecasts Year Group	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2022	1	2	4	13	3	9	3	8	4	4	7	7
2023	1	1	2	9	12	5	12	3	6	5	4	8
2024	1	1	2	5	9	22	7	15	3	9	6	4
2025	1	1	2	3	5	16	29	9	12	4	9	6
2026	1	1	2	4	3	8	21	38	7	17	4	10
2027	1	1	2	4	4	6	11	27	31	10	17	4
2028	1	1	2	4	4	6	7	14	22	41	10	19
2029	1	1	2	4	4	6	8	10	12	30	43	11

Note: Shaded figures show year on year increase within a particular year group

Table 12 - Forecast for number of pupils with SEMH as a primary need living in Coquet Partnership

Final Forecasts Year Group	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2022	3	5	8	10	7	8	8	9	9	8	5	7
2023	3	7	8	8	14	6	7	10	10	8	8	5
2024	3	8	11	9	11	11	5	8	10	8	9	8
2025	3	8	12	11	11	9	11	6	9	9	9	8
2026	3	8	12	13	15	10	9	12	6	7	9	8
2027	3	7	12	13	17	13	9	10	13	5	8	9
2028	3	7	11	13	17	14	12	10	11	11	6	7
2029	3	7	12	11	17	14	13	14	11	9	12	6

Note: Shaded figures show year on year increase within a particular year group

A small but significant number of children in the Coquet Partnership are also diagnosed with Speech, Learning and Communication needs particularly in the primary years, which often leads to a diagnosis of ASD in the secondary years.

Discussions on the structure of schools in the Coquet Partnership have also opened the opportunity to share this data with headteachers in order to have a 'joined-up' approach to all education in the area. Therefore, officers and headteachers have had some initial discussions to explore how and where appropriate specialist provision could be provided in the Coquet area. This consultation is therefore also your opportunity to share your views

with us on these initial ideas for SEN provision and these are set out in Part 2 'Proposal for Reorganisation of the Coquet Partnership' later in this document.

Early Years Provision

Northumberland County Council also has a statutory duty to manage the availability of childcare provision across the county and to ensure sufficient flexible provision for working parents, parents taking up training or returning to work and for eligible children in receipt of the 2, 3 and 4 year old free funded entitlement.

Including settings based at schools, there are currently 13 early years provisions across the Hadston and Coquet Partnership. These providers have all been judged to be Good or better by Ofsted and officers have also judged that they provide enough sufficient, sustainable choice and flexibility to meet current demand in the area.

As a result, developing new similar provision or extending the current offer in some schools would be likely to have a direct impact on the current stable Early Years market for some long established private and voluntary section provisions, who also offer wrap around and holiday care, including specialist tailored provision for 2yr olds who serve the local community in proximity.

Given the potential to destabilise the Early Years market and in view of the consultation on school structure, the Council is not proposing to make any changes to the current Early Years offer within the Coquet Partnership as part of this consultation.

PART 2 - PROPOSAL FOR REORGANISATION OF SCHOOLS IN THE COQUET PARTNERSHIP



In the light of the data and information set out in Part 1 of this consultation document, the Council is consulting on whether or not to reorganise the structure of schools in the Coquet Partnership and would like your views on the following proposed models of school organisation.

Model A – Current school structure of Coquet Partnership

Model A (see Table 13) is the current structure of schools and if there was no change in the Coquet Partnership, this structure would remain in place:

Table 13 - Model A: current structure of Coquet Partnership

School	Number on Roll in Jan 2022	Capacity (net number of children able to be educated in the school building)	Forms of Entry (size of classes in each year group)	Planned Admission Number (PAN)
Amble First	108	150	1FE	30
Amble Links First	129	138	1FE	30
Broomhill First	66	75	0.5FE	15
Grange View CE First	83	150	1FE	30
Red Row First	83	120	1FE	**29
*NCEA Warkworth CE Primary School	139	159	0.83FE	25
JCSC	735 inc sixth form	1058	4FE	120

*Note while NCEA Warkworth is included to provide the full overview of the partnership, it would not form any proposals as part of this consultation.

**Should the current structure remain in place in Coquet Partnership, the PAN at Red Row may be changed to 30 in future years (not for Sept 2022 or 2023 admissions) as a tidying up exercise.

It should be noted that for significant improvements to be made in outcomes at KS2 if this structure is retained, there would have to be increased collaboration between the first schools and JCSC.

Model B – Proposed Model of Organisation

Model B (see Table 14) proposes a fully primary/secondary structure in the Coquet Partnership. Under Model B, all current first schools in the Partnership would extend their age ranges to become either age 2-11, 3-11 or 4-11 primary schools and would retain their current Year 4 into Year 5 in the first year of reorganisation, and retaining Year 6 in the second year becoming full primary schools at that point.

JCSC would reduce its age range in a phased way from an age 9 to 18 school to an age 11 to 18 secondary school, having Years 7 to 13 (sixth form). In the first year of reorganisation the school would operate with Years 6 to 13 and in the second year and thereafter it would operate with Years 7 to 13.

It is not possible to expand Amble First School to become a primary school on its current site, therefore it is proposed that it would relocate to the current Year 5 to Year 8 building of JCSC at South Avenue under Model B.

It is also proposed under Model B that Red Row First School would increase its Planned Admission Number from 29 to 30 as a tidying up exercise.

Table 14 - Model B: Proposed structure of Coquet Partnership under primary/secondary structure

School	Number on Roll in Jan 2022	Planned Capacity (net number of children able to be educated in the school building)	Planned Forms of Entry (size of classes in each year group)	Planned Admission Number (PAN)
Amble First	108 (150)	210	1FE	30
Amble Links First	129 (138)	210	1FE	30
Broomhill First	66 (75)	105	0.5FE	15
Grange View CE First	83 (150)	210	1FE	30
Red Row First	83 (120)	210	1FE	30
NCEA Warkworth CE Primary School	139	159	0.83FE	25
JCSC	735 inc sixth form	810	4FE	120

Proposal for Special Educational Needs provision in Coquet Partnership

Earlier in this document, data and information was provided to demonstrate the growing numbers of children and young people in the Coquet Partnership in need of specialist educational provision, which is currently unavailable within the local area. Early discussions with headteachers, including a headteacher in a local special school, have indicated that a specialist provision within the Coquet Partnership is necessary to prevent this needy group of children and young people having to take long journeys to and from school and to enable them to be educated as close to their home communities as possible.

In the light of this ambition, it is proposed that a specialist provision could be developed and managed within Coquet Partnership as a satellite provision of Barndale House Special School. This satellite model has already been implemented in another part of the county, with Ashdale Special School in Ashington being a satellite of The Dales Special School in Blyth. It is further proposed that the satellite school for Coquet Partnership could be located within the current JCSC building at South Avenue under the Model B proposal along with Amble First School, as it is large enough to be fully separated into two provisions. Alternative proposals for SEND provision in the Coquet Partnership are welcomed as part of this consultation, including ideas if Model A (current school structure) was to remain in place.

Timeline for implementation

The outcomes of this consultation will be considered by the Council's Cabinet in September 2022. If the Cabinet decides that the current organisation of schools should remain in place i.e. Model A, the timeline for implementation would relate to the programme of investment in school buildings only where it is decided investment is needed. A business case would need to be prepared for approval by the Council's Cabinet and this would set out in detail the planned works to schools, the costs and the proposed timeline for completion before the project could commence. In relation to JCSC, it is envisaged that the refurbishment or new build would be completed during the academic year beginning September 2025 or as near as practically possible.

Should the Council's Cabinet decide to approve the implementation of Model B at a future point, the timeline for the reorganisation of the schools would be as follows:

1 September 2024

- The first schools in the Coquet Partnership would extend their age ranges to become primary schools and would retain their Year 4 pupils on roll at the schools on 31 August 2024 as they become Year 5.
- Works needed to the buildings of the first schools to enable them to become primary schools with provision for Years 5 and 6 would be completed in time for the new academic year.
- JCSC would not receive a Year 5 and would operate with Years 6 onwards.

1 September 2025

- The primary schools in the Coquet Partnership would retain their Year 5 pupils on roll at the schools on 31 August 2025 as they become Year 6.
- Pupils on roll in Year 6 at JCSC on 31 August 2025 would become the new Year 7 as the school reorganises to become an age 11 to 18 secondary school. Entry into JCSC is at Year 7 only from this point forward.

Other areas for consideration as part of these proposals

Implications for staff

If the current structure of schools remains in place in the Coquet Partnership, there would be no specific implications for staff working in the schools.

There would be implications for staff if the structure proposed under Model B (primary/secondary) was implemented. First schools becoming primary schools would need to redesign their curriculum and staffing structures to incorporate appropriate teaching and learning for pupils in Years 5 and 6, and this would be likely to include the recruitment of additional staff. Likewise, JCSC would no longer need teaching staff for Years 5 and 6 and they would also redesign their staffing structures.

In order to ensure that as many staff as possible would be retained within the Coquet Partnership of schools if a restructure is approved, Council HR Officers will work with schools and staff representatives (Trade Unions) during this consultation period to develop a 'Staffing Protocol' agreement to ensure that the appointment process across the schools is fair for all staff.

Buildings and capital funding

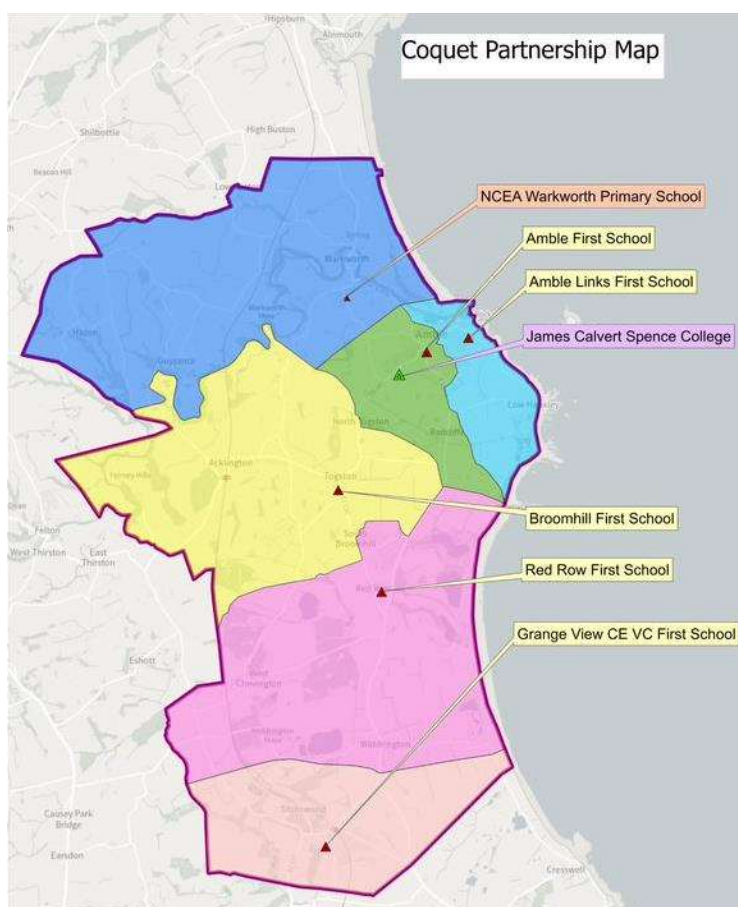
As stated earlier in this consultation document, the Council has already allocated £25.5m towards investment in school buildings in the Coquet Partnership. During the consultation period, officers will develop a budget for carrying out building works under both Model A and Model B during the informal consultation.

The costs for the proposed specialist education provision for the Coquet Partnership will also be developed during the consultation period.

All indicative costs would then be presented to the Council's Cabinet for consideration along with the outcomes of this consultation to assist them in making their decision in light of the recommendations put forward.

School Catchment Areas

School catchment areas would remain the same under either Model A or Model B (primary/secondary). However, under Model B first schools would extend the age range they cover up to the end of Year 6. Similarly, the catchment area of JCSC would remain the same under either model, but in the case of Model B it would only include pupils from Year 7 onwards. The following map shows the individual catchment areas of the first schools and the 'greater' catchment area of JCSC outlined around them.



Any suggestions for changes to catchment areas and their rationale are welcome as part of this consultation.

Admissions Arrangements

There would be no change to the Admissions Arrangements into Reception classes in the first schools in the partnership under Model A or under Model B should they become primary schools. Admissions into JCSC would remain the same under Model A i.e. into Year 5, but under Model B, admissions into the school would change to entry at Year 7.

Transport

There would be no changes to the way in which children are assessed for eligibility for school transport suggested as part of this consultation under either Model A or Model B.

If Model B was approved for implementation, pupils including those eligible for transport would remain in their first schools for an additional 2 years in Years 5 and 6 and therefore, there may be a small saving to the Council's Home to School Transport policy as a result.

Sport and recreation

As a result of the Council's commitment to capital investment of £25.5m in the Coquet Partnership whether under Model A or Model B, there will be an opportunity to provide enhanced sporting facilities at the JCSC site as a result of remodelling/rebuilding. If Model B is approved for implementation, there may also be an opportunity to improve the current sport and recreation facilities in some first schools.

Alternative Proposals

While this consultation has presented Model A (current structure) and Model B (primary/secondary structure) as the proposed alternative, you may have an alternative suggestion for addressing the issues set out in this document. If you have any alternative suggestion, please set this out in the questionnaire and response form that accompanies this document.

How can I find out more about this proposal?

A public drop-in event has been arranged during this consultation period for you to find out further information about any aspect of this proposal.

Public Drop-in event

Date: Saturday 11 June, 10.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Venue: Gloster Terrace, Amble, NE65 0LN

All interested parties are welcome to drop-in at any time within the above hours. There will also be separate meetings held in schools with staff working in schools in the Coquet Partnership and their representatives, and with Governing Bodies during the consultation period. Staff and Governors will be contacted directly with the date and time of these meetings.

An online Padlet dedicated to the consultation on school structure is also available by following this link <https://padlet.com/Northumberland/Coquet>

Additional information is posted on the padlet, including Frequently Asked questions that may assist you in your response to the consultation.

How can I submit my views about this proposal?

A six-week consultation (school weeks) on the proposals set out in this consultation document began on **Wednesday 11 May and will end at midnight on 29 June 2022.**

The Council is very keen to hear your views on the proposal set out in this consultation document and also to learn if you have any alternative proposals.

A link to a questionnaire is here: <https://haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/proposals-for-school-organisation-in-the-coquet-pa/> (**copy and paste link into browser**) please complete the electronic questionnaire if you can. However, if you or someone you know would prefer to send a hard copy, please request a printed form by contacting educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk stating that you require a printed survey form for the Consultation on School Structures in the Coquet Partnership.

To return your completed hard copy form, please send to:

School Organisation and Resources Team
Children's Services,
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

At the end of this consultation, all feedback received will be considered by the Council's Cabinet before deciding on whether or not to move to the next steps in the process.

Thank you for participating in this consultation