Northumberland County Council

Education Consultations <educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk>

Closure of Bellingham Middle School

1 message

Ann Hood68 <ann.hood68@yahoo.co.uk> 5 June 2018 at 21:40
To: Educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk

Dear Sir

We moved from Scotland to North East England two years ago and spent a great deal of time deliberating which school to send our son to.
We eventually selected Bellingham Middle for a number of reasons:

We felt it was of a size my son wouldn't feel lost and his individual needs would be met.
The school is located in a small, friendly village and he could make a small journey on foot safely.
The school offered an opportunity for my son to flourish with various activities he could enjoy, such as drama, sport and the busy social life of parties and prom at end of year.

There were problems at the beginning, his dyslexia wasn't addressed and he lost confidence. This was because the educational authority failed to forward necessary paperwork to the school. However, the newly appointed English teacher, Mrs Samuels, soon picked this up and very quickly had him re-assessed by the ED. She implemented a programme of learning for Joe and he is now progressing excellently.

There was a number of bullying situations, these were swiftly dealt with by the school and the class is completely different and many children much happier.

I feel so disappointed that you propose to close a school whereby the teachers have such a passion for teaching, a personal approach to learning, where one child can be supported through their entire needs and you seem entirely happy for these children to be transported long distances to a distant, oversubscribed school.

It must be surely cost driven? The children and the village economy are not a consideration.
The children will no longer be able to participate in after school activities and because the last evening bus to Bellingham is 6pm, the parents will be unable to attend parents evenings (I know a number of parents who do not own a car). This is unfair to parents on low incomes in a rural location.

The journey can be treacherous in winter, and the buses will be the first to be cancelled at first signs of bad weather.
These children from a tender age will be expected to catch a 7.30am bus, their health will suffer as they will be getting up so early. The children who already travel long distances to get to Bellingham will be leaving home even earlier.
It's not acceptable, I would not commute daily from Kielder to Hexham daily, why are you asking small children to?

Please, please reconsider and invest in this super school, for the sake of North Tyne and its children.

Kind regards

Ann Hood

Sent from my Sony Xperia™ smartphone