Greenhaugh First School
Greenhaugh
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Headteacher: Amanda P Taylor

Wednesday 6th June 2018

Dear Cath McEvoy,

Greenhaugh First School's Governing Body response to Northumberland County Council's Proposals for the reorganisation of some maintained schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership

The Governing Body of Greenhaugh First School welcomes the proposal to maintain the school for the current and future education of children in our communities.

In the best interests of our children, should the proposals be agreed by Cabinet on 10th July 2018, we have concluded that an extension to the age range at Greenhaugh from September 2018 rather than September 2019 as proposed, would be the best option for the following reasons:

- We would offer continuous high quality Upper Key stage 2 provision, building on the first two years of KS2 already in place
- There would be continuity of education within a supportive environment which will benefit all pupils, but especially our more vulnerable children, including those with SEND
- Additional children could be educated initially at no extra cost. We would not require extra teaching space or staffing for the first year, allowing us time to plan carefully for the future and to carry out necessary building works before September 2019
- The need for children to "move" school at the end of Year 5 for those children opting for Bellingham Middle School would be removed, whether they chose to remain at Greenhaugh or not.

Historically we have always had a significant number of Year 4 children opting to move to Middle Schools in Hexham and we fully understand the reasons for parents and children wishing to continue down this route from September 2018.

However, if we can offer primary provision from September 2018, we believe that parents would then have the option of keeping their children with us and the school can continue developing its plans to become an outstanding Primary School within the Haydon Bridge Partnership.

While our preferred option was to remain as a First School, we welcome the opportunity to build Greenhaugh into an excellent Primary School, continuing its successful role in educating the children of the North Tyne.

Yours sincerely,

Jenni Holland (**Chair of Governors – on behalf of the Governing Body**)