Kielder First School

Governor response to Statutory Proposal for reorganisation of some maintained schools in Haydon Bridge Partnership

5th June 2018

Our comments on the above Statutory Proposal are as follows:

- We agree that Bellingham Middle School should close

- We agree that Kielder First School should become a Primary School, however, if Greenhaugh First School is to remain open we will require some financial support to provide our children with the outstanding education that they receive at present and remain sustainable.

    - The children we would have gained from Falstone if the closure of Greenhaugh had gone ahead would have provided us with sufficient funding to pay for a part time teacher for years 5 and 6.

- In order to continue with and extend the shared provision i.e. the weekly visit to Bellingham First School, we will need additional funding for transport. This is widely acknowledged as being an excellent way of broadening our own children's experiences, both curricula and developmentally and also provides CPD for all our staff. Schools in the Hexham Partnership have commented on how beneficial this is. It appears that this regular sharing is fairly unique within the West of Northumberland.

- We support the proposal of other First Schools that Primary status should be implemented from September 2018 and that the current year 4 children should stay in their first school. We consider this would provide the children with stability and see no reason to wait until 2019, as building works are not required. The small number of children going into year 5 would not involve any financial cost in the first year.

We wish to comment that we are unhappy that Haydon Bridge High School will continue to be the sole choice for our parents and children. At the current time, parents are expressing that they wish their children to go to Queen Elizabeth High School. Unfortunately, they have to go where the school transport takes them. The school transport travels past Hexham and QE should therefore be an option. Currently our children attend an Outstanding First School and then have to attend a Middle School in RI and a High School in Special Measures.

We are also concerned that there will be insufficient time for adaptations to be put in place for SEN children currently at BMS that will transfer to Haydon Bridge in year 7.

With sufficient financial support, we look forward to providing our children with an excellent education through to year 6.

Costs:

P/T teacher for Year 5 and 6	approx. £18,000 per annum
Transport to Bellingham First (Primary)	approx. £ 6,000 per annum

Thank you - Kielder First School Governing Body.