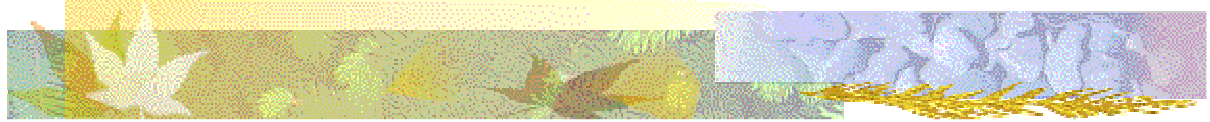


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**From:** Pennywell Nursery  
[mailto:Julie.Ramshaw@schools.sunderland.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 25 February 2009 16:41  
**To:** Andrea Seymour  
**Subject:** Formal Objection re St Annes



Dear Andrea

The Governing Body, Staff, Parent/Carers and Children formally object to the proposal to provide a 26 place nursery class at St Anne's RC Primary School. The key reasons for this are as follows: -

1. Pennywell Early Years Centre has an excellent reputation for early year's expertise; staff are highly qualified in meeting the individual needs of the children and their families. The loss of 26 children to St Anne's could seriously affect the future of this Nursery School and lead to numerous staff redundancies.
2. Since 1980 Pennywell Early Years Centre has provided nursery education and is the perceived feeder school for both St Anne's and Quarry View (now Academy 360). This provision continues to work well, meets parental wishes and offers outstanding education, care and family services.
3. Pennywell Early Years Centre has been awarded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted on three successive inspections, has been a Beacon School, an Early Excellence Centre and is currently a Children's Centre for Pennywell and South Hylton.
4. There are currently 2298 part time places in Primary Schools and 636 part time places in Nursery Schools - of these 322 are at catholic schools.
5. The LA have a policy of reduction and not expansion of places - the sufficiency audit and school planned place strategy clearly supports the governments message to streamline existing education and childcare services and reduce surplus places.
6. Nursery aged children are not admitted via a "catchment" area system within the City of Sunderland. Parents can already choose from a very broad range of high quality provision, many of them at faith schools.
7. The admissions policy for Primary does not guarantee a nursery child attending the same Primary School a place in Reception - many parents are misled into thinking they will automatically get a place. This is not true.
8. There is a decline in birth rates and therefore there is no demand for an increase

9. Already Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre (All Seasons Daycare) has suffered from excess provision in this area and has closed with loss of jobs.
10. This does not contribute to community cohesion and strong working partnerships. Parents are confused as to the provision and opportunities available to them. Much has been said about a class being opened in 2009 before the consultation period has been completed and final decision made.
11. The Governors and staff are concerned that the proposed nursery class has been prematurely advertised in the local press and via community flyers.

Please find attached copies of previous responses sent to St Anne's as part of our objections.

If you require any further information please give me a call on 0191 5536820

Regards  
Judy Donnelly  
Head of Centre  
Pennywell Early Years Centre