

## Appendix 4 – Responses to Statutory Consultation

### Response 1

Good afternoon

I am writing to object to the proposals to enlarge the premises at St Paul's CE Primary School from September 2022.

I fail to understand why it is necessary to expand two schools by 105 places each (St Paul's & Benedict Biscop) and build a new 315 place primary school when there is capacity in other local schools. Here at St Patrick's RC Primary School our PAN is 25 meaning that we can take up to 175 pupils. Our current numbers are 117 pupils, therefore, we have 58 spaces. Furthermore, I attended a local authority finance briefing on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020, along with other Headteachers, where we were provided with the following information from the October census 2019:

- St Leonard's RC Primary School, 165 pupils – therefore 45 spaces available as one-form entry (capacity 210 pupils)
- Ryhope Infant School Academy, 154 pupils – 26 spaces available as two-form entry (capacity 180 pupils)
- Ryhope Junior School, 217 pupils - 23 spaces available as two-form entry (capacity 240 pupils)

Therefore, as at October 2019, there were 152 available pupil spaces across the four schools. Surely the local authority should be looking to fill any available places in existing schools before huge sums of money are spent building extensions and new schools.

On the subject of estimates, I would be interested as to how you have arrived at these figures. It states in the reasons for the enlargement that "... it is estimated that between 630 and 720 new primary school places may be required ..." What if the numbers fall well short of these estimates and there are many empty pupil spaces across local schools? This will mean cuts to budgets and possible staff redundancies.

The impact on St Patrick's RC Primary School will be substantial if these building projects take place, especially at St Paul's. Pupil numbers will quite probably fall, resulting in budget cuts and staff redundancies. It could mean that our school is unsustainable in the medium to long-term, which will result in no Catholic education for Catholic families in the parish of St Patrick's, Ryhope.

St Patrick's has continued to provide a 'Good' education (Ofsted November 2015 and June 2019) for Sunderland children in recent years. I sincerely hope that you take my views into account when making your decision.

Kind regards

Gerry Kelly

Headteacher

St Patrick's RC Primary School

## **Response 2**

Hello,

My name is Rebecca Smith and I am a teacher at St Patricks, Sunderland. I am writing in relation to the statutory proposal for the enlargement of premises at St Paul's CE VC Primary School.

I wish to object to the enlargement. St Patrick's RC Primary School, which is also located in Ryhope, Sunderland, currently has 58 primary school places vacant. I am also of the understanding that other primary schools close by such as Ryhope Infant School and Ryhope Junior School also both have places available.

Prior to enlarging other schools in the area, I strongly believe that it would be wiser to direct families and their children to schools such as these.

St Patrick's currently has vacancies in each year group throughout the school, with a PAN of 25. The school and community would benefit from children taking these places and I believe these should be filled by the projected number of new families and children before enlarging other schools is considered.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Smith.

## **Response 3**

I wish to express my objection to the proposal for the enlargement of premises at St Paul's VC Primary School. As the reception teacher at St Patrick's Primary in Ryhope, I feel this enlargement would have a negative effective on our reception intake in future years. As a school in the same area I feel more could be done to promote Catholic schools and improve our already low numbers. St Patrick's school plays a large part in Rhyope's history and feel it would be a real shame if numbers continue to decline because of larger, newer schools in the area.

Many Thanks  
Robyn Imeson

## **Response 4**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Planning Application: Proposal for the enlargement of premises at St Pauls CE VE Primary School.

Having read your notification, I wish to make you aware of a number of strong objections that I have with regard to the proposed enlargement of premises at St Pauls CE VE Primary School. As a long standing resident of Ryhope and father of

children who have attended St Patricks RC School I believe this project will have a serious impact on current primary schools - St Patricks in particular.

My specific objections are that:

St Patricks School currently have places vacant and could take a large number of the projected new places.

St Patricks welcomes all faiths and none, however it is the only one which is closely linked with St Patricks RC Church and its community, it would be unfortunate if this link was lost.

The project puts other schools and jobs at risk.

There is a need for smaller, friendly schools.

I would be grateful if you would take my objections into consideration when deciding this application.

R.A.Maynard.

