

Copy of 2nd informal consultation response sent to St Anne's

26th November 2008

Mrs CA Lynch
Head Teacher
St Anne's RC Primary School
Hylton Road
Pennywell
Sunderland
SR4 9AA

Dear Mrs Lynch

Response to Nursery Education Place Questionnaire

The governors, staff and families at Pennywell Early Years Centre wish to make the following comments in response to the proposal for a 26 place nursery class at St Anne's. We do not feel it is necessary and strongly object to the proposal. The key issues against this provision are: -

- 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.
- 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.
- There is a decline in birth rates and therefore there is no demand for an increase
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Pennywell Early Years Centre has an excellent reputation for early years 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.
- Already Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre has suffered from excess provision in this area and is closing with expected loss of jobs.

- 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.

On their behalf.

Yours sincerely

Judy Donnelly
Head of Centre