

## **Appendix 4 - : Responses to Full Proposals for the Enlargement and Lowering of the Age of Admission at Hetton Primary School**

**From:** Michael Hopper

**Sent:** 16 February 2021 20:00

**To:** School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** objection to the expansion of hetton primary

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Good Evening

We all want the best for our kids in Hetton, the best facilities, the best care, community and education. It is my personal belief that expanding the primary school will create a dangerous entry and exit. Pushing more traffic to the school, will I am sure create rat runs for traffic and end with a much more dangerous walk to school for our children. There have been 2 serious accidents in the past 6 months on Moorsley Road. My son was hit by a car at the very place you intend to increase traffic. Kids will be kids, people rushing to work, why would you want to increase the amount of traffic to this location.

Improving the facilities fits in with everyone's hopes and aspirations, but expanding the school is in my opinion a big mistake. I am not a teacher or an education expert, but i have been in several environments where groups have been pushed together resulting in all sorts of problems.

What you are trying to do is not unlike what the supermarkets have done to the high street, where you can get everything under one roof, but the quality suffers. You don't cater for individuality.

I am favour of a modern school, but not at the expense of a nursery, where outstanding provision has been made.

In your argument you suggest Cragdale Gardens development is still a possibility, and I notice the publication date, 25th January 2021. It may of escaped your attention but Cragdale gardens development has been refused, do you know something i don't?, you probably do, but it is worth noting these decisions are becoming increasingly political, which means your job is at risk as the resentment grows for the current administration by forcing change on a community that has for 20 years seen constant development, and not all positive.

I applaud your ambition for a new school, but please leave the nursery alone, if not i am afraid that you will possibly live to regret a very poor decision, sometime in the near future. The people of this community will not tolerate any changes that is changing the community beyond recognition.

The time where councillors will just roll over are long gone, please note you will meet more and more resistance from this community if you push forward without real consultation.

Finally a parent made a comment last night about the fact that you hear us, but are you listening!

Kind Regards

Michael Hopper

**From:** Leanne Burke  
**Sent:** 18 February 2021 13:11  
**To:** School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Extension of Hetton Primary School

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Dear Cllr. Alan Rowan,

I hope this email finds you well.

I write to object not to the new build of Hetton Primary School, but to object to any development being at the expense of the longstanding ofsted rated outstanding Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

My daughter is a current attendee of Hetton Le Hole Nursery, prior was my elder son, and going back in time, were myself and sister. The nursery is of sentimental value to my family and so many as we enjoy how so many hetton families and families who travel in from neighbouring areas, simply love the nursery and have done since 1945. For the care and attention our little ones thrive in. Equally families appreciate, are thankful for, and do not forget the educational excellence, knowledgeable skill and expertise, and dedication that is provided at this ofsted outstanding establishment. SEN provision is of excellence, as you are aware. It was paramount in giving my son the best start to Education. Headmistress and team secured an Educational Health Care Plan ready for my son going to school and the best care and support for SEN was provided throughout. I believe that this attention at Early Years can depict what is needed later on I.e. whether a child can be supported in mainstream school or if they need a place in ans SEN school.

Whilst I think a nursery provision for Hetton Primary could be used by the locality immediately surrounding hetton primary, and could not object to the school receiving a new building. I must object that this is at the expense an existing provision of early years excellence, located and providing great education in the centre of Hetton.

I am shocked that Sunderland City Councillors have heard but not listened to 500 plus objections to closing Hetton le hole Nursery School and have pushed to the more formal stages of proposed closure. I trust that councillors are in a position because of their willingness to listen to sunderland residents, and to put first the needs of the most important residents our children. Unfortunately recent actions are not demonstrative of this. I must tell you that it would be a great wrong to close the

provision and I appeal to yours and fellow councillors' better judgement to reconsider. You will recall we discussed this at length during Hetton Town Council meeting recently.

In regards to SCC listening to public, I write to ask why a pre consultation on closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School that resulted in approximately 500 responses, 95 percent objecting were ignored? Closing pre consultant days prior to scheduled finish and deciding on the contrary to public response to push ahead.

I am failing to understand how Sunderland can raise a proposal then ignore 500 negative responses and say well we are going to do it anyway. Were responses cast aside as they did not fit what Council is trying to do? Thus is public only listened to if they are agreeing with Council?

I notice that each opposition is met with, but nursery is in financial deficit. I want to ask why Sunderland Council cannot pay off the deficit? Millions are spent on things that are not necessary. Why don't children come first and what have you done over the years to help the deficit and fund the nursery?

Therefore I must conclude by objecting to Hetton Primary extension to include nursery section of Hetton Primary rebuild proposal -if it will mean closure of the irreplaceable Hetton Le Hole Nursery School.

I will look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours Sincerely

Leanne Aleshe

Hetton Le Hole Nursery School Parent.

**From:** Nicola Hill

**Sent:** 18 February 2021 20:45

**To:** School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** NOTIFICATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSALS FOR AN ENLARGEMENT OF PREMISES AND AN ALTERATION OF THE LOWER AGE LIMIT AT HETTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the staff and Governors at Hetton Primary School, I wanted to submit my full agreement to both the lowering of age range and enlarging of the premises in order to increase capacity.

Both proposals will ensure that children within the surrounding area have the best provision that we can offer them and from a younger starting age. The plans for the new building for September 2022 provide a wealth of opportunities for us to continue to improve the education we offer the young people within our locality and I fully support any proposal to achieve this.

This is an exciting opportunity for Hetton Primary School and one that we are all embracing; I only see positives in the decision to enlarge the school and lower the age range and look forward to seeing what 'we' can all do for the future of the children in Hetton and surrounding areas.

Many thanks,

Nicola Hill

Head teacher

Hetton Primary School

Moorsley Road

Hetton-le-hole

DH5 9ND

**From:** C. Donoghue [ Shotton Primary School ] <[c.donoghue200@shottonprimary.co.uk](mailto:c.donoghue200@shottonprimary.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** 23 February 2021 12:16  
**To:** School Organisation <[schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Attention of Alan Objection to the proposal to enlarge Hetton primary school site and lower the age range

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I forward this to you again concerned I haven't received an acknowledgement of my formal opposition to this proposal sent on 18th February if you could acknowledge receipt I'd be grateful.

Regards  
Clare Donoghue  
Telephone 07714015670  
Address 2 bullfinch road, Easington Lane, Dh50gd

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**From:** C. Donoghue  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:31:37 PM  
**To:** [schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk) <[schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Attention of Alan Objection to the proposal to enlarge Hetton primary school site and lower the age range

After reading your proposal to extend the school site at Hetton Primary School and lower and extend the age range I would like to formally object to this proposal for the following reasons:

1. An increase in capacity would cause considerable strain on an already dangerous traffic issue around the Hetton Primary Site. This could add to a number of previous incidents and near misses that have happened here historically due to volumes of traffic. Adding further volumes of traffic will add unnecessary further risk to pupils and parents/carers.
2. Secondly by raising the number of attendees whilst the new build is under construction more children's education will be further disrupted following, at this moment in time, a year of disrupted education already. These children all have other facilities to attend and this would cause less upset for children who attend reception to year 6 classes currently at Hetton primary.
3. My third objection is focused upon nursery aged children, to go ahead with the extension of the nursery facility at this site is at the expense of closing an outstanding provision that is already staffed, equipped and providing an outstanding education for children. To move these children to a building site would be detrimental to their well being and the level of expertise of staff already present for special educational needs at Hetton le Hole nursery school. You would in effect look at moving children from a settled environment which has been their consistent to a building site and this is not meeting their basic rights, especially during a global pandemic.
4. My next objection is the lack of flexible entitlement and extended hours during school holidays and term times meaning many working parents will also be hugely impacted by a

nursery attached to a school as opposed to the flexibility that the current nursery school can offer working parents.

5. My final objection to the proposal is based on the councils view that it would help parents to have one single drop off for siblings. This would not be the case for parents who have under twos as an additional journey would need to be made still. As parents pay for childcare for children from birth to 3 (and most working parents pay for additional hours). This will cause financial strain on those families as they will have to vary the pick up times for babies and nursery aged children (3-4yrs) from different sites as childcare providers do not provide a teacher for 3-4 year olds in their settings. Hetton le Hole Nursery school cater from birth to 3-4 and have a class Teacher for their 3-4year old provision.

Yours sincerely  
Clare Donoghue

**From:** Balmoral Learning Trust Enquiries

**Sent:** 19 February 2021 12:06

**To:** School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Response to Statutory Consultation Regarding Hetton Primary School

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Good afternoon

Please find attached a letter on behalf of Balmoral Learning Trust and Hetton Lyons Primary School in response to the notification of statutory proposals for the enlargement of premises and alteration of the lower age limit at Hetton Primary School.

Kind regards

Susan Bell

**Chief Executive**

**Balmoral Learning Trust**

**Website:** [www.balmorallearningtrust.co.uk](http://www.balmorallearningtrust.co.uk)

Alan Rowan Retained Education Functions Lead Civic Centre Burdon Road Sunderland SR2 7DN

19 February 2021

Dear Mr Rowan

Response to the Notification of Statutory Proposals for the Enlargement of Premises and Alteration of the Lower Age Limit at Hetton Primary School

Both Balmoral Learning Trust and Hetton Lyons Primary School support the principle of Hetton Primary School being rebuilt as we feel that all children deserve the opportunity to be educated in a first class facility. However, we are very concerned at the absence of any direct consultation with surrounding schools, as the impact of these proposals will change education provision across the Hetton-le-Hole Wards.

The statutory proposal identifies that there has previously been an informal consultation regarding this proposal. Being informal, this was inevitably flawed. It is disappointing to note that the opportunity has not been taken to actively involve all schools in the area in a discussion about future provision for our children across Hetton. To come to the right decisions made in the best interests of our community, families and education, all partners must be involved.

Although we are aware that there is a formula for estimating the number of pupil places that new housing developments may require, we are concerned that, as in other areas of Sunderland, the predicted number of children estimated to come from new houses in Hetton is not translating into children at school. All of the primary schools local to Hetton Primary School have seen a marked reduction in reception class applications for September 2021, despite many houses within the current new developments now being occupied. With this in mind, will the currently agreed housing developments yield enough children for a 50% increase in Hetton Primary School's PAN and not have an impact on other local provision?

We are particularly concerned about the impact that the creation of a new nursery within the Hetton-le-Hole Wards will have on existing early years provision. We are equally concerned about the geographical location of the new nursery provision, being that it is only 0.5 miles away from Hetton Lyons Nursery School, and that its catchment area would also draw from the east and centre of Hetton. There has been no evidence of increased demand for nursery places within Hetton provided to back up these proposals. There are already 5 nursery / early years providers within 1.5 miles of Hetton Primary School. All will be affected by these proposals. This has been highlighted in Sunderland City Council's own published notification of statutory proposals where it is noted that lowering the age range of Hetton Primary School to 2 – 11 years of age could result in a reduction of those on roll in neighbouring early years settings.

In our own case, although Hetton Lyons Primary School does not have a nursery class, it is closely linked with Hetton Lyons Nursery School (a maintained nursery school provision on our site) who will be affected by this development. Many people view us as being one school, and a reduction in numbers attending Hetton Lyons Nursery School will likely have an adverse effect on our Reception class intake going forward.

In summary, it is most disappointing to note that education providers in Hetton have been excluded from discussions and decisions which will have a profound effect on our community in the short and long term. We are open to working effectively with all nurseries and schools in Hetton to explore issues and try to resolve them to the benefit of our community. To this end, we would wish to see the evidence to support this proposal to include a nursery provision at Hetton Primary School, and further steps taken to engage the wider education providers in Hetton in a conversation regarding future provision.

Yours sincerely

Peter Chapman Helen Lawrence

Chair of Directors Chair of Governors

Balmoral Learning Trust Hetton Lyons Primary School

Balmoral Learning Trust c/o East Herrington Primary Academy, Balmoral Terrace, East Herrington, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR3 3 PR

Tel: (0191) 563 4244 • Email: [enquiries@balmorallearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@balmorallearningtrust.co.uk) • Website: [www.balmorallearningtrust.co.uk](http://www.balmorallearningtrust.co.uk)



From: Ruth Williamson

Sent: 19 February 2021 17:24

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Primary Consultation

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Please find attached our response to the proposal to expand Hetton Primary School. Please can we have a response to acknowledge receipt of this?

Kind regards

Ruth Williamson

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

We are writing on behalf of the Governing Board of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School in response to the proposal to expand the provision of Hetton Primary School and open a Nursery and Toddler unit.

We would like to make it very clear that we do support Hetton Primary School's proposed new build because of the condition of the existing building. We believe that all children should have access to high quality learning environments. However, we do have issues with the Primary School's new build proposal which includes plans for a new Nursery unit.

The proposal for a Nursery unit at Hetton Primary goes hand in hand with the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Maintained Nursery School. We are very concerned that Hetton Primary School's proposal is solely predicated on the assumption of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School closure. This decision has not been made and as of yet the formal consultation has not been undertaken. It is the Governing Board's assertion that the proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery should have preceded this proposal.

In the DFE guidance for opening and closing maintained schools it clearly outlines the factors to consider when proposing new school places in the section on Demand versus Need. In this section it makes clear reference to:

"Proposers should also demonstrate parental demand for the new school places and the type of provision being proposed, the quality and diversity of provision available in the local area, and the impact of the new places on existing educational provision in the local area."

In the government guidance for opening and closing maintained schools it also makes it clear that proposers should be aware that decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. It states:

This does not mean that a maintained nursery school will never close, but that the case for closure should be strong. Where a proposal is for the closure of a maintained nursery school, the proposer should set out:

1. plans to develop alternative early years provision clearly demonstrating that it will be at least equal in quantity and quality to the provision provided by the nursery school with no loss of expertise and specialism; and

- the replacement provision is more accessible and more convenient for local parents.

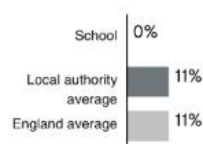
In this instance the proposal does not meet either of these criteria. The provision at Hetton Primary is currently graded as good and we have attached the school data shown below.

(All data is taken from School Performance Tables on the government website and Primary School websites in key information tabs)

#### Pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths ?



#### Pupils achieving at a higher standard in reading, writing and maths ?

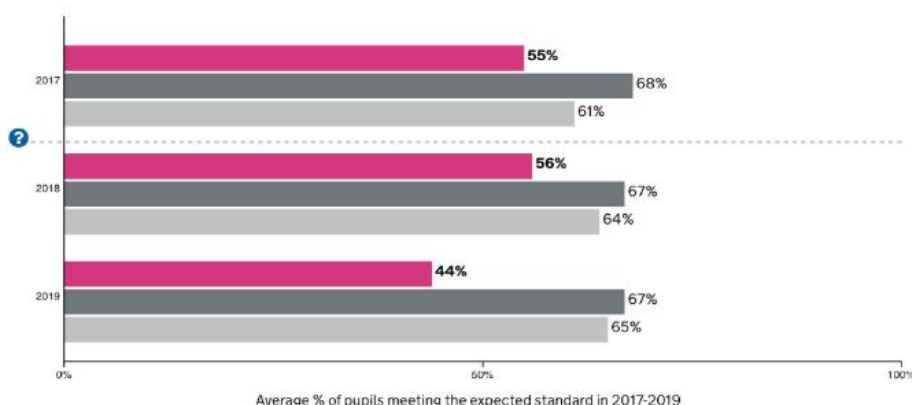


This measure was first recorded in 2010

#### Results over 3 years ?

[View as](#)

■ School ■ Local authority state-funded schools ■ England state-funded schools



The data below shows that 11 children out of a cohort of 20 (5% per child) reached the good level of development (the expected level to reach before moving into year one).

	School % at GLD	National % at GLD
Year R	55%	72%

The outcomes shown in these data sets are well below National Expectations for Reception children.

In the school league tables within the Hetton area, Hetton Primary School is ranked well below Hetton Lyons Primary School and Eppleton Primary Academy.

In comparison Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is graded by Ofsted as Outstanding for Childcare and is awaiting a section 5 inspection for an expected outstanding judgement for Main Nursery. In addition, data over time demonstrates consistently outstanding outcomes:

Exit from Hetton-le-Hole Nursery		Exiting at age related expectations
	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>90% (were on track to exit COVID-19)</b>
	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>89%</b>
	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>83%</b>
	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>80%</b>

Full data comparisons for the local area are attached on pages 7-11.

When considering the outcomes for children there is a notable disparity in the data; children are leaving Hetton-le-Hole Nursery school well equipped for the next stage of their education

The loss of expertise and specialism in the Primary School nursery provision will be significant as the actual transfer of nursery staff is anticipated to be very limited. We have been advised during this process that posts at Hetton Primary School will be 'ring-fenced' and there appears to be no posts available for our senior leaders, whom it must be said, are the driving force behind the sustained and high quality provision.

The replacement provision is also less accessible for parents and represents a considerable walk for those parents with toddlers. The area is an area of deprivation and many of the parents attending Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School have no means of transport or spare money for bus fares. Our nursery is situated in the northeast quadrant of Hetton and this proposal will also have a de-stabilising effect on an existing provision at the southern end of Hetton.

The premise to begin proposals on the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is purely based on financial viability.

Beatrice Merrick, the Chief Executive of Early Education, and a consultant working with the DfE, who is in regular contact with the Sunderland Nursery Headteacher Group, has stated:

*"Government has made a clear commitment to continued funding, so although there has been uncertainty from year to year for the last 4 years, going forward there should be confidence that there will be additional funding for maintained nursery schools as an integral part of the funding formula. I am speaking to the DfE lead on nursery school funding tomorrow afternoon and will find out then whether they expect to make an announcement before Christmas or whether this will be in January, but we do expect significant change in how the funding will be distributed from 2021-22 to address the historic inequalities, and this has the potential to help Sunderland as a historically less well funded LA."*

Any decisions made by the Local Authority regarding the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is likely to be premature, and a resulting closure of the Nursery school would lead to lack of sufficient high-quality early years education in the Hetton-le-Hole area.

Within the proposal it states that Hetton Primary School is currently oversubscribed, however, it confirms on the government website that as of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 there were 145 pupils registered on roll. On the same site it states that the school's available capacity stands at 151. It is also important to note that where the council quotes an oversubscription, they are referring to class sizes of 20, rather than in comparison to the class sizes of 30 of all the other local schools. The proposal also states that there will be potential to accommodate an additional 105 places if further capacity should be required in the ward. This would result in possible class sizes of 45 pupils.

The early years' provision across the ward of Hetton consists of 2 primary based nursery classes, 2 maintained nursery schools, a private day care and a childminding service within the Hetton Centre. After extensive conversations with the settings it is apparent that none of them are currently oversubscribed or at maximum capacity. All settings reported an impact on numbers since the opening of the private day care setting. Both schools with nursery classes reported that it had taken several years to build up to around 15 children in their nurseries. All settings report that they still have places to fill.

There has been a total lack of consultation with the surrounding schools. None of these schools were aware of either Hetton Primary School or Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School pending proposals. There has been an absolute disregard for any sort of consultation in respect of the future education landscape of Hetton. This could lead to inaccuracies in the feasibility studies being carried out.

There is a great concern that the council has not taken into consideration the impact of this extension on other settings in the area. It is essential that a full feasibility study is undertaken to ensure that other provisions are not negatively impacted. The council have failed to share any relevant feasibility studies in relation to this proposal.

Across the city, the School's Forum has reported that predicted pupil numbers are not materialising into pupils on roll; particularly in relation to predictions generated from new build housing. This is a big concern for the schools in Hetton and may lead to further closures due to a limited take-up of available places.

Each year on average, 9% (between 3 and 4 children out of a cohort of 32) will transition from Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School across to Hetton Primary School; most of which have a sibling link in Hetton Primary School. The majority of children transition to Hetton Lyons Primary School and Eppleton Primary Academy. It is of concern that the council have assumed that all children on roll at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School will transition across to Hetton Primary School, although the proposal clearly states Hetton Lyons Nursery School is the closest nursery provision to Hetton Primary School. Will this proposal negatively effect the existing provision of Hetton Lyons Nursery School?

The plans for the new early years' unit include a 39 full time place in 3-4-year-old unit and a 16 full time place in the two-year-old provision. Funding is based upon 15 hours funded for 2-year olds and nursery age pupils, with some 3-4-year olds qualifying for 30 hours places. In this instance it would mean there were 78 part time places in the 3-4-year-old unit and 32 part time places in the two-year-old provision, resulting in 82 places for children. This is a huge nursery proposal which will impact significantly on the stability and viability of the existing settings in Hetton. The future of existing settings should be consolidated before making plans for a new setting.

The proposal also talks about the 'all through' approach for parents who will only have one drop off. However, if there are 78 children taking up places in the 3-4 unit and there is only a 30-place reception class, what will happen to the 48 children who can't have a place? This does not fit in with

the seamless education approach. The plans outline 330% increase in size from 120 to 397 place school.

If there is a 'demand' for this number of places why is it that the other settings in Hetton are not to capacity? It has been argued by a councillor "that parents choose to go elsewhere." However, if this is the case why are none of the settings totally subscribed?

The new demand has also been linked to new builds in the areas. Hetton Downs is closer to Eppleton Primary School and Bramley Rise which lies between East Rainton Primary School and Hetton Primary School. Peat Carr was also included but has now not been approved. The formula for new builds is based upon:

- 2 x 2-year olds for each 100 houses built
- Or 8 x primary age children (including nursery age children) per 100 houses

Hetton Downs has 112 houses and Bramley Rise has 100 houses. This means that there could be possibly 8 children of primary age generated from Hetton Downs, however some of these children may join Eppleton Primary School as it is closer. Bramley Rise may produce 2 toddler age children however they may choose to go to either Hetton Primary School or East Rainton Primary School.

The number of places proposed at the new Hetton Primary Early Years Unit would equate to 1,287.5 new homes.

Peat Carr housing proposal was declined due to concerns around increasing traffic in the vicinity of Hetton Primary School and the danger and delays already existing at the junction of North Road. If the school is increasing its capacity significantly will this also add to the issues around congestion, pollution and danger which actually led to the Peat Carr proposal being denied? What interventions have been considered to negate these concerns and reduce potential impact? It is noted that there will be a dedicated drop off area however this will not reduce congestion within the immediate surrounding area.

The plans for the expansion of Hetton Primary School were developed in the early part of 2019 when the landscape of education and the economy were very different. Children, who live in an area of deprivation, have been further disadvantaged by missing the best part of a full academic year. The data from Hetton Primary School's last year indicated that 60% of children left unprepared for their next step of education in secondary school. Many parents have been made redundant and more children are possibly at risk of being identified as vulnerable. The children in Hetton have the right to a high-quality education which will improve their life chances of success.

There is major uncertainty about the future, post Covid-19. Many businesses are struggling or are being forced to close. Have the council renewed their feasibility research in relation to the educational needs of the locality and the occupancy of the new housing post Covid-19? Will the same number of houses be built? Will the same number of houses be built in the timescale or will it take longer to complete?

There is also a proposal to create demountable classrooms and reconfigure the internal layout of the existing building to cater for the gap in provision if Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School closes in September 2021. What is the cost of this building work? Would it not be sensible to continue using existing provision, rather than spending additional money on creating something that after one year will be demolished? The council have been unable to share the costings of this interim proposal and

we are yet to see a comparison of the cost of keeping Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School in operation for an additional year.

It would be catastrophic for the council to spend £5.7million at a time of great economic uncertainty, when a decision to defer for 1 year will allow more informed decisions to be made, using up to date information and data. The most up to date scientific advice is that restrictions (Tiers) will still be in place in some form or other until after the New Year 2022. Has the council also considered the timing of building a new bigger school particularly when it is most likely to have large areas of the building unused for an indefinite period of time? There is a high likelihood that classes will have disrupted education until at least 2022. Money for Local Authorities and schools is going to be very tight; the delivery of education is going to change. A decision to defer will also allow time to see if and how delivering the post Covid-19 curriculum will change and adapt the new building to suit new requirements.

There is extensive research which documents that there is a significant difference in the quality of education and care that is provided by Maintained Nursery Schools in comparison to a nursery attached to a primary school. The difference in the quality provided by both education provisions is highlighted throughout our response.

We challenged the Council about the take up of the Nursery places in the new provision if it went ahead at Hetton Primary School. We were informed that if the Nursery wasn't full then the Primary would operate as a loss-leader until capacity was reached. Subsequently this loss would come out of the school's budget. It is our hope that the allocated 'Growth funding' will not be used to cover this loss. This is very unsettling as it is further uncertainty for everyone involved.

Would it not be more efficient, effective, and cohesive to protect, nurture and value the early years' expertise and specialisms already present within the Hetton area?

Ruth Williamson, Headteacher

Christine Collins, Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Board at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

12.02.2021

**Data Comparisons – Proposal of School Closure**  
**(All data is taken from School Performance Tables on the government website and Primary School websites in key information tabs)**

**Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School Data**

Exit from Nursery		Exiting at age related expectations
	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>90% (were on track to exit)</b>
	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>89%</b>
	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>83%</b>
	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>80%</b>

**2016-17:**

- The whole cohort entered in September 2016 working at 2 age bands below age-related expectations.
- On exit, 80% of the cohort transitioned to primary school in line with their age-related expectations.
- Over the year, this cohort made 5.6pts of progress (0.4pts away from outstanding progress). This equates to **good** progress.
- Disadvantaged children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium funding made 5.3pts of progress across the year. This equates to **good** progress.
- For children with SEND and additional needs. They all made **outstanding** progress from their starting points on our alternative system.

### **2017-18:**

- The whole cohort entered in September 2017 working at 2 age bands below age-related expectations.
- On exit, 83% of the cohort transitioned to primary school in line with their age-related expectations.
- Over the year, this cohort made 5.7pts (0.3pts away from outstanding progress) which equates to **good** progress.
- Disadvantaged children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium funding made 6.2pts of progress. This equates to **outstanding** progress.
- For children with SEND and additional needs. They all made **outstanding** progress from their starting points on our alternative system.

### **2018-19:**

- The whole cohort of children entered in September 2018 working at 2-3 age bands below age-related expectations.
- On exit, 89% of the cohort transitioned to primary school in line with their age-related expectations.
- Over the year, this cohort made 6.2pts of progress. This equates to **outstanding** progress.
- Disadvantaged children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium made 6.4pts of progress across the year. This equates to **outstanding** progress.
- For children with SEND and additional needs made **outstanding** progress from their starting points, on our alternative system.

### **2019-20:**

NB: Due to COVID-19 and lockdown, assessments did not take place in Summer. All progress detailed below was at Spring term 2020.

- The whole cohort of children entered in September 2019 working at 3 age bands below age-related expectations.
- At the Spring term assessment period, 90% of children were on track to meet age-related expectations.
- Over the six month period, across all areas they made 4.3pts of progress. This equates to an **outstanding** rate of progress.
- Disadvantaged children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium funding made 3.7pts of progress. This equates to an **outstanding** rate of progress.
- Children with SEND and additional needs all made **outstanding** progress from their individual starting points, on our alternative assessment system

### **Other Local Schools**

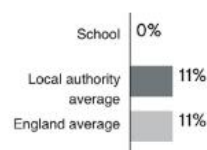
### **Hetton Primary School Data**



### Pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths ?



### Pupils achieving at a higher standard in reading, writing and maths ?

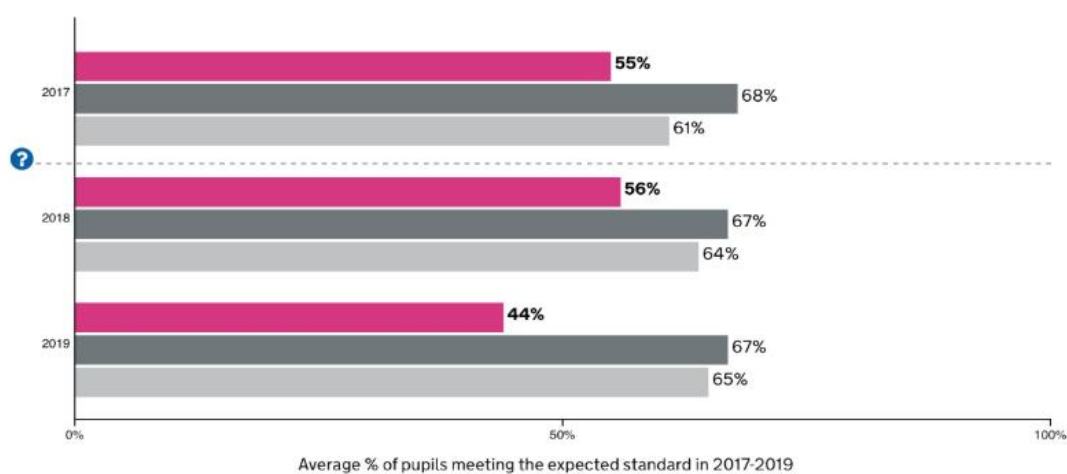


This measure was first recorded in 2010

### Results over 3 years ?

[View as](#)

■ School ■ Local authority state-funded schools ■ England state-funded schools



The data of Hetton Primary shows that 11 children out of a cohort of 20 (5% per child) reached the good level of development.

	School % at GLD	National % at GLD
Year R	55%	72%

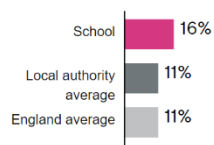
Only one year of GLD data was available for this school.

### Hetton Lyons Primary School Data

### Pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths ?



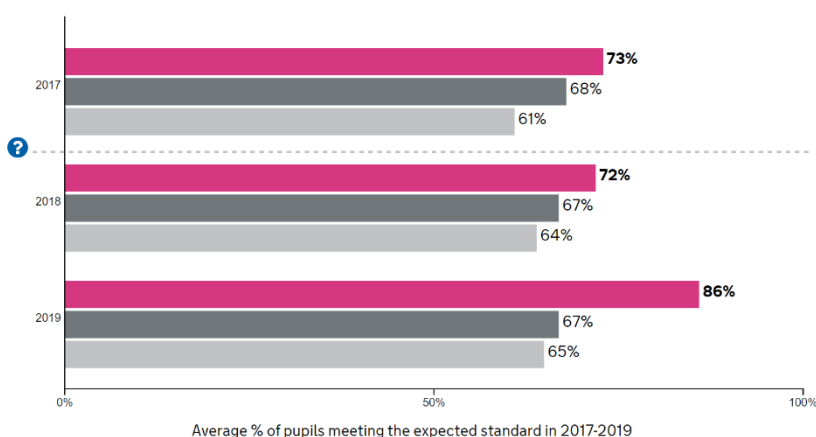
### Pupils achieving at a higher standard in reading, writing and maths ?



### Results over 3 years ?

[View](#)

■ School ■ Local authority state-funded schools ■ England state-funded schools



### Good Level of Development (GLD)

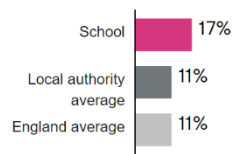
EYFS		GLD
Percentage of pupils who achieved the good level of development on exit from reception	2019	65%
	2018	63%
	2017	62%

### Eppleton Academy Primary School Data

### Pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths ?

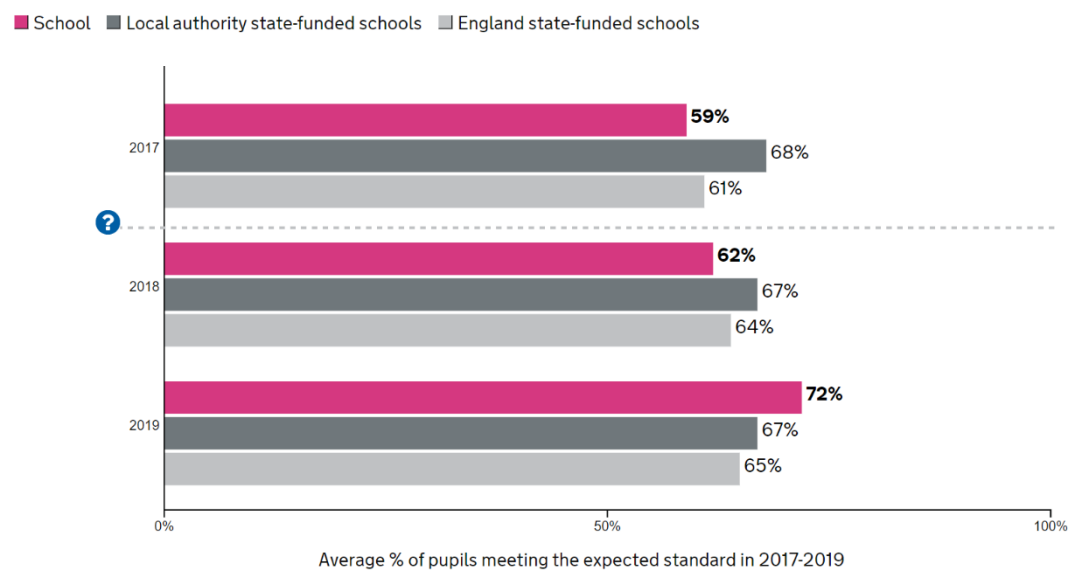


### Pupils achieving at a higher standard in reading, writing and maths ?



### Results over 3 years ?

[View as table](#)



### Good Level of Development (GLD)

EYFS		GLD
Percentage of pupils who achieved the good level of development on exit from reception	2019	71%
	2018	65%
	2017	64%

**From:** Ailsa Higgins  
**Sent:** 20 February 2021 11:29  
**To:** School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Hetton Primary School

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As a group of schools we support the principle of Hetton Primary School being rebuilt as we feel that all children should be educated in a first class facility. However we are very concerned at the lack of any direct consultation with surrounding schools as the impact of these proposals will change education provision across all of the Hetton Wards. It is disappointing to note that the opportunity has not been taken to involve all schools in the area in the discussion about future provision for our children across Hetton. To come to the best decision for our community, families and education all partners must be involved.

#### 1-Effect on Nursery Provision

*"In order to ensure a long-term sustainable provision is available within the ward it is proposed that the new school building includes a 55-place nursery provision that will provide 16 full time places for 2-year olds and 39 full time places for 3- and 4-year olds. The age range at the school will be lowered from 4 – 11-year olds to 2 to 11- year olds. By expanding the early years provision currently delivered to the reception class at Hetton Primary School to include nursery aged children the long-term availability of nursery places in the ward will be safeguarded."*

There are concerns over the number of nursery places for 2 year olds and 3 & 4 year olds. Funded places for these age ranges are part time, 15 hours each, in reality the nursery provision would be able to take 32 two year olds and 78 three & four year olds which would be a potential of a maximum of 110 place nursery which will have a dramatic impact on the sustainability of nursery provision for all schools in the area.

The proposal for 30 places in all other classes will also not meet the agenda for the school to be able to offer places right through from 2 years to 11 years with there being a drop from 78 in nursery to 30 in other classes.

The formal consultation over the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School is not yet complete therefor this proposal is working on the assumption that the closure is a fore gone conclusion.

The proposal states that 54% of parents attending Hetton Le Hole Nursery live closer to Hetton primary, currently Hetton Le Hole have 45 3&4's places taken and 29 funded 2's of which 39 children could potentially attend the new 110 place provision leaving a gap of 71 places.

*2"It is initially anticipated therefore that the nursery class will be limited (to those wanted to attend the school all the way through"*

How does the school/LA intended to limit those attending to those families mentioned in this statement from the proposal?

*3-The Council is seeking views on a proposal to increase the capacity of the current Hetton Primary School, Sunderland from 140 places (20 places per year group) to 210 places (30 places per year group) from September 2022.*

It is interesting to note that there has been no consultation with Hetton Lyons Primary School who are only 0.5 miles away and will be directly impacted by a through school provision at Hetton Primary, the increase in the number of places, and the fall in numbers at Hetton Lyons Nursery school. It also will leave no maintained setting in the centre of Hetton.

We understand that Hetton Primary School have been told to take over their Pan for the last two years but we also understand that in September 2020 Eppleton Primary school had places available in the Reception Class and that predicted numbers for 2021 are that no school in Hetton will be at capacity in the reception class and currently all will have places available.

*4-The school will be rebuilt on the current Hetton Primary School site. Families and pupils will be able to access the new facilities without the requirement of additional travel.*

There are concerns regarding access to the new site especially linked to increased traffic, what measures are being put in place to ensure the safety of pedestrians and other road users as North Road is an extremely busy road even at the moment?

As Headteachers and Governors of local schools we are very concerned and would appreciate our views be taken into consideration and valued as part of your consultation.

Kind Regards

Governors of Hetton Lyons Nursery School

**From:** Emma Pringle

**Sent:** 20 February 2021 17:12

**To:** School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Notification of Statutory Proposals for the enlargement of premises and alteration of the lower age limit at Hetton Primary School.

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As someone who grew up in Hetton and was educated in Hetton, I have no argument with supporting a new build to help develop the area and for the building to be replaced to provide safety for children to learn. However, what I am strongly against is the need to add a nursery class to the school for a number of reasons.

At present, where Hetton Primary is located, is extremely dangerous for children as well as drivers. As someone who used to walk up that street to get to Hetton Comprehensive, I know how busy it gets and how quick cars go. To allow for more numbers to attend by increasing class sizes and to further add to that by including a nursery, the foot and vehicle traffic will only increase. It seems particularly unsafe to drop off 2-4 year olds at this location, never mind primary school children. This is also with the additional danger of construction vehicles having to gain access to the site to build, causing further issues. With this increased traffic, comes increased pollution in a small specific area making it an unsafe environment, not only on the wetlands you propose to have there (which will hopefully end up being home to many animals) but also residents who live directly opposite and the children who will travel to and from there. It also seems from the proposed layout and plan that the new school will be an L shape behind the old one, which will take away more green space from Hetton. With a proposed housing development currently being appealed just up the road at Cragdale Gardens, taking away even more green space when there is not much in Hetton Le Hole to begin with, is ludicrous and certainly not helping the Government's target of making this country more climate friendly.

Let's for a moment, assume that the appeal for the housing development at Cragdale Gardens is successful, there will be two lots of construction in a small area, green space being destroyed and erection of new buildings. More population coming to Hetton for a new school, new nursery and housing is not going to increase the prosperity, but rather further damage an already deprived area. Two sets of danger, two causes for an increase in foot and vehicle traffic making it an extremely busy environment, two causes of pollution and all in the name of development. Why so much development needs to occur in a 2 and a half mile radius, I have no idea. As clearly stated, this will not develop but destroy.

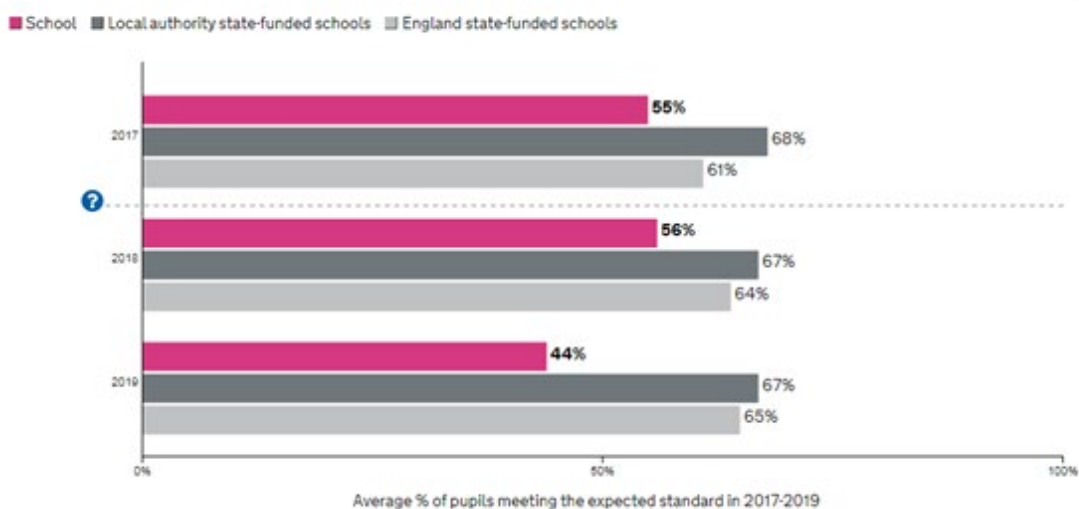
However, I can understand that you are attempting to cater for the growing numbers at Hetton Primary plus knowing new housing could be secured, that there will be a need for a bigger school to cater for them. However as the decision on the Primary is out for formal

consultation now and the Cragdale Gardens development was rejected over green space issues, how can you possibly know if the requirement is there for a greater school (providing for 210 students) and for that matter, if it will not end up running at a loss, gathering a significant deficit as a result. Albeit the development is not being financed by Sunderland City Council, you will foot the bill when numbers do not transpire there and more importantly, the nursery is not being used in the way that you assume that it will. At present on the government website that was updated on the 30th December 2020, the primary school is only oversubscribed by 5 students, yet you wish to add a further 65 places on top of that when the need is not there - and this is not including the nursery that will increase it even further. Your proposal refers to an estate being built on North Road (Bramble Rise) as a reason for needing more places, yet there are 5 nurseries that are close to that development who are all currently undersubscribed due to a lower intake which was a city wide issue over the last few years. A new one, does not need to be built to cater for the new housing development which will be ready, far sooner, than the school's new build. Hetton Le Hole Nursery school is 1.1 miles away, Litte Jems is 1.0 mile away, Little Pioneers is 0.9 miles away and Hetton Lyons Nursery is 0.8 miles away. Your proposed nursery would be closer by between 0.2-0.5 of a mile away from another establishment. Plus where the North Road development is situated, residents may well take their children to Houghton nurseries or Chilton Moor depending on their direction of travel to work. Your proposal is based on 'if' developments go ahead rather than what you know for certain. It seems bizarre that you intend to close one nursery which is very close to a housing development in Blossom Park, that is 1.2 miles from Hetton Le Hole Nursery School and 1.6 miles from Eppleton Nursery (which from your reasoning would mean an increase in children requiring nursery places) yet want to open another for the same reason.

The reason I can confidently raise my concerns over the use and therefore future sustainability of the nursery you are proposing to include in the new build, is that this educational setting has historically achieved poor results and progress. Sadly, being someone who works in education myself, a new build will not make the teaching and learning improve; it will only improve the climate and environment. In my younger years, being taught in Hetton, I never had a new build and succeeded well above expectation - why? Because of the incredible teaching staff. Over the last 3 years, the school has not achieved anywhere near the national average and therefore it is not just a set back because of COVD19. In 2017, 55% of pupils made expected progress, when the national average was 61%; in 2018 56% met expected progress, when the national average was 64%; and finally in 2019 only 44% met expected progress when the national average was 65%. As you can see, the progress gap begins to widen year on year. Why would someone want to send their child to this school from nursery age to Year 6, if there is a 56% chance their child will not meet expected progress, and therefore start Hetton Comprehensive School or elsewhere already at a disadvantage? This is all shown in the table below:

## Results over 3 years ?

[View as table](#)



As for the requirement of a nursery outlined in your proposal, parents will unfortunately still require more than one drop off depending on their child's age. You are not offering anything below 2 years of age, that will mean that some parents will have to drop a child under two off at another location, then go to the Primary to drop another child off and even potentially a third at the Comprehensive school. Unfortunately your plan of a one stop shop so to speak, doesn't work in the real world as families are of all ages and vary with the number of children they have. It is great that you have considered this following the pre-consultation but it still does not fit with what most families will have to do to get to work on a morning. I would however like to know how many parents have a child that attends Hetton Primary, and have another sibling aged 2-4? If it is only 10 maybe even 15, that means that this nursery will immediately run at a loss - undersubscribed and underfunded. It may work for a minority of parents, but how many others would this affect? I send my son to a nursery in Hetton that is not attached to a primary, yet he is likely to go to Hetton Lyons or Eppleton when school age arrives. I don't mind the travel and have chosen my current nursery for a reason. I'm sure, there are many parents out there, like me. You must consider both sides of the argument and not just a few percent.

A final thought, your consultation mentions the minimal impact it will have on other educational settings in the area. Have you done a survey and asked them? I'm under the impression, few even knew about it until recently. As Hetton has seen in the past, the opening of another nursery begins to weigh on the numbers of those around them. This has been seen with Little Pioneers - the private nursery that was allowed to open up in the middle of Hetton extremely close to two maintained nursery schools. This nursery has meant that there has been a reduction in numbers in both of the other settings as well as the issue that occurred city wide as mentioned earlier. There is absolutely no need in a small town like this one to have 6 nursery schools (there are 5 currently). If each is offering 39



places, that caters for 195 3-4 year olds. In a recent Hetton Town Council Meeting, Alan Rowan expressed that the birth rate has not changed over the last few years, therefore there is no additional need. So surely in a small town such as Hetton, there is no need to provide for more than 195 children in 1 year group. My question to you is that, if it is not going to affect other educational settings, why are you proposing to close one of the 5 at the same time as considering this new nursery? Coincidence? I doubt it.

Alarmingly, at the end of your consultation, you have the results of the pre-consultation where you state 54.79% agreed with the proposal to lower the age. That is 41 people out of the 75 responses you received. 41 out of a population in Hetton of between 12 and 14,000, seems a very minor amount to base such a huge decision. Do what is right for the community as a whole, not for 41 people.

**From:** Stephanie Churchill

**Sent:** 20 February 2021 17:28

**To:** School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Hetton Primary Proposal

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I am writing to you to comment on the proposal of Hetton Primary School. I would like to make it clear that I am in no way opposed to the new build of the school my concerns lie with the nursery of 2-4?

You state SEN provision available but who is trained to work with SEN pupils in a nursery with no qualified, experienced professionals that maintained nurseries have - no one, so therefore there is NO SEN provision available at this proposed nursery and no experienced senior leadership team to provide support.

I am against the idea that the nursery is only available from 2 years old. What happens to children of 0-2? Hetton le hole nursery school is the only outstanding maintained nursery in the area. Do parents have to drop off their infant at another private provision then drive to Hetton Primary for the 2-4 year olds?

Another issue concerning me, the site will not be completed until 2022....are 2-4 year olds expected to attend their provision on a building site? In a porta cabin? This to me is an insane idea. It is not a suitable early years learning environment what so ever.

I understand the need for the primary school to be expanded but the nursery has not at all been thought through.

My children will certainly not be attending. The traffic is bad enough on that road with no parking. Not a sensible idea for 2-4 year olds.

Mrs S Churchill

**From:** Kay Donoghue  
**Sent:** 20 February 2021 18:29  
**To:** School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Formal opposition to the Hetton-Le-Hole Primary School proposal

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For the attention of Alan and those councillors in charge of the proposal to extend the age range and build a new school at the site of Hetton primary school

I am writing to state that I am opposed to the new build and lowering of the age range at the Hetton primary site

Traffic issues are already poor along four lane ends and north road and also the roads running up to the school adding more children to the same site will cause considerable traffic increases on roads which already struggle to cope with this volume thus increasing risk of accident and injury.

In addition to this, the current nursery provision in the Hetton le Hole nursery school is outstanding and has been part of the community for almost 75 years. It would be detrimental to the community to lose this nursery in terms of loss of jobs as the proposed new nursery would not reemploy all staff and also a, loss of an ofsted outstanding nursery within Hetton and Sunderland.

Finally I am concerned about the effects of the

Resulting closure of the nursery school if this site is to go ahead on the children who will have to move. They have already had huge changes to deal with during the ongoing pandemic and their well being and many parents including my own daughter has said she will not send her child to that nursery or school due to their poor academic results.

To conclude I am opposed the proposal to extend the age range and number of pupils at Hetton primary due to concerns over children's well being and traffic volume issues and the increased risk of accident

Yours sincerely

Kay Donoghue

**From:** maytapping

**Date:** 20 February 2021 at 17:33:38 GMT

**To:** [schholorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:schholorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Subject:** proposed closure of Hetton Nursery Brewery Field

I wish to state my objection to the closure of this outstanding nursery although I have no objection to the building of the new primary school.

This nursery school has been the focal point of pre schooling for 70 years indeed my husband who is 70 years went here. He has many happy memories. Today this school has outstanding reports from Ofsted so why close it. You could argue that a replacement is being built on the new site but for many parents who do not have transport it will be difficult taking young children to the new school especially for the ones who live central. Our community needs provision for under two year olds as well which is not being provided at the new site.

Also being a driver I know that the road is currently congested as it is at school times and I feel this will make matters worse.

Also all the new builds currently under construction I do not feel there will be plenty places available

Yours sincerely

P Tapping

-----Original Message-----

From: Steph Reilly

Sent: 20 February 2021 22:07

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Proposed Development at Hetton Primary

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To whom it may concern

I am writing to you in connection with the proposed 5.7 million development to expand hetton Primary to include a nursery.

I am totally against the proposal as it will cause absolute chaos in the surrounding area. I live at 55 Four Lane Ends and commute to hetton town centre each day for work, at peak time when the children are attending first thing.

Currently the number of cars parked in front and in the surrounding area for the current number of children, causes traffic jams and safety issues. To add another 40 children to this will make the situation even worse.

I also object to the proposed closure of the current nursery we have in hetton. This establishment provides 5star pre school education and to close it is an absolute disgrace.

To spend 5.7 million on something that we already have available is nothing but theft from the tax payers pockets. Why fix something that isn't broken !?

We have other huge issues in the area that need addressing before we waste such a huge amount of money on something that isn't needed.

This situation needs addressing before SSC make a huge mistake !!

Stephanie Reilly

Sub Postmaster Hetton Front St PO

From: Mama's Delivery  
Sent: 20 February 2021 22:22  
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>  
Subject: Hetton primary school

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I am writing to object against the proposal to extend hetton primary school.

Firstly I have no objection to the proposal in regards to expanding the school to make two form entry possible, I understand the area needs more schools with more children coming to the area. What I do disagree with is the proposal to build a nursery. The area already has five nurseries, with plenty of spaces available.

Therefore, How can this money be justified?

If the building of a nursery in olives closing any others, which I believe is the proposal, it's disgraceful. Why close something that works and replace it with something unequal in terms of what it offers? If it isn't broken don't fix it!

Out of the 75 responses you received in the pre consultations 54% agreed with lowering the age, it's hardly a land slide result worthy of part of the 5.7million pound allocated!

I hope you rethink!

Mrs Cooper

**From:** Jamie Ovington

**Sent:** 21 February 2021 20:40

**To:** School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Notification of Statutory Proposals for the enlargement of premises and alteration of the lower age limit at Hetton Primary School.

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I would like to make a case against the proposal to build a new school for Hetton Primary. The traffic management in the area of the school is already a danger to all that attend the current school on foot. Increasing pupil numbers in the new school will only exaggerate the problem. The risk of danger is increased further with the addition of a provision for 2-4 year old children also attending the site

Traffic flow at drop off and pick up times often lead to 10/15 minute delays in motorists attempting to pass the school to continue on their journey. Further numbers attending the area will increase this problem.

Furthermore, I oppose the building of a new school at this current time due to the current financial climate caused by Covid-19. For a multi million pound development to be continued with during a time where budget cuts and restraints are expected throughout all councils is somewhat short sighted.

As residents in the Sunderland Council locality we can yet again look forward to further council tax increases this year, whilst money is pumped into unnecessary regeneration such as a new build school. Whilst I have no doubt that the majority of the funding for the build will come from external grants, it will still provide a drain on valuable council expenditure. After the recent spending spree on vanity projects throughout the city, is it not time that efforts were focused in improving existing provisions and services in all areas across the city? Rather than ploughing further resources into an already failing primary school in the hopes that a new build will magically raise the standards of teaching and increase the attainment levels of the pupils that attend.

Let me move on to the building itself. Whilst I have no doubt it will be outfitted with energy saving fixtures and fittings, I see no provision in the plans for the addition of solar panels or additional green energy provisions. Other schools across the North East Region benefit from the addition of solar panels or a small wind turbine to generate the schools electricity and make it more environmentally friendly. Additional cost for such provisions are often recouped in the lowering of utility bills at such properties.

Finally, if a new build school is to go ahead, (plans already published in several North East news outlets would suggest it is) then it should not need a proposed nursery provision attached to cater for 2-4 year old children. As stated earlier, the additional risk to children is significant due to an increase in traffic, this is only increased further with the addition of younger children. There is also a significant presence of nursery schools within Hetton, all of which advertise that places are available. The addition of further places in Hetton is simply not needed, and will be a detriment on the other nursery's intake and budgets within the area.

Kind regards,

Mr James Ovington