

**A consultation about our proposal to close the
residential provision at Bleasdale School,
27 Emesgate Lane, Silverdale, Carnforth, LA5 0RG**

June 2023

This is a formal consultation about making a prescribed alteration to a school in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.



We are seeking your views about our proposal to close the residential provision at Bleasdale School and whether you think this is a good idea.

We want to assure you that we will give careful consideration to all your comments and opinions.

This formal consultation is a legal requirement that we need to do in order to make a change like this to the school.

What are we planning to do?

Bleasdale School is an 'Outstanding' (Ofsted) day and residential special school special school for children and young people with profound and multiple learning difficulties, aged 2 -19. The proposal is to close the residential provision of the school.

The day provision will remain as it is and is unaffected by this consultation.

Why are we doing this?

There are no pupils in the residential provision at Bleasdale School and it is not anticipated there will be any demand for residential provision at this site in the future. Families are either tending to opt for their children to remain at home and taking up short breaks or utilising 52-week residential provision.

Closing the residential provision at Bleasdale School will offer a more efficient use of public resources.

What have we done so far?

We have discussed this proposal with the current and previous Headteachers and Governors of Bleasdale School.

On 19 January 2023, Cabinet gave approval for a feasibility study to be undertaken to remove the residential provision at Bleasdale School.

An informal consultation took place between 5 May 2023 and 11 June 2023 when we asked for the views of families of children and young people attending the school, children and young people who may attend the school in the future, school staff and governors and other members of the local community. A public meeting was also held on 15 May 2023, where a representative from Lancashire County Council attended.

Of the 37 responses received to the informal consultation:

- 6 respondents did not register any information or opinion
- 8 respondents strongly agreed with the proposal – comments included the resource and facilities could be put to better use.
- 5 respondents tended to agree with the proposal – Comments included expensive building to upkeep and if facilities are not being used they could be used by local



community. Also concerns raised that the facilities in the building were still required to be used for the school.

- 10 respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal – Comments as above
- 2 respondents tending to disagree with the proposal – comments included the need to access facilities in the building and withdrawal of the residential status would make it very difficult to reapply in the future.
- 6 respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal – comments included the need to access facilities within the residential building, the need for residential care and the need for better signposting of the residential facility.
 - *This consultation is to close the residential provision at Bleasdale School and not a consultation about any future use of the building.*
 - *There are no pupils in the residential facilities and it is not anticipated there will be any demand for residential school provision in the future.*
 - *There is a need for 52 week residential care provision which falls under different legislation than 38 week school residential provision.*

The written responses to the informal consultation were considered by the Executive Director for Education and Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills after the end of the consultation period.

What will happen next?

Careful consideration will be given to all responses that are received on or before 21 July 2023.

These responses will be used to provide information to Lancashire County Council's Cabinet to help councillors decide whether to agree to the closure of the residential provision at Bleasdale School.

Have your say

We would like your views on this proposal. An event will be held at the school so that you can get more information and ask any questions you may have. Details about this will be available on the school website and through the usual channels of communication used by the school.

For your information and in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government regulations, all written responses may be disclosed to the public and could also be published on our website as background papers to any reports.

We are sorry that, due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal.



If you have any queries or require further information please contact the Inclusion Service by phone: 01772 531597 or email Inclusion.South@Lancashire.gov.uk.

This information can be found on this website www.lancashire.gov.uk/consultations and you can also fill in the questionnaire here too.



QUESTIONNAIRE

We are proposing to close the residential provision at Bleasdale School.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Please tick one option only

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

About you

This final section is about you. It is a little more personal but is really useful to us. By answering these questions, you will help us to understand the views of different groups of people. If there are any questions that you would rather not answer, please tick 'prefer not to say,' or leave it blank and go on to the next question.

Are you responding to this proposal as...?

Please select one option only

- Parent/carer of a pupil currently at Bleasdale School
- Parent/carer of a future pupil at Bleasdale School
- Member of staff at Bleasdale School
- School governor at Bleasdale School
- Member of the local community
- Other

If other, please write in the box below

Are you...?

Please select one option only

- Male
- Female



- Other
- Prefer not to say

What was your age on your last birthday?

Please select one option only

- Under 16
- 16-19
- 20-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

Please select one option only

- White
- Black or Black British
- Asian or Asian British
- Mixed ethnic background
- Any other ethnic background
- Prefer not to say

Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Please select as many as apply

- Yes, learning disability
- Yes, physical disability
- Yes, sensory disability
- Yes, mental health disability
- Yes, other disability
- No
- Prefer not to say



Are there any children or young people in your household with special educational needs?

Please select as many as apply

- No
- Yes, aged under 5
- Yes, aged 5-11
- Yes, aged 12-15
- Yes, aged 16-17
- Prefer not to say

What is your home postcode?

Please send your completed questionnaire to:
Business Intelligence,
Lancashire County Council,
PO Box 100,
County Hall,
Preston PR1 0LD

Thank you for completing the questionnaire

