



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Proposal to close Forest of Teesdale Primary School on 31 August 2022

Notice is given in accordance with Section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Durham County Council intends to close Forest of Teesdale Primary School, Forest-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 0HA on 31 August 2022.

Forest of Teesdale Primary School, set in the small rural community of Forest in Teesdale, has the lowest pupil numbers of any school in Co. Durham and serves the least populated part of the county. There is currently 1 child on roll in Year 6, though that pupil is being taught at St. John's Chapel Primary School currently; no pupils started in Reception in September 2021, and nobody has expressed a 1<sup>st</sup> preference for their child to start in Reception at Forest of Teesdale Primary School for September 2022. There is no anticipated development in this part of the county that will have the effect of increasing these numbers. Governors accept that pupil numbers are unlikely to increase over the next 5 years to any sufficiency in which curriculum and social development needs could be addressed in the school.

The most recent Ofsted inspection (date 08/10/2018) judged the school to be 'Good (minus)'. The Ofsted report identified many weaknesses and consequently a decision was made to enrich and widen the curriculum for pupils at the school in collaboration with other small primary schools in the upper dales including Wearhead, St John's Chapel and Rookhope Primary schools.

Children can be more effectively educated in a larger, more viable establishment that can offer a broader curriculum. There are schools within a reasonable travelling distance judged 'Good' by Ofsted that are capable of delivering such a curriculum. Consequently, the preferred option of Council officers and the Upper Durham Dales Federated Governing Body is to close Forest of Teesdale Primary School on 31 August 2022 with the pupil currently on roll being enrolled and educated at an alternative school.

This Notice is an extract from the full proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained via an email request to: **[schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk)**

It is also available on the County Council's website at: [www.durham.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.durham.gov.uk/consultations)

Within four weeks from the date of this publication any person may object or make comments on the proposal by emailing them to: **[schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk)**

Signed:

John Pearce  
Corporate Director  
Children and Young People's Services

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