

Closure of Fairfield High School and Expansion of Wade Deacon High School

Part 1:

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Halton Borough Council, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF intends to discontinue Fairfield High School, Peelhouse Lane, Widnes WA8 6TE on 31 August 2010.

The Council is proposing the closure of Fairfield High School due the continuing decline in pupil numbers. Insufficient pupil numbers are forecast in Widnes to ensure the continued financial and curriculum viability of Fairfield High School.

It is proposed that all Fairfield pupils will transfer to the expanded Wade Deacon High School. The school will operate on two sites until the expanded Wade Deacon High School is completed in 2013. (Please see Part 2 of this notice for further information).

To minimise disruption and safeguard pupils at Fairfield High between the decision and the 2010 implementation date, the Governing Bodies of Fairfield High School and Wade Deacon High School have agreed in principle to establishing a Hard Federation for the purposes of Chapter (i) of the Education Act 2002 should the outcome of the statutory process be the closure of Fairfield High School.

Fairfield High School has provision for children with special educational needs. It is proposed that all existing pupils will transfer to Wade Deacon High School where provision will continue.

There would be an impact on travelling times and distances with the closure of Fairfield High School. The Local Authority has worked with the Passenger Transport Unit and the School Travel Adviser to consider the implication of closing a high school. The distance between Fairfield High School and Wade Deacon High School is less than one mile. A detailed Travel Plan for safe walking, cycling and public transport will be developed by the Local Authority, for pupils attending the split site school. Assistance will be available for those pupils who meet the criteria of the Authority's Transport Policy.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Ann McIntyre, Operational Director, Children and Young People, Grosvenor House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2WD. Telephone 0151 471 753. A full copy of the proposals can be found on <http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf>. Details of the secondary and secondary special re-organisation proposals for Halton can be found in the Executive Board report on 12th December 2007.

Within **six weeks** from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mr M Reaney, Operational Director (Legal, Organisational Development and Human Resources) Municipal Buildings, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF.

Part 2:

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Halton Borough Council intends to make prescribed alterations to Wade Deacon High School, Birchfield Road, Widnes WA8 7TD from 01 September 2010.

As part of the Halton BSF programme, Wade Deacon High School will be refurbished and remodeled.

It is proposed that the admission number will be increased by 27 or more and the capacity of the school will be enlarged to accommodate pupils from Fairfield High School. During the period from 1st September 2010 to August 2013, Wade Deacon High School will operate on a split site basis using both Wade Deacon High School and Fairfield High School buildings. (Please see Part 1 of this notice for further information).

Following the completion of remodeling and refurbishment of the school in 2013, the school will cease to operate on split sites and will operate solely from the Wade Deacon site. On 1st September 2010, it is proposed that all pupils at Fairfield High school (estimate 560 pupils) will transfer to Wade Deacon High School and the capacity of the school will be temporarily increased to accommodate these pupils.

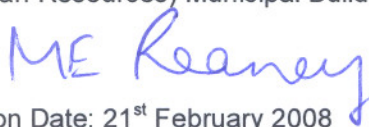
The current total capacity of the school is 1125 and the proposed total capacity will be 1500 in 2013. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 1125. The current admission number for the school is 225 and the proposed admission number will be 300.

It will be necessary for the school to operate on split sites until 2013. The second site will be based on Peelhouse Lane, Widnes, WA8 6TE.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Ann McIntyre, Operational Director, Children and Young People, Grosvenor House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2WD. Telephone Number 0151 471 7543. A full copy of the proposals can be found on <http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf>. Details of the secondary and secondary special re-organisation proposals for Halton can be found in the Executive Board report on 12th December 2007.

Within **four weeks** from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mr M Reaney, Operational Director (Legal, Organisational Development and Human Resources) Municipal Buildings, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF.

Signed:



Publication Date: 21st February 2008

Explanatory Notes:

All written comments received at the above addresses will be acknowledged. In May 2008, comments will be submitted to the Executive Board of Halton Council in the form of a report, copies of which will be made available to the public on demand. It will not be possible to send detailed responses to individual letters. After a report has been submitted to the Executive Board, all written responses to the consultation exercise will become available for inspection by the public.

Parents will continue to have the right to express a preference. It is recommended that for each of the years up to 2013 a degree of flexibility is retained at each of the three secondary schools in Widnes to ensure all pupils can be accommodated in advance of the completion of the BSF Programme. The Published Admission Numbers (PAN) will be reviewed to ensure that by 2013 there are a total of 26 forms of entry in Widnes with a total 780 pupils in each year group. For 2010 it is recommended that subject to approval by the Halton Admission Forum, that the Published Admission Numbers would be; Wade Deacon High School – 300 (10 form entry); • The Bankfield High School – 210 (7 form entry); • Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College – 270 (9 form entry plus sixth form).