

**Notes from staff meeting - Bedlington Whitley Memorial CE First School  
8th May 2019 3:45 p.m.**

**PRESENT:**

29 members of staff, including Headteacher

1 Chair of Governors:

Arleen Thompson

NCC HR representative:

Wendy Stewart

3 Trade Union representatives:

Stephen Payne - Voice the Union

Gareth Robson - NASUWT

Karen Nyland - UNISON

Assistant Director (School Effectiveness) The Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle:

Jo Warner

NCC Officers:

Head of School Organisation and Resources - Sue Aviston

School Organisation Manager - Lorraine Fife

Project Support Officer - Jacqui Pearson, notes

Sue Aviston presented the powerpoint to the group.

Questions which were raised following the presentation were:

**1. Meadowdale Academy are not accepting pupils, so what happens now?**

- A. Decisions can be made in isolation with the knowledge that the final decision of Meadowdale becoming a Primary academy is to be confirmed by the Secretary of State. LA Officers are carrying out this consultation on behalf of the two maintained first schools. If the Council's Cabinet decided not to approve this school to become a primary, the Governing Body could decide to carry out its own informal consultation and approve the publication of a statutory proposal to become Primary in isolation. However, the Council's Cabinet would still make the final decision.

**Post meeting note:** this question has been added to the [FAQs](#) on the Council's website for a full explanation.

**2. Looking at the data and in particular, surplus places. Is 22% based on the whole partnership? Whitley Memorial and West End are healthy.**

- A. September 2019 pupils were a low birth rate across Northumberland as a whole and we can see this forecast moving forward for the next 4 years. There is a concern as a whole partnership that there are too many first/primary schools. Schools must be educationally and financially viable. There are pupils who attend here who live in other school catchment areas, but this can impact on the viability of those schools too.

**Cont.....**

There are other schools looking at staffing and reductions now and will be doing so again in 2 years time due to falling pupil numbers.

**3. Early Years provision - why is this being raised as an issue?**

A. We take the opportunity at informal consultation stage to seek view on current early years arrangement to make sure that the Council has the whole picture and can give accurate advice to Cabinet Members.

**4:15 p.m. close of meeting**