

Amble First School Governors Response

The children of our community have to be at the heart of the decisions we collectively make. We believe that of the two options outlined Plan B is by far the most preferable.

We are aware that many are travelling to the Alnwick partnership into an existing Primary/Secondary model as, presumably, they are perceived as better, newer, more successful.

There has been a desire from the First schools for such a change for a number of years.

According to Plan B, there would be assurances that no school will be closed. Our hope and desire is that Amble First could move to the Middle School site to allow expansion; this decision is a 'no-brainer'.

Primary educators are the experts at delivering the primary curriculum and the change to a two-tier system fits in well with Key Stages. These children need to be supported and developed to reach their potential, and we believe that could be best achieved by developing Primary Schools across the Partnership.

If Plan B is adopted and Primaries and a Secondary School is formed then we would expect to continue developing good working relationships between all the schools and ensure a smooth transmission from Primary to Secondary.

The disruption from Covid has had a significant impact on the SEMH needs of all children. We believe that these would best be met in a smaller, more inclusive and supportive setting, as First schools have consistently demonstrated. Pastoral care is excellent in the First School setting.

Splitting a Key Stage is problematic, not just in terms of educational achievement in SATS, but all the children will have studied different curriculum topics, which often leads to repetition for some. The KS2 curriculum is best delivered by Primary experts, in a Primary model, with KS2 testing at the end of this, where there has been consistent teaching of the entire curriculum in one setting.

**Governor response from
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