

STAFF FEEDBACK FOR COQUET CONSULTATION

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To: Deborah Anderson <deborah.anderson01@northumberland.gov.uk>

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Morning Deborah

Please see feedback below from staff regarding the consultation. Staff have had opportunities to meet as well as completing a brief online survey.

From a simple choice of the available options staff preferences were as follows:

Option A (Status Quo): 1

Option B (2 Tier) : 23

No Preference : 2

Can you confirm that you have received this and that you received the feedback I sent from pupils please?

Paul

Staff who joined the meeting unanimously agreed that the move to 2 tier would be their preference, citing the following reasons:

- Currently the final term/half term is disrupted with many transition/leaving activities and also dealing with many worries from the children. Although this is still likely to be the case during Y6, the children will be older and more resilient and will also by then have completed SATS and final assessments whereas Y4 still have end of year assessments and the Y4 Multiplication Tables Check that they should be focusing upon.*
- Children are too young to move up and, due to their age, are quite vulnerable - many are not yet mature enough to be given the levels of independence/freedom that they get at Middle School.*
- Many children in Y4 are concerned about bullying as they move to Middle School.*
- Staff are keen to rise to the challenge of having upper KS2 in school and have already considered how to extend the responsibilities that the children already have as they move into Y5/6 without reducing our expectations of the responsibilities that the Y4 children show they can successfully take on.*
- Moving into a new school at the end of Y4 after a long summer holiday and having to get used to a different style of teaching, different building, different staff and different curriculum cannot be good for the children's learning, especially at the age of 9. Moving to 2 tier would negate the time lost in supporting the children through these changes.*
- Staff are committed to building on their current successful work in designing the curriculum and taking this into upper KS2. There would be more consistency in curriculum delivery across KS2 - this is something that has not worked well when the KS has been split and there has been lack of cohesion between schools*

- *Many of the systems we have in place for the teaching of reading, writing and maths are well-established and can be built upon into upper KS2 ensuring better consistency rather than the children needing to get used to a style of teaching that is new to them in the middle of KS2.*
- *When considering the end of KS2 data from JCSC - staff have many worries about the significant drop in standards compared to the first school data.*
- *Subject leadership roles would be able to be spread out between more teachers*
- *Staff accept that further training in teaching and subject leadership in upper KS2 would be beneficial - they are keen to rise to this challenge.*
- *Staff feel that many children get 'lost in the system' as they move to Middle School and believe that the nurturing atmosphere of a first school would benefit many of the children if this can be kept for a further 2 years.*
- *Bringing in the right staff to the school is important - staff believe that new teachers/staff would quickly be able to slot into the 'Amble Links ethos'*
- *We already have a successful track record of extending our age range (with the introduction of the 2 year old provision at Amble Links.*
- *Concerns from staff that many pupils seem to move to Alnwick schools in the first years of being at JCSC as problems that they encounter are not addressed quickly.*
- *The communication between first schools and parents is very good and much appreciated - this seems to be quickly lost as the children move to middle school. Staff believe that the children are often too young to lose this level of communication. Staff believe that we would be able to implement an approach to gradually support families into less face to face communication with school in preparation for secondary.*
- *Staff are committed to the challenge of upper KS2 and appreciate that it would be a whole school team effort to support the change - not the sole responsibility of Y5/Y6 teachers.*
- *Staff have frustrations with the current system when seeing some pupils doing so badly academically and emotionally.*
- *Many staff members themselves went through a 2 tier system themselves and have no reservations about moving that way.*

Comments submitted through staff questionnaire:

- *I believe Model B to be the best outcome for the children providing a more conclusive end to Key Stage 2. And as a staff member the potential of career progression opportunities.*
- *Fewer and better timed transition points will benefit children's learning and well being; two tier would eliminate the splitting of KS2 which is disruptive.*
- *Staff in a Primary school have a more in depth knowledge of the whole child by the time they take KS2 SATS meaning they are well placed to support them towards these.*
- *Totally agree with the 2 tier system! Keeping the children here and nurturing them that bit longer will no doubt be beneficial to them. Communication and support at the middle school is nowhere near on point as it should be! Parents have faith in a school with good communication and leadership, and are likely to recommend the school*
- *As a parent with children whom have previously left school in year 5 and currently have a child who is in reception at present , I personally think two tier would be better as some of the children are not ready to move schools. The extra two years they have at first school gives them the chance to mature more which will hopefully make the moving process easier.*
- *I believe the two system could be a good idea providing the children have the right support, transition and potentially a semi separate area or provision in their first year in the second tier. I think this will be an even bigger transition than moving from first to middle school, as the year 6-7 children will be mixing with much older children. I also made my decision looking at the ofsted results of JCSC.*

- SEND - staff would be keen to have additional provision in the local area so fewer children are transported out of the area - this would help those children to continue to feel more a part of the community.
- SEND - Having a more local provision would help keep the length of the school day shorter for the children.

Concerns and questions raised by staff:

- Concerns raised that if other Amble Schools get rebuilds or refurbishments, would other schools get additional investment too? Amble Links could be left to be the only school in Amble that doesn't appear to be 'shiny and new'; being seen as the second rate school in Amble.
- Should we move to 2 tier, would other investment on school infrastructure be made - staff raised concerns about the small size of classrooms and the size/height of the hall for trying to deliver upper KS2 PE in particular
- If we move to a 2 tier system, will, at some point, the government/NCC change their minds?
- If we remain as a 3 tier system, what will happen to the money earmarked for the partnership? Will it still be invested in schools?
- SATS are, of course, a concern. Staff would require additional training and support both for teaching and leading subjects in upper KS2.
- Would Amble Links be able to submit a business plan for the provision needed to accommodate Y5/6; to help ensure consistency with the other schools' new builds/refurbishments, so that all children in the partnership have fair access to resources/buildings?

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