

From: philgreen

Sent: 21 July 2022 3:27 PM

To: Lorraine Fife

Cc:

Subject: Berwick Schools consultation - collective response from Belford PS governing body

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Dear Lorraine,

There appears to be some confusion around the responses you are seeking to the consultation, so for the avoidance of doubt, I am formally submitting the following response to you on behalf of the governing body of Belford Primary School.

With reference to questions 11 and 12 of the consultation response form, our collective response is as follows:

As a governing body we are unanimously in favour of Belford Primary School becoming an official member of The Alnwick Partnership of Schools.

Our reasons are as follows:

- for the last several years and certainly since we became a primary school, none of our children have progressed to Berwick. All those who have remained within the maintained sector have progressed to The Duchess in Alnwick;
- we are, however, still formally part of The Berwick Partnership and our staff attend meetings as required or appropriate, even though none of our children transition to Berwick;
- because all of our children transition to Alnwick, our staff also attend meetings of that partnership so they experience as smooth a transition as possible;
- this greatly increases the demands on staff time;

- our parents do not currently benefit from free home-to-school transport to their choice of secondary school only because we are officially part of The Berwick Partnership. It does not seem fair for this to continue, especially when there is very little difference in the distances between Belford and Alnwick and Belford and Berwick. We know that this has been a contentious issue for generations of parents and children attending our school and feel it is only right that the proposal for us to become part of The Alnwick Partnership is now approved.

As far as the proposals for change to the arrangements for schooling in and around Berwick are concerned, we feel collectively as a governing body that it is for the schools in Berwick and the surrounding area to express their views on those proposed changes. We are already a primary school and that aligns us with the arrangements in Alnwick.

Individual governors have submitted responses to the consultation - where they express views about the proposals for school organisation changes in Berwick these reflect their personal view.

I hope the above is clear. Please let me know if you need anything further.

Best wishes,

Phil Green
Chair of Governors
Belford Primary School.