

Spittal First School Governing Body Response

The governing body continue to feel that the needs of the children are best met under the current 3 tier system. Unless there is a considerable evidence base for cost saving or educational improvement by converting to a 2-tier system we don't see any benefit. While we understand the need for closure or amalgamation of schools, we don't feel it is our position to comment on individual schools. We continue to believe Spittal school can continue to meet the needs of children in either a two or three tier system.

As for Wooler and Belford school's we feel it is the decision for those individual schools to decide whether they remain in the Berwick partnership or move to the Alnwick partnership of schools.

In terms of the provision for SEND we agree that the needs for SEND learners can be met under the 3-tier system with additional specialist provision within St Mary's, Berwick Middle and Berwick Academy. We feel that The Grove special school should have a new site as it is currently oversubscribed and there is an increasing demand for spaces which should be met within the Berwick area. The possibility for a separate site for SEMH learners should be explored further.

For post 16 and Post-18 provision to secure better outcomes for young people in the local area by working in collaboration with local employers to engage with apprenticeship programmes. This will provide real work experiences and develop skills to enhance local workforce.

Invest in skills to support the local economy by providing a wider range of education pathways for mainstream and SEND audiences. Course alignment to support these pathways into substantial careers.

Providing support to our communities by having a community-based training offer that engages Post 16 disadvantaged communities in the key growth sectors relating to the Berwick local area -Digital Innovation and Growth, Green Growth, and Skills for the Culture, and the Creative and Tourism Sectors.

Post 16 transport strategy to support education and training in the local area to enhance accessibility for Post 16 in subject specialist education to strengthen the labour market in the local community.