

Future of Education in Berwick
St Cuthbert's Catholic first School
Response of Governing Body

We, the governors of St Cuthbert's Catholic First School unanimously and firmly support the two-tier model of education and wish to become a primary school providing high quality education for children from Early Years to the end of Key Stage Two when they would transfer to Secondary School, which is the pattern for most of the rest of the country.

As the education system in England is organized around key stages it follows that logically school organization should be too as this ensures that pupils can complete each entire key stage in one school, with only one point of transition. The two-tier system also ensures that pupils are taught by subject specialists from Year 7 onwards, providing them with a challenging curriculum and expertise in preparation for GCSE and beyond. We believe that this is conducive to the raising of standards, which is what we are all aiming for.

Becoming a Primary School would allow us to continue to cherish and nurture our pupils right up to the age of 11 and to prepare them for secondary education ourselves. Having only one point of transition would lessen the danger of lost learning, especially as there would not be breaks in the middle of Key Stages.

Obviously we are very keen to be able to provide two more years in a Catholic school allowing us to help our children to further develop their spiritual lives and understanding about their Catholic cultural heritage before they leave us for secondary school.

Barbara Simpson

Chair of Governors