

<p>PMD definition <i>Pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) are on a spectrum that indicates that they have profoundly complex learning needs. In addition to profound learning difficulties, pupils are likely, but not axiomatically, to have other significant difficulties such as physical disabilities, sensory impairment and/or severe medical condition(s). Pupils require a high level of adult support, both for their learning needs and also for their personal care. They are likely to need sensory stimulation and will need a curriculum which recognises that all learners will to a greater or lesser degree, have difficulties with object permanence, contingency awareness, declarative communications, making choices, learning by imitation and following instruction. Some pupils communicate by gesture, eye pointing or symbols and a very few by very simple single word language. They will be working academically, consistently,</i></p>	<p>SLD definition <i>Pupils with severe learning difficulties (SLD) are on a spectrum which indicates that they have significant intellectual and cognitive impairments and may also have difficulties in mobility and coordination. Pupils may use objects of reference, sign, symbols and/or language to communicate, though all will to a greater or lesser degree have severe communication difficulties, which will affect both expressive and receptive communication skills. Other difficulties will be experienced to a greater or lesser degree in understanding abstract concepts, maintaining concentration and attention, retrieving both short term and long term memory, utilising sequential memory, exercising working memory, processing information, retrieving general knowledge, thinking, problem solving, and generalising previously learned skills. They will be working academically, consistently, and over time,</i></p>		
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<p>and over time, within P-scale range P1 -P3, perhaps reaching some elements of P4, throughout their whole school careers to the age of 19 and beyond.</p>	<p>within the P scale range P4-P8 for all of their school careers to the age of 19 and beyond, though some may reach into the opening levels of a neuro-typical academic curriculum such the National Curriculum</p>	<p>Desired outcome for staff and pupils</p>	<p>Who will achieve this</p>	<p>Cost if known</p>
<p>The number of pupils leaving between July 2023 and July 2025 is predicted to be 10, it may be more with pupils moving etc or it maybe less if pupils request a year 14. The number of pupils known to the school through local heateachers and NHS staff looking for a place with PMLD or SLD is 27. This means a deficit of 17 places and this number does not include children not yet born or moving to area. (see appendix B for list of potential places)</p>	<p>Solution</p> <p>A school building fit for purpose, planned build for 60/70 (or potentially 100) places to ensure that there is room for additional places if needed in the future, this will ensure that the school is sustainable and able to adapt to the changing needs of SEND in the community.</p>	<p>Appropriate schooling available for all in their own community.</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If non-ambulant pupils - circa 3600msq • If ambulant pupils - circa 3000msq <p>In terms of the costs/m², again this is dependent on the type of equipment etc. that you put in to the school, however for the purposes of this exercise, if you allow £3,800/m² this will be a good starting point. This is based on a bench marked school Ysgol Arbennig Meirion Dwyfor (£12.4m 2019 prices) in North Wales with 100 pupils which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrotherapy pool • Sensory rooms • General therapy rooms • Rebound therapy room • A hall with a stage • A kitchen, dining room and café

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<p>No space to ensure the Post 16 pupils can have a different experience in their final years to ensure that preparation for adulthood is addressed in a different environment.</p>	<p>A school that can provide an alternative provision for post 16 pupils, ensuring that they are able to appropriately complete preparation for adulthood activities.</p>	<p>Our post 16 pupils will be able to access a curriculum that ensures that they fulfil their potential to be as independent as possible. We were judged outstanding despite the obstacles but we know that this provision would be greatly enhanced with the right building.</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms containing essential equipment • A stimulating and sensory external environment • All-weather sports court • A suitable play area (including football) <p>See above costings.</p>
<p>No space to take pupils if they are deregulated and need break out space. All areas of the school are in high demand and are timetabled so these spaces are not available to take a child if needed.</p>	<p>A school that would have space for pupils to go to at times when they need a quiet area to regulate their behaviours.</p>	<p>Pupils will regulated their behaviours in a space that is quiet and appropriate for them at these times.</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team.</p>	<p>See above costings.</p>

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<p>This results in times when pupils behaviours are very challenging to manage for staff and upsetting for the pupil involved.</p>				
<p>No room in the current building, internally and externally to be able to provide designated areas for Early Years, Primary or Secondary curriculums, with specialist classrooms for subjects such as life skills to be taught in. This includes us having shared outside space and toilets.</p>	<p>A school that can provide specialist areas for age and stage, ensuring that they can access an appropriate curriculum. The outside space will be planned to ensure that there is equipment in areas that reflect the needs and stage of the pupil's development.</p>	<p>The pupil's outcomes will be improved and enhanced with the right space and classrooms being available.</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team.</p>	<p>See above costings.</p>
<p>Lack of outdoor space that can be accessed safely, enabling pupils to be able to experience grass, trees and green space. Our pupils need outdoor space to regulate their behaviours. They need this space for their physical development and for social interactions to take place. Our yard is</p>	<p>A school site that enables access to appropriate green space, available on the land owned by Another all age school. The space needs to be developed to ensure that the pupils can develop physically and emotionally.</p>	<p>For outcomes for pupils to be enhanced and improved life chances through the right learning environment being available. Safeguarding staff wellbeing through ensuring they can access what they need for teaching and learning.</p>	<p>The school/Another all age school with support from the L.A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If non-ambulant pupils - circa 3600msq ● If ambulant pupils - circa 3000msq <p>In terms of the costs/m², again this is dependent on the type of equipment etc. that you put in to the school, however for the purposes of this exercise, if you allow £3,800/m² this will be a good starting point. This is based on a bench marked school Ysgol Arbenning Meirion Dwyfor (£12.4m) in North Wales with 100 pupils which included:</p>

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<p>currently shared by all 49 pupils age range from 2 to 19, this is not appropriate as we cannot ensure that every age group has the equipment and resources that they need.</p>		<p>A shared resource for the community and for parents to access with their pupils outside the school day as many play areas are not adapted for our pupils. This will in turn support our parent's wellbeing so that they can support their children. All pupils will be able to access areas that can meet their age and stage of need.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hydrotherapy pool ● Sensory rooms ● General therapy rooms ● Rebound therapy room ● A hall with a stage ● A kitchen, dining room and café ● Classrooms containing essential equipment ● A stimulating and sensory external environment ● All-weather sports court ● A suitable play area (including football)
<p>Lack of outdoor space for sporting activities that can be accessed safely, we have no space for outdoor physical exercise.</p>	<p>A school site that enables access to appropriate sporting facilities to include joint use of another school's sports fields if co-location was to happen.</p>	<p>Enhanced outcomes for pupils, access to resources when they are required not just at booked and timetabled times.</p>	<p>The school/Another all age school with support from the L.A.</p>	<p>There would be an SLA agreement of cost between the two schools.</p>
<p>No safe space to park minibuses for drop off and pick up that does not need the use of the school playground. We have carefully managed</p>	<p>A school site that has parking set aside for bus drop off and pick up times.</p>	<p>Safety of pupils and staff ensured and compliance with HSE guidelines around pedestrians and vehicles in schools.</p>	<p>L.A and The Grove School team.</p>	<p>See above costings.</p>

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<p>this but it is increasingly difficult and in light of accidents that have happened in other schools we are seriously concerned about the safety of staff and pupils.</p> <p>Transport costs for out of area placements, reduce the need for placements at schools outside of the Authority.</p>	<p>A school that can meet the needs, including the therapies of pupils with SLD/PMLD in their local community, this could include residential provision in partnership with Social Care.</p> <p>A school that has designated parking for more than one school minibus.</p>	<p>Reduced costs for the LA over time.</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team</p>	<p>See costings above.</p>
<p>No safe place to park the school minibus that is not on the school playground, meaning that it reduces the size of the playground and is at risk of damage during play times.</p>	<p>A school building that has the legal amount of</p>	<p>We would be able to have more than one minibus meaning that we could access more activities in the community.</p>	<p>We may be able to share bus parking and minibuses so that we could access transport more readily if we co-located with another all age school who have their own fleet of minibuses, this would mean better economies of scale.</p>	<p>Cost per hour for use of minibuses?</p>
<p>Lack of appropriate toilet space for pupils and staff,</p>	<p>A school building that has the legal amount of</p>	<p>Pupils and staff would be able to have the</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team.</p>	<p>See above costings.</p>

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<p>staff currently have one toilet to share in the main school building and if this is busy they need to cross the road to 6a, this is not possible during teaching time.</p>	<p>staff toilets to meet the needs of staff in an appropriate manner. The correct amount of toilet and changing space to meet the needs of all pupils and to include space to be able to teach life skills that include personal hygiene.</p>	<p>correct, appropriate toilet space ensuring everyone felt their needs were being met, instead of compromising for the good of the pupils.</p>	
<p>Lack of appropriate hygiene rooms, this leads to pupils needing to queue for changing, meaning they may have to wait and be unclean for a time, this is very distressing for pupils and staff. No toilet that is suitable for toilet training a child.</p>	<p>A school building that has changing rooms that are appropriate and accessible to all, this basic human right needs to be available when a child or young person needs it. We also need access to toilets that can be used for hoisting pupils who are continent and we currently do not have this space. This is a serious safeguarding concern.</p>	<p>Pupils would be able to have their needs met appropriately and in a more timely fashion, preventing there being times of distress for some pupils.</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team. See above costings.</p>
<p>Changing facilities for hydrotherapy that is</p>	<p>A school building that has a pool that has the</p>	<p>Staff and pupils would feel that their dignity and needs are being</p>	<p>Income from hiring this out to different groups for physiotherapy</p>

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<p>appropriate and safe for both staff and pupils.</p>	<p>correct and appropriate changing facilities for all.</p>	<p>met, instead of changing in a corridor space.</p>	<p>programmes, water babies etc</p>
<p>Head teacher's office is now a shared space as the old office has been converted to a hygiene room, this means the head teacher needs to use another office to make confidential calls, or the office manager has to leave and sit in the lobby. (we are also looking at losing our only flexible space and deputy heads office to enable us to make another small classroom to accommodate some of our PMLD children)</p>	<p>A school with the floor space to provide office space for all staff, this would include visiting peripatetic staff and the school nurse.</p>	<p>Head teacher will be able to complete work and have meetings that will ensure the confidentiality and Outstanding status of the school remains and continues to develop, as well as being able to further support mainstream colleagues and schools.</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team. See above costings.</p>
<p>Lack of appropriate space in classrooms to be able to fit H Hoists to enable pupils to be safely hoisted, this means that staff and pupils wellbeing is at risk through the</p>	<p>A school that is built with hoists in every room to ensure that any child can have their needs met in any classroom.</p>	<p>To enhance the outcomes for pupils, currently we will have to make decisions about where a child is placed in the building</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team. See above costings.</p>

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need to use a mobile hoist in all other classrooms.		rather than the child's needs.		
Lack of floor space in all classrooms meaning that staff and pupils are working in cramped spaces with risk of injury through tripping over equipment and resources.	A school that has appropriate space in every room, so that the rooms are safe for all.	To enhance outcomes for pupils ensuring that pupils can be positioned in a way that enables them to more easily access resources and learning.	L.A and The Grove School team.	See above costings.
No room for therapies to take place in as all rooms have to be multifunctional, staff have to use hygiene rooms to fit splints and carry out assessments	A school that has specific rooms for therapist to use to support pupils and parents with equipment and programmes	To ensure that therapies can take place in appropriate space, enhance the provision for each individual pupil	L.A and The Grove School team.	See above costings.
Lack of appropriate space for PE lessons, currently we have a small hall where dining tables and chairs and all the PMLD equipment that we have no other space to store.	A school that has space for storage.	To ensure that staff do not waste time on moving equipment around school, this time would be used fulfilling curriculum work with pupils. Pupils access to PE will be at a level appropriate to their needs without the need to move	L.A and The Grove School team.	See above costings.

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<p>Lack of any appropriate space to have lunches as there is no space to store enough chairs and tables for the children to sit at. We can not hold whole school events as the hall is no longer big enough so we now have to have one class at a time.</p>	<p>A school that has space for the whole school to meet and eat together.</p>	<p>equipment before safe lessons can take place. Developing the pupils social interactions and tolerance of others.</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School team.</p>	<p>See above costings.</p>
<p>The need to cross a road to access another building for meetings, staff toilets and a staff room.</p>	<p>A school building that meets the basic needs of staff, parents and pupils in one building without the need to be moving across a road.</p>	<p>Staff wellbeing and that of parents will be served by having a single building where meetings and events can take place. Staff will not be expected to cross the road to have access to a toilet when the one in school is busy.</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School staff.</p>	<p>See above costings.</p>
<p>No storage space for equipment that is currently being used, for example spare chairs, currently being stored in</p>	<p>A school building where equipment that pupils need is accessible at any time by staff without the need to go from one</p>	<p>Staff will be able to spend all the school day with the pupils instead of having to move around school to</p>	<p>LA and The Grove School staff.</p>	<p>See above costings.</p>

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sheds meaning that they become mouldy and damaged over time.	room to another to get what is needed. This means that teaching time is lost and that staff are at risk of injury.	collect equipment. The outcomes for pupils will therefore be supported further.	
Lack of appropriate office space for staff and visiting professionals, meaning that they need to find corners to work in that are not appropriate or confidential.	A school building that is purpose built and includes therapy rooms that are appropriate and fit for purpose.	Pupils will be able to access their therapies in a setting that can meet their needs	LA and The Grove School staff. See above costings.
No appropriate medical area for medical examinations and treatment.	A school with an allocated area for medical support and treatment	Staff would be able to support pupils in a medical room.	LA and The Grove School staff. See above costings.
No space for pupils who are unwell or needing a place to rest due to their medical conditions.	A school with an allocated area for medical support and treatment	Staff would be able to support pupils in a medical room.	LA and The Grove School staff. See above costings.

A new shared vision of our collocated schools would be:-

A learning environment that supports all pupils to fulfil their potential in an appropriate way, ensuring access for all within their own community.

This new environment would enable: -

- Numerous serious health and safety concerns to be addressed

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- Pupil's needs and wellbeing properly addressed
- Staff needs and wellbeing properly addressed
- Outcomes to be transformed for all those in the community who need a place
- A school that is sustainable in the long term and can adjust to the needs of the pupils in the community
- A school that can be a hub of excellence for SEND in the north of Northumberland
- A school that will be able to provide appropriate provision for all age groups, including experiences to prepare young people for adulthood
- Space to enable greater opportunity for physical and emotional well being
- A building that would enhance provision rather than hindering it

Solution for SEMH

Definition - Children and young people who may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder. (note not cognitive disabilities)

Please see the bid that has been put forward by St Mary's First School and Berwick Academy.

What the government and council say about SEND

Northumberland County Council has stated that :-

They are committed to 'Developing high quality inclusive provision with every child/young person having access to a good school that is as close to home as possible'

The Government has made the following commitments: -

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The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to adopt a strategic role with a duty to promote choice, diversity and fair access to school provision. This is only possible when there are sufficient numbers of school places situated within the right location.

The Government is committed to ensuring that every parent can have access to an excellent school for their children and that it should be easier for successful and popular schools to grow to meet parental demand. The wishes of parents must be taken into account when managing school estates and places should be offered whenever possible to where parents want them.


The Department for Education provides basic need funding to improve the school estate and expand schools where the council feels it is appropriate to do so. In using these funds, Care, Wellbeing and Learning identified that special needs provision was a priority.

Please see the attached appendices that list how the current Grove School buildings could benefit the wider education community, as well as other relevant information

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Appendix C, Letters of support for a new school

Our Grandson for whom we are the sole carers is in his third year at the Grove School. He absolutely loves it and would prefer to attend 364days a year (says he doesn't do holidays). He has developed tremendously with their help and support and would not be were he is without them. We are extremely lucky and appreciative to have the Grove School in Berwick. Pupils with special needs cope better with having enough space around them internally and most especially externally as they love being able to play and learn in the outside space. With this in mind we support the school whole heartedly in their application for a larger premises and wish them every success in this venture



Dear Northumberland county council,

I am writing to support The Grove school, Berwick upon Tweed in their fight for a bigger school. I am the mum of a child who attends The grove school. My son has been at the school for 8 years and the staff always go above and beyond for him and our family. The size of the school is very small, especially for children who have a variety of disabilities and special needs. When the children have a special assembly or Christmas play we are limited to only 2 family members per child as the hall is too small to hold any more than this, which is very upsetting for our other extended family who would love to see him in his school setting. The Grove school means so much to us and the amazing care and support they give my son and family in and out of school, I would love to share these memories with our family.

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Parking is a major issue, there is only 1 disability bay at the Grove school. I struggle to get a safe parking space to get my son in and out of school. It is located on a very hectic street as it is opposite the local convenience store which makes parking difficult.

Coronavirus has also shown how little space the staff and children have as they find it difficult to keep class bubbles separate outside in the yard. My son would love access to the soft play and sensory room more frequently but due to the school only having one, It's only fair they take turns, him having access when he needs it would be great for him and his disabilities.

My son loves being outdoors and the school has no access to any grass areas, he plays on a yard which is shared with other classes. The schools minibus is also parked on the same yard as the school has no other space to park. Every school in Berwick has a grass field for their children to play on, and our children should be entitled to the same "luxury" that mainstream children are offered.

For example when the Grove school has their annual sports day, they have to use the local First school because they don't have the space or the grass area for all the children and their families.

The children get the best care from the staff, so i think it's only fair the children have the same opportunities as every other child in this town and the space they need to thrive. A bigger school will be beneficial to all the children,staff and families so we can all be involved in our children's education.



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[REDACTED]

17th December 2020

Dear Penny Derries, Re: For the Attention of Northumberland County Council Support for the proposal of a new school site

I am writing this to show my full support for the head teacher and all teaching support staff in these discussions toward a new school site for The Grove School.

All the staff work very hard to create a safe and fulfilling educational environment for our children at the current Grove School site in Grove Gardens, Berwick Upon Tweed. But it is very evident that the site has now outgrown its needs. Especially in light of the Covid situation.

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As a parent I am so proud that Northumberland County Council has this provision for my child and other children with additional needs. All the teaching staff and all support staff go above and beyond. It is however limiting. For the following reasons:

- 1) No Green Space! To quote Chris Packham, who himself is autistic. "People with invisible disabilities have anxiety, which is calmed by green space.' We have all gone through times when we needed to go out for a walk in stressful moments to calm ourselves down. Imagine if these moments are beyond your control, that happen for random reasons. With a larger school green space, garden, with a lawn, teachers and staff could take children outside to give them a calm time. Sensory garden. Not to forget that since coronavirus we all understand the importance of fresh air. It's very easy for those that don't truly understand complex needs to say, well just take the children out for the day. Those with sensory overload, physical disabilities to name few, this is a big deal. It takes planning, can cause anxiety, can cause upset and trauma. An onsite green space would be ideal.
- 2) Numbers. I am not totally aware of the maximum numbers of pupils allowed at the school, but I understand it to be in the later 40s. I know of at least 4 families who would wish for their child to be in a nurturing safe environment like the Grove School, but there is simply not the space. I totally appreciate that children of additional needs have a larger school budget per head than mainstream children, this should not be a reason to prevent a child and the family having access to this choice. Children are our future. Investment today, pays tenfold tomorrow. Northumberland could be one of the leading Counties for supporting additional needs families. Invest in our children. 3) Age Range/ Disabilities The Grove School is a school with a wide age range 2-19

years, also with a wide spectrum of needs. I am always amazed at how the teachers struggle through with these complex differences, whilst still maintaining a cohesive school environment. It really can't be easy to manage, and Penny and staff are brilliant. But why should they all have to cope with a school building that is in the wrong place, wrong size, outgrown its potential, when they have so much to give and grow. Imagine the potential that could be

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offered to these children and other families if the opportunity was given. Children of nursery age have very different needs to those of school leavers age. Again I say why not Northumberland trail blaze, be the flag ship County that others want to follow.

I am not sure what the proposals are, but I am sure that Northumberland County Council can give this serious consideration. If they can invest greatly in the local populations wellbeing with a new sports/wellbeing centre. Then please take seriously this proposal and invest in our children. With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our daughter is in her second year at the Grove school. The move to the Grove has been the best move for her. She is enjoying her school days so much and making some lovely friendships. It has meant a lot to us as a family to see her thriving and learning at her own pace rather than feeling left behind by peers. She has been thriving in the school's environment where she accesses occupational therapy along with the curriculum modified to suit her learning needs. She particularly loves using the soft play which she enjoyed on a daily basis before covid struck and regulations closed the soft play. She really enjoys the outdoor areas but we know that she misses having a playing field and a forest school area like her previous mainstream first school did. That would be our biggest observations of what would enhance the school's offering.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

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To whom it may concern,

As a parent of a child who attends The Grove School I am writing in support of a new fit for purpose school being built. My daughter first attended The Grove aged 3 years old as part of a nursery/school partnership. It was very clear early on in her life that she would require a specialist school fit for supporting her needs. She was diagnosed with Congenital CMV just after birth. As a consequence she was formally diagnosed with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy aged 2 years. This was a traumatising and difficult time in our lives but her nursery school, Seashells in Eyemouth were great in supporting her needs as much as possible while organising a dual placement for her at The Grove. Her support teacher from nursery attended with her. Very shortly after, before [REDACTED] was due to leave her nursery placement, I received a phone call from SBC to inform me that her nursery placement had been revoked with immediate effect (that day) due to moving and handling issues. No replacement nursery/school was offered.

During this time, I had been conversing with The Grove school and SBC to try and secure a place for [REDACTED] however we were told SBC would not fund a cross border placement and [REDACTED] was expected to travel across the Scottish Borders to a unit which could not fully support her needs. It was a very simple decision for me to move from my hometown of Eyemouth, where I worked and where all of my support was to live in Berwick in order to secure a place for [REDACTED]. Even back in 2011 there was questions over whether the school had space for her. I fought our corner and it was the best fight I have ever won!

Fast forward 10 years and [REDACTED] has accomplished more than anyone could ever have dreamt for her, except for her teachers that is as they have always known she could reach her full learning potential.

After years of hard work, commitment and care, [REDACTED] now successfully communicates using an Etrans Board and more recently an Eyegaze computer system, something I was told a few years ago by a speech and language therapist would never be possible. Grit and determination from her loving teachers have made this manageable for [REDACTED]. The Grove school have always ensured [REDACTED] enjoys a safe but challenging school life with her peers who she both learns from and also teaches her own skills to. She is lucky to enjoy amazing experiences like regular hydrotherapy. This is massively important for her body as it helps to reduce her tone, encourages movement she cant do outwith water and strengthen her confidence. It also enhances her enjoyment of life and create wellbeing and relaxation of her mind. Her teachers are a huge support to her in

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this activity.

She has been able to enjoy horse therapy, dog therapy, sailing on a boat, being trekked along a beach and in water by a pony, residential trips, day trips, shopping trips to allow her to experience her local environment and residents alongside her usual curricular learning. She has built strong friendships and relationships within school and has absolutely been supported 100%. As a family, we have all been included in school life, enjoying after school activities like bingo, quizzes, assemblies and parties. This is so important to me as life with a disabled child can be extremely isolating. I feel like there has always been a strong team to call upon when needed for advice, support or a listening ear.

I strongly feel that a new school will optimise the amount of users able to attend such a life changing facility. Having the most up to date equipment with the space for safe use is paramount for any child but for a child with disabilities and special needs, it is a lifeline to leading a "normal" life with as much enjoyment as possible. It is also such a relief to have many of medical appointments take place within school as it gives me the support of having another trained person present. At home, I am just a parent. There are a lot of therapies and activities I am unable to do with that school can. It is paramount that the school be given all support to be able to successfully enhance as many childrens lives as possible and continue their incredible work in the best surrounding available to them. While the current setting has been fantastic, it is time to upgrade their footprint and really give our children the best chance to progress in life.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

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[REDACTED]

To Northumberland County Council

I am writing a letter of support for the Grove School in Berwick. My child, [REDACTED] is lucky to have been part of this incredibly special school for over two years. We moved from Scotland because of its exceptional reputation and it has been a life changer not only for [REDACTED] as it meets his needs and he is celebrated for the amazing young person he is. For myself I have been able to relax as I know he is safe at school, which is a new phenomenon for our family. Education has never been a happy place for Patrick which resulted in me home schooling him as he was so distraught by school life.

For the past two years he asks to go to school and has always jumped of bed to attend [REDACTED] started the Grove as a smaller child and even still I wondered how long it would be till the space was just too small for him to be managed there. I don't worry about his safety but do for smaller children when he is transitioning from space to space, the corridors are small and there is a distinct lack of break out space for over whelmed pupils.

The incredible warmth and kindness demonstrated by the staff at the Grove is second to none, this school needs the recognition for how a special school should be run. However it has had its time and cannot further meet the needs of its pupils in such a small space.

The diversity in abilities in the school needs to be developed and the space does not fully allow for this.

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The Grove school has the potential to put Northumberland on the map for an exceptional example of a special school. However it is being let down until a new purpose built building is developed and built. Our children are a marginalised part of society and deserve the best that the council has to offer in order to combat this by demonstrating they are important by not having second class accommodation. Our children's health and wellbeing is compromised by being educated in a building that is too small and this has been further compounded by COVID. There is inadequate amount of toilets and hygiene areas and the ones that are there are far too small as our children need to be accompanied.

If anybody can visit the Grove school and not be touched by the remarkable children and the staff that have chosen to work there and not leave that building and imagine how much more could be achieved their hearts must be made of stone.

I cannot express in words how much the Grove means to myself [REDACTED]. I hope it will be without consideration to any factors apart from need, that a decision will be made to build a building that is fit for the needs and development for years to come for our incredible children.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6th January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing today to offer our support in the bid for a new purpose-built Special school for Berwick and the surrounding area. In our opinion the Grove and the fantastic staff are second to none and exemplars in their profession providing a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment for some of the most vulnerable children in our communities, but for the school to move forward and continue its exemplary standards, ethos and aspirations we wholeheartedly feel that a more spacious and targeted build is necessary.

The Grove School has been a huge part of our family's life for the past 6 years. Our son spent his secondary education at The Grove and our only regret is that we did not find the school earlier. The staff are exceptional and are able to get the most from their surroundings but have to work with several constraints.

The location of the building is far from ideal and being in the middle of a busy housing estate with a through road running past the front of the school makes it very problematic for the safe dropping off/picking up of children. Many students arrive on school transport meaning there are several large vehicles arriving simultaneously while parents are also competing for parking spaces. The outdoor playground is a favourite of the students and although has been thought out very well is very dated and consists of a lot of concrete, one would imagine the school goes through a lot of plasters and has to complete many incident reports due to bumps and grazes.

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Internally it is obvious that the school is bursting at the seams. There is inadequate storage space for the vital equipment needed in a special school. The corridors are very narrow and make it difficult to negotiate for wheelchair users or for staff needing to move the students between areas. The corridors are also like rabbit warrens making it hard to keep sight of students. While the school offers facilities such as hydrotherapy, soft play and sensory rooms they are in keeping with the rest of the building and are very cramped. The hydrotherapy pool is especially difficult to access for wheelchair users and students with mobility or sensory issues due to its location and lack of space. While these facilities provide fun, stimulation and therapy for most students, some children, like our son have sensory issues and can find the enclosed nature of the facility difficult, this could be improved with more space and light making for a more open and relaxed atmosphere and inclusive for all needs.

The school hall is also cramped and is utilised for several functions, from a dinner hall to concert/assembly venue, resulting in tables and chairs needing to be moved into place daily while also providing space for medical equipment and mobility aids and then cleared again to be used as a physical education space. The classrooms spaces are well thought out but again cramped and do not allow space for the students to get the most from their environment.

In summary, the staff have done an utterly remarkable job of making the best of their surroundings but are undoubtedly limited in what can be achieved by the current schools dated architectural design, which was not meant for the very special and specific purpose that is currently being used for. It would be fantastic if a school was to be designed round the needs of the staff and students rather than the school fabric dictating what can be provided. A bespoke design would allow the maximisation of outcomes and realisation of goals and aspirations of the staff and students that have not been possible owing to the constraints of the current building. With a new bespoke building and the fantastic staff, the possibilities for the students would be limitless.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted Signature]

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Our son, [REDACTED] has been attending The Grove School for over three years now. We are grateful everyday that he is lucky enough to attend such a fabulous school with incredible staff. The Grove School really has changed his quality of life for the better. The staff strive to meet his needs every day that he is there and his social skills and understanding continue to grow and improve fantastically well. The school, leadership, staff and pupils are wonderful. [REDACTED] attendance at the Grove has had a hugely positive effect on our family as a whole. He is calmer, happier and far more able to express himself in appropriate ways. He loves to tell his grandparents what he has been up to and his relationship with his siblings is far less strained with his learnt behaviours.

However, all of these things could continue to improve if the school was in a more suitably sized building. The building no longer works for the amount of children who attend. Corridors and doorways should be wider, outside space needs to be much bigger and it would be great to be able to fit the sixth form department into the same building to avoid trips back and forward across an often busy residential street.

It is clear that given the correct building would allow the pupils and staff to continue their wonderful work without the restrictions that they currently face. More outside space would be very beneficial to the pupils. It could give opportunities for activities such as forest school/outdoor learning, a space for growing fruit and vegetables or for an orchard would offer so many learning experiences and easier access for wheelchairs or less able students and visitors, to both inside and outside areas, would provide equal opportunities for all. It would also be a great improvement to see better space available for the dropping off and picking up of children away from the main road and passing traffic and pedestrians.

The fantastic staff at The Grove need a building that mirrors their expertise, they have an incredible amount to give and the buildings restrictions to that need to be addressed with immediate affect. The children deserve a building that will allow and encourage them to grow and succeed. North Northumberland has only 2 specialist schools, there are so many children unable to access the education that they should be getting due to the size of these schools and the geography of

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the county. It is essential that the Grove is given a bigger building, these issues must be addressed, North Northumberland has been overlooked on too many occasions and this is a perfect opportunity to start working towards that being put right.

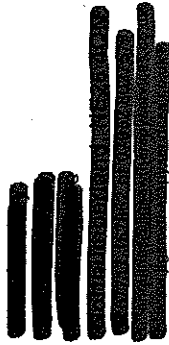


Hello my son goes to the grove school! It's a lovely school but it is way too small and there's a waiting list to get in which meant he had to wait to get in! There are so many children I know that need a place there but can't because of the space! As amazing as the school is now it would be outstanding if they were able to be given the opportunity to expand! My son has come on so much since joining the school in September and it was brilliant if more children could get this opportunity!

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Jigsaw Therapy Services Ltd.

Multi-disciplinary Training, Consultation and Therapy Services



Supporting Letter regarding school accommodation The Grove School, Berwick Upon Tweed.

December 2020

I have been providing Occupational Therapy input to The Grove School in Berwick Upon Tweed since 2010, working across the whole school providing advice, assessment and interventions to the pupils who attend.

In the time I have worked in school there have been changes in terms of the numbers of children and complexity of their learning needs. Children being admitted to school now are generally more complex in terms of their learning needs as well as all of the other sensory, physical and social needs.

School have employed all of their resources to alter the current environment to meet these changing needs including:

- Installing suspended equipment in the lights room so children have access to sensory interventions.
- Converting the courtyard into an outdoor learning space for movement and play.
- Investing in play equipment for the yard to include opportunities for different movement experiences in a safe environment.
- Using staff areas for additional classrooms.
- Using library area as learning space.

Despite all of the alterations made by staff there is an ongoing shortage of space for educational and functional interventions.

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- Many of the children in school require quiet small spaces to engage in key learning activities as well as whole class sessions.
- Access to a range of sensory rich environments to manage regulation and provide sensory interventions
- Functional skills spaces such as a children's kitchen to help prepare pupils for more independent life
- Space for calm recovery when the children become dysregulated

I would fully support school in application for a building that is designed to meet the needs of the children who are placed there and would be happy to be involved in design of this to include sensory and occupational needs.



Occupational Therapist

Directors: Liz Ann Davidson Dip COT, SROT, OTR Alyson Eggatt MAEd, BMedSci (Hons), MRCSLT
Registered in England & Wales Registration No. 7759121
Registered Office: Armstrong Watson, Milburn House, Hexham Business Park, Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3RU

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Holy Trinity C of E Aided First School

Bell Tower Place

Berwick-upon-Tweed

TD15 1NB

Tel: 01289 306142

Email: admin@holytrinity.northumberland.sch.uk

www.holytrinity.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr N Shaw

'inquisitive thinkers, challenge seekers, kind hearts'

Dear Russell, Audrey, Sue, David,

I am writing to make you aware of my school's support for the request from The Grove School for a new build.

Over the years we have had support from the school and they have always been there to give our staff advice; offer training; visit children; provide practical advice on how to best support children and allow our staff to observe the outstanding practice that The Grove offers its children every day. The support of The Grove Schools ensures that as many pupils as possible remain in their communities for

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their education either in my own school or transitioned to The Grove. I am very aware of the issues that the school now has with space and am very worried for the partnership that pupils will be unable to continue their education within their own community.

Currently we have one child who has already been signposted towards needing a place at The Grove within the next two academic years. Within my Early Year's setting I also have a further three children who we feel may very well be in need of the support that The Grove can offer. This number does not include any pupils that have currently not started at school or who may move into the area. I and my governing body are very worried about what will happen if the school does not receive a new build and where these pupils will go?

I would like wholeheartedly to support The Grove School governors, staff, parents and pupils in their request for a new school.

Yours sincerely,

N Shaw

Headteacher

Holy Trinity First School, Berwick

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Head Teacher - Mrs Sarah Smith

Scremerston

Berwick upon Tweed

TD15 2RB

Tel: 01289 307536

E-mail: Admin@scremerston.northumberland.sch.uk

www.scremerstonschool.org.uk

Dear Russell, Audrey, Sue, David,

I am writing to make you aware of my school's support for the request from The Grove School for a new build. Over the years we have had support from the school through staff visits to our school to advise on strategies to help our SEND pupils, our staff visiting the Grove School to observe lessons and behaviour management and some of our SEND pupils regularly visiting the Grove School to access specialist sensory resources and therapies. The support of The Grove Schools ensures that as many pupils as possible remain in their communities for their education either in my own school or transitioned to The Grove. I am very aware of the issues that the school now has with space and am very worried for the partnership that pupils will be unable to continue their education within their own community. There is a major issue with special school places in the north of the county and with places at The Grove School being under so much pressure often children with significant SEND are having to travel long distances to access the provision they need, this surely would be unacceptable for any child and is much more so for children with additional needs.

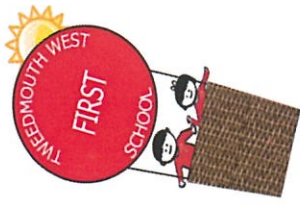
The Grove School has over the past three years has taken 1 pupil from my school, there are currently 3 pupils in my school who will need a place at The Grove within the next two academic years, with at least 2 more, younger children, currently awaiting assessment for

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EHCps. This number does not include any pupils that have currently not started at school or who may move into the area. I and my governing body are very worried about what will happen if the school does not receive a new build and where these pupils will go? I would like to support The Grove School governors, staff, parents and pupils in their request for a new school and feel that this should be considered a priority for education in the county.

Yours Sincerely

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Tweedmouth West First School

Osborne Road

Berwick upon Tweed

Tel: 01289 306151

Email: Admin@tweedmouthwest.northumberland.sch.uk

Website: www.tweedmouthwest.northumberland.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Anne Robertson

12.11.20

Dear Russell, Audrey, Sue and David,

I am writing to make you aware of my school's support for the request from The Grove School for a new build.

Over the years we have had support from the Grove in numerous ways. They have been generous with their expertise, offering us staff training, individual advice for specific children and families, and strategies for coping with challenging behaviour.

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They have welcomed our children in to use specialist equipment, and helped our staff back in Tweedmouth West to do the very best for our children with additional needs.

The quality of education we provide owes a debt of gratitude to the support we have had from the Grove.

The support of The Grove School ensures that as many pupils as possible remain in their communities for their education, either in my own school or transitioned to The Grove. I am very aware of the issues that the school is now facing with space and am very worried for the partnership that pupils will be unable to continue their education within their own community.

The Grove School has over the past three years has taken 2 pupils from my school, and there are currently 2 Pupils in my school who will need a place at The Grove within the next two academic years. This number does not include any pupils who are currently in Reception, that have not yet started at school or who may move into the area. I and my governing body are very worried about what will happen if the school does not receive a new build, and then where will these pupils go?

I would like to support The Grove School governors, staff, parents and pupils in their request for a new school.

Yours Sincerely,

Anne Robertson

(Headteacher)

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**NORHAM
ST. CEOLWULF'S
C OF E SCHOOL**



West Street

Norham

Berwick-upon-Tweed

TD15 2JZ

Tel: 01289 382370

admin@norham.northumberland.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs S Dimond

Norham St.Ceolwulf's C of E Controlled First School

Tuesday 17th November 2020

Dear Russell, Audrey, Sue and David,

I am writing to make you aware of my school's support for the request from The Grove School for a new build.

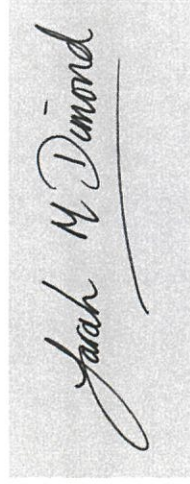
Over the years we, as a partnership and as a school, have had a great deal of support from The Grove. The work that The Grove School does ensures that as many pupils as possible remain in their community for their education, either in mainstream school or by transitioning to The Grove when needed. I am very aware of the issues that the school now has with regards to space and appropriate facilities to support children and am concerned for the pupils and families within our partnership who will require specialist education in the coming years and may be forced to attend schools not only outside of the area but many miles away requiring long journeys each day which I think we can agree would not be in the best interests of pupils and their families educationally or emotionally.

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We currently have 1 pupil who may require a place at The Grove in the next two academic years. This number does not include any pupils that have currently not started at school or who may move into the area. I and my governing body are very worried about what will happen if the school does not receive a new build and where these pupils will go?

I would like to support The Grove School governors, staff, parents and pupils in their request for a new school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Sarah M Dimond" in a cursive script.

Sarah Dimond

Sarah C. Smith

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GCM RECORDS LLP Berwick Workspace Boarding School Yard 90 Marygate Berwick upon Tweed Northumberland TD15 1BN email:enquiries@GCMrecords.co.uk Web-site: www.GCMrecords.co.uk Partnership reference number: OC419920 GCM RECORDS LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England. Trading name GCM Records Date: 6 th January 2021 Your ref: Our ref: Re: The Grove School, Berwick-upon-Tweed I write in full support of the proposal for a new school to replace the current provision at The Grove. The reason is quite simple, obvious, and necessary. The Grove currently provides essential services to children with specialist educational needs across a wide geographical area. The current school has a consistently excellent, skilled staff group, with equally excellent leadership. The current school building is, however, not fit for purpose. Where there have been cases where it has not been possible for children to receive their education at the Grove School, either by having to leave the school or not being able to be accepted in the first place, this has largely been a direct result of the limitations of the physical environment. This results in escalating costs of placements for these children - out with budgetary control. Finally, the financial costs of attempting to maintain and upgrade the existing building will inevitably be greater than providing a building that is fit for purpose. Yours sincerely, Dr George Murray Chartered Clinical Psychologist and School Governor

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