

Tweedmouth Prior Park First School – Staff Response
(submitted via Citizen Space)

Having read the consultation document thoroughly, I believe that the revised 3-tier structure (Model A) represents the best option for securing sustainable and viable education across the Berwick Partnership of schools and for achieving the objectives of the 'Vision for Berwick' (refer to page 5 of Consultation Document). This model includes the following proposals:

- Closure of Scremerston First School
- Closure of Norham St Ceolwulf's CE First School
- Amalgamation of Tweedmouth West and Tweedmouth Prior Park First Schools
- Closure of Glendale Middle School - Please select option

No.

Please give the reasons for your answer below or state 'None'.

The 3 tier system is not aligned with the National Curriculum - the National Curriculum is set up for the 2 tier system, allowing greater accountability for educational outcomes at all stages. Key Stages should be taught in one school - not split between schools. Teachers are trained to teach primary or secondary, again aligned with the 2 tier system. Pupils should not be expected to make GCSE choices after just one term in High School. The birth rate in Berwick is falling and this will ultimately make the Middle schools, in any form, unviable

If you answered 'Yes' to Q.7, but you believe there are changes to some aspects of the Model, such as the proposals for certain schools or changes that would improve it, please outline them below - Please outline changes here or state 'None'.

None.

As part of the proposal for a revised 3-tier structure, I support the extension of the age range of Wooler First School to become a primary and for the Wooler and Belford Primaries to join the Alnwick Partnership, with pupils feeding to Alnwick The Duchess High School.

Yes.

Please give the reasons for your answer or state 'None'.

Key stage 2 should not be split between 2 education settings. Pupils should not be expected to make GCSE choices after one term in High school.

As part of the proposal for a revised 3-tier structure, I support the proposed changes to school catchment areas arising from the closure of Scremerston and Norham St Ceolwulf's First Schools, the amalgamation of Tweedmouth West and Tweedmouth Prior Park First Schools, and the move of Belford Primary to the Alnwick Partnership.

No.

Please give the reasons for your answer or state 'None'.

We believe Tweedmouth Prior Park First School should become a two tier primary school to ensure the best education is continued to be provided to the children in the Prior Park catchment area. The decision for the amalgamation was based on Prior Park's historic data (Ofsted, 2019) which is no longer an accurate or true reflection of our school. Anyone making the decision is welcome to visit our school to see the progress we have made since 2019.

Having read the consultation document thoroughly, I believe that the reorganisation of the Berwick Partnership to a 2-tier(primary/secondary) structure represents the best option for securing sustainable and viable education across the Berwick Partnership of schools and for achieving the objectives of the 'Vision for Berwick' (refer to page 5 of Consultation Document). This model includes the following proposals:

- Closure of Scremerston First School
- Closure of Glendale Middle School
- Closure of Berwick Middle School
- Closure of Tweedmouth Middle School

Yes.

Please give the reasons for your answer or state 'None'.

The 2 tier structure matches the National Curriculum and is in line with the majority of schools nationally. The falling birth rate is impacting on first schools at present but will eventually impact upon middle and high schools making the 3 tier model no longer sustainable if we want the best outcomes for our children in the Berwick Partnership. Allowing full Key Stages to remain in one school will ensure continuity and greater accountability. By reducing the number of transitions we believe that there will be less disruption to children's education and therefore they will achieve better outcomes and reduce anxiety. By becoming a full primary school we would be able to build upon the immense progress made over the previous six years they have spent in first school. Our teachers are trained to teach the full primary age range - they are primary specialist teachers. Pupils are currently disadvantaged by only having one term at Berwick Academy before they make major decisions about GCSEs.

If you answered 'Yes' to Q.14, but you believe there are changes to some aspects of the Model, such as the proposals for certain schools or changes that would improve it, please outline them below: - Please outline changes here or state 'None'.

Our Governing Body is exploring federation with 2 other schools.

As part of the proposal for a 2-tier (primary/secondary structure), I support the inclusion of Belford Primary in the Alnwick Partnership, with pupils feeding to Alnwick The Duchess High School.

Yes.

Please give the reasons for your answer or state 'None'.

None.

As part of the proposal for a reorganisation to a 2-tier (primary/secondary) structure, I support the proposed changes to school catchment areas arising from the closure of Scremerston First School and the move of Belford Primary to the Alnwick Partnership.

Yes.

Please give the reasons for your answer or state 'None'.

Tweedmouth Prior Park has the capacity to welcome all pupils from Scremerston First School.

If you have any alternative suggestions to either model for a proposed revised 3-tier structure or reorganisation to a 2-tier (primary/secondary) model, or you have an idea that would combine elements of both models, then please set out your views below: - Please provide your alternative option(s) here or state 'None'.

We support the 2 tier model.

Having read the consultation document thoroughly, I support the proposed model for additional Special Educational Needs provision within the revised 3-tier structure of schools in the Berwick Partnership through the addition of specialist provision within St Mary's CE First, Berwick Middle School and Berwick Academy, with The Grove Special School continuing with its current provision at its current site. This model includes a proposal for all schools in the partnership to have additional SEND support through a peripatetic service to be explored.

No.

Please give the reasons for your answer or state 'None'.

In the current 3 tier structure there isn't the capacity to support and educate our high number of SEND children in the Berwick Partnership.

Having read the consultation document thoroughly, I support the proposed model for additional Special Educational Needs provision within the 2-tier (primary/secondary) structure of schools in the Berwick Partnership through the extension of The Grove's specialist provision to include SEMH and its relocation to the current Tweedmouth Middle School site, and for a proposal for all schools in the partnership to have additional SEND support through a peripatetic service to be explored.

Yes.

Please give the reasons for your answer or state 'None'.

Every child with SEND has the right to education as close to home as possible. The current Grove site is no longer big enough for the number of children who need to access it within the partnership. There are increasing numbers with SEMH within the partnership whose needs need to be met. As a partnership we need to address the growing numbers and provision for children with SEND. However, we believe the current Tweedmouth Middle building is not fit for purpose as a SEND specialist provision and would need significant adaptations or a rebuild to make it suitable.

As part of this consultation, we would like to take this opportunity to ask you if you have any thoughts or ideas on how to improve the Post-16 and Post-18 provision in the Berwick area? Please provide any ideas you have or state 'None'.

Berwick children deserve more options at this stage in their education that can be accessed locally. There is not enough options currently to suit all learners and children often have to travel huge distances in order to access the courses they want, often at great personal expense. Could there be partnerships with universities and employers?

The Council believes that currently there is sufficient quantity of Early Years provision in the Berwick area. If you have any comments on the quantity or quality of Early Years provision in schools or other providers, please provide them here or state 'None'.

We believe all early years provision from age 3+ should be teacher led as this does help to improve educational outcomes. With the current falling birth rate in Berwick there are too many early years providers in the town. School nurseries need to be allowed more flexibility to support working parents and therefore putting them on a level playing field with private and voluntary providers.

Finally, do you have any further comments you would like to express in relation to this Phase 2 Consultation?

We hope that this is truly a genuine consultation and not a referendum. The majority of our parents, despite our best efforts, have not wanted to complete the consultation form but verbally tell us that they are very pleased with the education their children receive in our school.