

## Save our Middle School (SOMs) Campaign

*We had over 500 members of the public attend our SOMS event at the local Town Hall.*

*We have had 813 signatures on our online petition to save the Middle schools and 3-tier.*

*We have exactly 2000 members of our SOMs Facebook to page and we have included a selection of the responses below:*

"My years at Berwick Middle School are without doubt the years that shaped me into the person I am today. We were given sporting opportunities, after schools clubs, trips, artistic encouragement with all the support of the teaching and other school staff you could ever need.

I went on to become a Professional Sports Person and successful business owner." [REDACTED]

"Middle school made me grow in confidence and a lot of the disciplines and morals they stood for I still regard today. Personally, I think that it would be a great sadness to lose this school to a two tier system." [REDACTED]

"My son moved up to BMS when Covid had not long started it was challenging for him, the teachers had a big challenge and they took it on in their stride!

He is happy and reaching his targets, they have many clubs at lunches and after school for the children to enjoy. My son loves his school and not many 11 year olds can say that." [REDACTED]

"As someone who moved away from Berwick to Gateshead after leaving Berwick middle school, I have experience of both the two tier and three tier systems. I personally feel, as I'm sure many others do, that a three tier system is more supportive as children progress through the education system. I loved every minute of my time at Berwick Middle and it was without doubt the best school I ever attended. I will be devastated to see it close. I can only hope that the petition and voice of so many people can prevent its closure." [REDACTED]

All the teachers past and present did everything they could for all the pupils. They slowly took me out of my comfort zone and from that I found my love for Sports, Maths and Music. I ended up playing on most of the school teams and gaining some phenomenal experiences. For the school and the teachers I am eternally grateful, I wouldn't have the confidence I have to this day if it wasn't for them." [REDACTED]

"I honestly don't think I'd managed the transition to high school very easily at the end of year 6. Which is what I would have had to face if I stayed in the primary school I was in. Berwick middle let me recover and remember who I was in a very vulnerable and impressionable time in my life." [REDACTED]

"At the beginning of the first year I was in the bottom of my class, struggling to concentrate, fit in, and overcome what I now know was anxiety. I'd hide myself away from P.E classes and rarely spoke up in class for fear of ridicule if I got something wrong. But the teachers took time to get to know their pupils, middle school became a comfort blanket for me and by the time I reached the middle of my second year I was near the top of my classes, I had joined sports groups and found things I was actually good at. My anxiety dwindled in the familiar surroundings and dare I say I actually enjoyed these school years." [REDACTED]

"Middle school allowed me to grow in confidence and prepared me for the transition to high school. We were able to learn in-depth in our areas of interest, encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities and had time to find ourselves in what can be a challenging time as a pre-teen." [REDACTED]

"As a parent, NCC please pause and think about this decision, spend time talking and communicating! Listen to pupils, listen to staff and listen to parents. We should take great pride in our 3 tier system, we should protect facilities like BMS and the Grove school and use them as standards for other educational establishments." [REDACTED]

# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Berwick Middle School



Tweedmouth Community  
Middle School

Should the Middle Schools should stay open?

Should the Middle Schools close?

Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

SCHOOLS SHOULD STAY AS THEY ARE  
CHILDREN NEED TIME TO ADJUST AND  
DEVELOPE THE YOUNG MINDS WITH THEIR  
ON AGE GROUP. BEFORE MIXING WITH  
OLDER CHILDREN COULD BE TOO MUCH  
AT ONCE FOR THEM. LET THEM ENJOY  
THEIR YOUNG LIFE.

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My daughter attends a local first school, I myself went through the 3 tier system and I feel it is the best way for children to progress.

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*Rowena Berrow, 29 Castle Drive, TD15 1NS.*

- seems unbelievable to close it - focus on the rich heritage.*
- including the hinterland.*

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*If the middle schools are closed, where would the new primary schools in Berwick itself (i.e. north of the Tweed) be located? Would the current site of Holy Trinity First School be closed? If so, what would happen to it? This is of particular concern to me as I live opposite it?*

*Michael Smyth*

*5/11/22*

# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

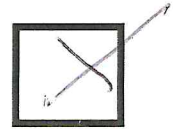


Berwick Middle School



Tweedmouth Community  
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The Middle schools as evident in the effort that they have shown today in demonstrating the commitment to their community shows how much the staff, teachers and Parents value the contribution that it makes to their children's education emotional wellbeing and sense of community all key life skills and values that need to be protected!

*John G. Hill*

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*An important progressive stepping stone to a more rounded education.*



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Should the Middle Schools close?

Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership. I think we should keep to School Middle School open because it is not far for everyone ~~as~~ ~~at~~ ~~elas~~.

# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Berwick Middle School

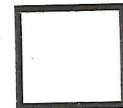


Tweedmouth Community  
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*Great school!*

*J. Canavan.*

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Berwick needs 3 Tier because quite frankly I have zero faith in the Academy. 2 children through Tams with a 3rd to go through.

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The Berwick and Tweedmouth Middle Schools are functioning to a high standard; have a wonderful community & personal atmosphere. It would be a terrible travesty to close schools which have such a good reputation. If you have funds available, please support the Academy in its bid for improvement.  
J Atoward, 29 Windsor Cres.

# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Berwick Middle School



Tweedmouth Community  
Middle School

Should the Middle Schools should stay open?

Yes

Should the Middle Schools close?

No

Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

Improve Grove facility - St Marys Model  
Improve Academy doesn't make sense  
Leave the First + Middles that  
perform well. Perhaps room to  
amalgamate 2 First Schools.

# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

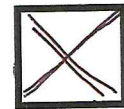


Berwick Middle School



Tweedmouth Community  
Middle School

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Should the Middle Schools close?



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THE 3 TIER SYSTEM GIVES YOUNGER KIDS A  
BETTER INTRODUCTION TO THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

A long, wavy horizontal line representing a handwritten signature.

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Why fix something that is not broken.  
I think it will be daunting for ~~fix~~ the  
~~few~~ and young, kids to face  
a high school. I did in the  
Scottish system. It was terrifying

Save our middle schools.

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*Berwick is becoming a forgotten place.*

*We need our schools for future generation.*

*Mary Derby Pitt, Castlegate, Berwick.*



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The Middle School has proved invaluable over the years and sets up our young folk for a productive future in our town. This should therefore be classed as an essential service and as such remain fully open.  
Berwick is fast becoming a forgotten place,  
Mhairi Doherty-Pitt, Castlegate, Berwick

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I THINK. THE SCHOOLS SHOULD STAY, AS THEY  
ARE, SOME CHILDREN ARE VERY UNRABLE, JUST  
~~FROM~~ ~~THE~~ LET THE SCHOOLS STAY.  
THE WAY THEY ARE. IN THERE OWN AGE GROUPS  
NOT BEING TAROWN IN AT THE DEEP END WITH  
HIGH SCHOOL. PUPILS -

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I would like to keep the middle schools on other people. because it's not star

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Tweedmouth Community  
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We need our middle schools because they provide the following benefits:

- A stepping stone between the primary & secondary years giving nurturing emotional support at a crucial developmental stage.
- Access to a broad and varied curriculum with specialist staff from an earlier age.
- Well qualified staff in already good schools who know the children well. They watch them grow into confident, mature well rounded members of our community. We need this provision!

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Berwick Middle School



Tweedmouth Community  
Middle School

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Our fantastic middle schools provide so many extra-curricular opportunities for our children, as well as a sound education. The idea of closing two excellent schools without a good reason is ridiculous.

There is so much love in the community for our middle schools because of the positive impact they have on pupils - past and present.

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TO MOVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL TO A 'TWO TIER MODEL' WHICH CLEARLY STILL IS PROVEN NOT TO WORK AS IT SHOULD, IS MADNESS. BOTH MIDDLE SCHOOLS ARE WELL RUN & EFFICIENT & DELIVERING HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE SAT. RESULTS.

# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Berwick Middle School



Tweedmouth Community  
Middle School

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Should the Middle Schools close?

Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

The middle School System offers the opportunity for Children to mature in a Nurturing and Supportive environment. At present the academy is failing to provide Quality Education it's buildings is Not fit for purpose

SEN pupils tend to achieve more in the middle school setting.

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Tweedmouth Community  
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The middle schools are a massive part in preparing our children for the next stage in life.

We can not trust the academy to look after any more children than they have as ever then they struggle.

I love TMS and we need to fight this all the way.



# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Berwick Middle School



Tweedmouth Community  
Middle School

Should the Middle Schools should stay open?



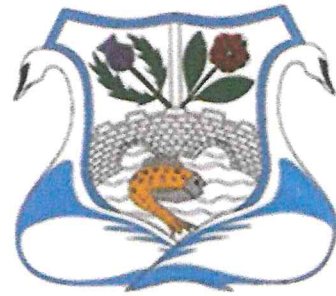
Should the Middle Schools close?



Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

At present the First Schools and Middle Schools are producing excellent results and we hold in high esteem in our town. Why would we want to lose this? If there is money available surely it should be used to improve the top end of the system which seem to be where the problems lie.

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I don't know ANYONE who is in favour of the move to 2 tier, although I understand there are 'financial' implications. BUT I can only speak from personal experience, of children who have thrived in 1st & middle schools (thank you Tweedmouth WMS & TCMS!) and then sadly become disillusioned/disengaged on transfer to Academy. DO NOT want 2 more years of potential disengagement!

# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

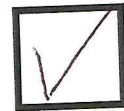


Berwick Middle School



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Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

I have absolutely no doubt that most pupils benefit enormously from going to a Middle School. They have the space to thrive and gain in confidence - they have access to specialist subjects from yr 5 which has been great.

I understand the financial constraints both the council and schools are under but ~~Berwick~~ I think more kids in Berwick will be disenfranchised from education by going to the academy 2 years earlier. Middle schools support and help children who might otherwise be led down the wrong path. It doesn't help that the academy has never performed particularly well or had the confidence of parents.

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I cannot understand why when we have such brilliant middle schools and a failing High School why they want to restructure it all. The money is needed to improve our current high school. All this disruption to all year groups seems so ridiculous. My children are of an age where they have already had so much missed education (COVID) and now to potentially lose out on middle school which were personally the best years of my life.

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I Dont think kids at age 11 are ready for  
highschool

Berwick middle is an amazing school, I  
also attended as a child

Kids are well looked after & cared for at  
Berwick middle.

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3 Tier gives the children they need to support their development.

You can't just build an extra classroom for up 5+6 - at Middle School they receive the opportunities to develop interests.

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My son has been a pupil at Berwick Middle School and has benefitted immensely academically as well as pastorally. I believe that a 3-tier system is a better system to childrens overall educational needs and we are fortunate have this system in Berwick. I would strongly support that the current system should not be changed.

e mail: MANU.SHUKLA @ ED. AC. UK

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Tweedmouth Community  
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Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

The Middle schools provide the perfect stepping stone between first schools and High School, especially for those of us whose children are in rural first schools.



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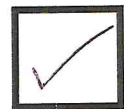


Berwick Middle School



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Middle School

Should the Middle Schools should stay open?



Should the Middle Schools close?



Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

The middle schools are a vital part of childrens education and their mental wellbeing:

The education children get in a middle school is far better than secondary as they don't have added pressure by much older year groups.

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Berwick Middle School



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If Tweedmouth West is closed & extra amalgamated with Pnia Park: is a New School going to be built? How will Pnia Park accommodate all these extra children?  
Why should Pnia Park have to change its name?

There seems to be no extra provision for any of the existing First Schools in the proposed 2 tier system. Why?

Norham needs its First school. It's too far for young children to be transported. It will impact the village.

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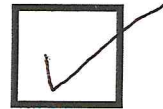


Berwick Middle School



Tweedmouth Community  
Middle School

Should the Middle Schools should stay open?



Should the Middle Schools close?



Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

Three children of mine have gone through Berwick Middle School. They have received a fantastic education there, both from an academic and pastoral perspective. Teaching and facilities are excellent. Middle School is a great staging post prior to secondary school.

The secondary school in Berwick is diabolical.

Isabel Markins.

# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

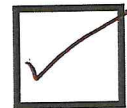


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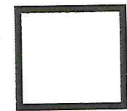


Tweedmouth Community  
Middle School

Should the Middle Schools should stay open?



Should the Middle Schools close?



Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

There is no clear reason why the 2-tier system should be implemented in Berwick. Our High School requires more support/funding to raise standards. The schools should all come together in an area like ours, not be forced into fighting against each other. Our First and middle schools are all fantastic and provide great support and education for our children, there is no good reason to change their structure. The middle school tier provides specialist teaching while still providing the nurturing environment our children need.

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My daughter took alot of settling at first school, shes just started Berwick middle and loves it,

Please save Berwick middle school

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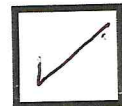


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My major concerns are the following:

- capacity of the High School/Academy to accommodate the additional 11-13 pupils
- the ability of the Academy to continue to stimulate pupils who are 'keen & raring to go' on the next step of their education
- the breadth of the curriculum offered to meet the needs/interests of all pupils ... can the Academy cope with what needs to be available?
- Education is the key to success — Berwick needs its schools to offer a broad, rigorous education for all, otherwise parents go elsewhere out of the area

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3 TIER SCHOOLS IN BERWICK  
WUD CHANGE A SYSTEM THAT  
WUD US AND CLOSE  
VARY GOOD SCHOOLS.  
UNREPRESENTED DOWN TO NEGOTIATE  
WITH NCC

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If 3 tier works for the Berwick partnership then why change something that is working and providing the children with fantastic outcomes.

The main concern is the academy so put more money and knowledge into that.



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The current 3 tier system is working & has worked for many years. Is the two tier system financially viable?

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Middle Schools provide a friendly  
bridge between primary + secondary  
schools.

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Three children of mine have attended Berwick Middle School - great memories, happy students, good friends, what comes after is the problem.

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Children loss out placed into primary  
& Secondary,

Mixing Kids too young with high School  
children pushes them to grow up too  
quick & they loss out on childhood fun  
Such as dressing up

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Wonderful existing middle schools with excellent academic, sporting & social results.

A very good bridge between primary & secondary with the introduction of some specialist teaching. Keeps pupils 'younger' for a while. No disadvantages.

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Children flourish in the 3 tier system. It helps with confidence and learning in preparation for high school.

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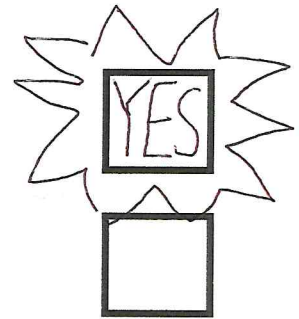
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Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

Taught in middle / first school system from 1976 - 2016. Passionate about its benefits - children have chance to flourish and grow 3 times. Smaller caring environments... less travel for younger pupils in rural communities. It shouldn't be about MONEY but the welfare of our children.

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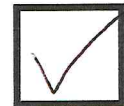


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I have had 2 children go through the 3 tier system and ended up as a teacher in Berwick Middle School myself. I had only had experience of 2 tier but ~~was~~ <sup>am</sup> now totally convinced that 3-tier is the best option. Both my children finished in the 3-tier system and have gone on to have very successful careers. As head of an English department in Berwick Middle, I was able to experience first hand what a significant difference a middle school environment ~~has~~ can have on pupils. They are allowed to grow and ~~de~~ develop at an appropriate level and mature so that they are ready to take on responsibility. They also gain in confidence and knowledge through having specialist teachers, something which often first schools are not able to offer.

For Northumberland, where a significant number of children live in rural settings, the middle schools are a MUST. I cannot stress enough how devastating for local communities closing them would be!



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I personally came through the three tier system and in all honesty I feel my education is far better for it. The middle school provides the children an opportunity to easily transition into higher GCSE education it makes the step from primary to higher less of a jump for the kids. I made and forged a lot of friendships at BMS. All of them I still have today - I wouldn't be who I am today without BMS. I know have a daughter in the education system at primary level. The upheaval this could cause to her education would be catastrophic for her in my opinion.

# SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Berwick Middle School



Tweedmouth Community  
Middle School

Should the Middle Schools should stay open?

Should the Middle Schools close?

Please give us your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the future of education and schools in the Berwick Partnership.

Keep the 3 tier System. If its not broke dont fix it.

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AS A PUPIL OF THE 2 TIER SYSTEM AND AS A  
PARENT OF CHILDREN IN A 3 TIER SYSTEM  
THE 2 TIER WAS SO MUCH BETTER

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There has been hardly any consultation about the two tier system.

We badly need a new high school. That is the first priority!

From what I have seen, the county council cannot be relied on to finish anything!

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I believe the middle schools in Berwick upon Tweed supports pupils between the ages of 9-13. Helps with their confidence and gives them lots of opportunities, and plus guides them on to the next stage of their education!

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Middle Schools provide a safe secure learning environment for pupils. I have had 3 children through Tweedmouth and a fourth still attending. All of them say it is the best school they have been to. It is not just enough for our children to have an education, they all deserve an excellent education which Middle Schools provide.

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Rather than closing Schools we need a better  
Send provided for our children. Rather than having  
to travel 45 mins + you cant expect Tweedmouth  
middle to be the "new Grove" -

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Why do they want to fix something that's not broken? Why would you close two good schools, both have outstanding traits? The High School is under invested, has some great teachers but change would mean no specialist teachers up to age 11yrs. It's not fair on the young people of Berwick for the council to use them for a massive cost cutting measure!! All about



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As a former teacher, I know the importance of each child within the education system being known as an individual, whose abilities and difficulties are unique. My experience of working in large institutions confirms my belief that children can easily get lost with the 'system'. Smaller schools offer a much better chance of children being known and supported by a number of adults.

2. Children go through distinct developmental stages and I believe the 3-tier system is best suited to cater for these distinct stages. A small First School provides a caring environment in which the basics of both academic and social learning can be established. Middle Schools allow pupils to develop a greater sense of independence and responsibility, whilst providing opportunities for new experiences and challenges. The years covered by Middle School will see most children going through puberty and many will be hugely reassured by the help of trusted adults as they negotiate tricky emotional issues. There is also huge benefit in having students transfer to High School at the start of Year 9 where they will be able to explore the new location and embark on their higher studies - I know that in 2-tier systems, Year 9 are often the most problematic year group + I see the 3-tier system helping to avoid some of the issues.

3. Schools need to be at the least a minimal community - it takes a while to build a school culture

Bussing children across town or further creates problems in terms of our ability to socialize with their friends outside school. The added transport needs do nothing to help the environment!

Education must never be about finance setting the agenda. There needs to be careful use of resources, but it is the welfare of our children that must be the highest priority - physical, mental, social, emotional. It is also vital that teachers can develop their relationships with both children + families. In the current scenario, our Head teachers are very well placed to identify where individuals and families are struggling and to help initiate strategies to work things through - thereby often easing pressure on social services and other agencies.

The benefits of the 'small is beautiful' 3-tier module are not easy to measure, but I believe they are more important than ever in the light of the impact of Covid + the current economic pressures that many in this area are facing. We must preserve what is strong + working, not capitulate to the voices that make economics or efficiency their priority. Our children deserve better than that!

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Having attended and taught in Middle Schools I have found the 3 tier model of education to be superb. I now have children in a 2 tier system and wish that they could have had the same quality of educational experience as myself. Berwick should remain a 3 tier system and it is short-sighted to risk losing such an asset to pupils, families and the wider community. The experiences offered by the 3 tier system ~~are~~ are more, and wider ranging, especially when it comes to extra-curricular activities. More opportunities is ~~not~~ always what Berwick should be looking at and the best way to achieve this P.T.S.

cont.

is to keep the 3 tier system and improve the existing Academy, dare I say, take it back into LEA control so that it can be held accountable to its community and help to promote and develop the aspirations already championed by its two amazing middle schools.