

Consultation responses

Dear Sirs

I wish to object to Longhoughton Primary having their admissions reduced to 15 from 30 from 2025.

Whilst current data may demonstrate this being adequate, being a predominantly military community, the population in Longhoughton is transient.

As a military spouse myself, I can attest to the difficulties I have faced in gaining accessible schools for my children upon arrival at a new posting. Thankfully Longhoughton had space, hence my child can attend the most local school.

Given the challenges military families already face when moving areas (which happens frequently), it would be tragic for those families to be faced with additional travel to transport their children out of the local community on which they rely on becoming a part of.

Reducing the allocation in my opinion would contravene the Local Education Authority's obligations under the Armed Forces Covenant.

Please reconsider this decision and maintain the intake at 30 to protect the future demographics of the village.

Parent

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing to express my disappointment at the proposal to reduce the reception school numbers for Longhoughton primary school from 2025 onwards.

Longhoughton primary serves the military community at RAF Boulmer, one which is essential to the security of the country. If there are stringent limits on the number of children allowed into reception class, military personnel will be put off from coming to the area. This will not only affect the output of RAF Boulmer, but the reduction in people wishing to be here will also have a negative impact on economy of the village and surrounding communities.

My family moved here last year when my eldest had just begun reception class. His year is the largest in the school with approximately 16 children. If these rules had been in place in 2022, my child would not have been allowed to join Longhoughton school. Not going to the local school would have been detrimental to the warm community feeling which longhoughton village is exemplary at showing, as making local connections would have been much harder.

Furthermore, Tracy Critchlow, as the headteacher, has helped foster a wonderful environment for children, and is very proactive at recognising Special Educational Needs. If my eldest had not

been able to join a school with a close community feel to it, I genuinely believe he would have been lost in the background of a larger school.

While I understand that Longhoughton school is a smaller school, I urge you to reconsider the drastic reduction in reception admissions you are proposing, for the reasons which I have stated above.

Thank you for your time, and Merry Christmas.

Kind regards,

Parent