

**School Organisation and Planning**

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Dear parent/carers

A meeting has now taken place to decide whether a consultation will be held on possible changes to school provision in Almondbury and the surrounding area.

The members of Cabinet (the council's main decision making body) have agreed that the consultation will go ahead. This will be open to all parents and carers and is a chance to have your say on the proposed changes.

Your views are very important and we encourage you to take part in the consultation process, which will begin very soon. You will be provided with full details in the next few days. No decisions have been made about the future of education in Almondbury and the surrounding area - your feedback will help to shape the way forward.

The local authority is working closely with local schools so that, together, we can strengthen the current education offer and help all children and young people to access the highest possible standards of care and education. The possible changes mainly affect Almondbury Community School (ACS), King James's School and Newsome High School.

As you know from our previous letter, work is ongoing to make improvements at ACS as the school has been judged 'inadequate' by Ofsted and is under-subscribed at both primary and secondary level. Decisions are needed on whether ACS is sustainable in the long term and whether it is in the community's best interests for the school to continue in its current 'all-through' form. The consultation will seek your views on a possible future option for ACS, along with some changes to King James's and Newsome.

To remind you, the key proposals are:

- To remove the secondary phase of Almondbury Community School (Year 7 to Year 11) over a period of time still to be determined. The implementation plan would be decided after the consultation had taken place, but it would not be before summer 2020
- To explore the possibility of increasing the number of places at King James's School, and to make some adjustment to local catchment areas. In the future, children who currently attend secondary school at ACS would have priority for a place at a different school, mainly King James's or Newsome
- To gradually reduce the number of primary places (up to and including Year 6) at Almondbury Community School by admitting 30 Reception pupils annually from September 2020 onwards. Children who currently attend primary school at ACS

would not be affected because they already have a place and could remain at the school to the end of Year 6

Through the consultation, the views of parents, carers and all other interested parties will be sought over a four-week period. These views will then be collated and reported back to Cabinet members, who will decide whether to move ahead with the proposals

Full details of the possible changes, and of the process involved in making a decision, can be found by visiting [www.kirklees.gov.uk/cabinet](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/cabinet) , by clicking on 'calendar of meetings' and selecting the date March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please be assured that all of our work is designed to enhance the care and education of local children, giving them the best possible start in life.

Yours sincerely



Jo-Anne Sanders  
Service Director for Learning & Early Help