



**Directorate for Children and Young People Services**  
School Organisation & Planning  
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Dear parent/carer

As may be aware, a consultation recently took place about possible changes to school provision in Almondbury and the surrounding area.

The consultation was open to everybody and was a chance for stakeholders and interested parties to have their say on the proposed changes. We would like to thank everybody who took part in the consultation.

The proposals have been designed to achieve the highest possible standards of care and education in the local area, helping children and young people to fulfil their potential both now and in the future.

We are continuing to work with ACS as the school has been judged 'inadequate' and requiring 'special measures' by Ofsted and has low pupil numbers at both primary and secondary level. We are also working with other schools which may be affected by the proposals, but please note that no final decisions have been made on whether or not ACS should continue in its current all-through form.

The views we received through the consultation have now been included in a new report, which will be discussed by the Kirklees Cabinet (the council's main decision making body) on 29<sup>th</sup> May. Cabinet members will decide whether to move the proposals forward to the next stage, which would be the publication of legal notices.

Based on the consultation feedback, we have compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions, along with local authority responses and an updated summary, which can be viewed by visiting [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation). This page also includes a link to the full Cabinet report.

If the proposals were eventually agreed, every family at Almondbury Community School would receive a high level of personalised support on the options available for their children. No child would be left without a school place and we would do everything possible to support families through the change. For children who are due to start Year 7 at ACS in September 2019, alternative options would be discussed with each parent/carer.

We can also tell you that, in recent days, the Regional Schools Commissioner has issued an academy order for ACS. All schools that require 'special measures' are subject to this process, which means the school must become an academy instead of being maintained by the local authority. The Regional Schools Commissioner has been given evidence that ACS is viable, both financially and educationally, as a primary school. They have informed us they will be selecting a suitable 'sponsor' to operate the school in future.

Finally, we can assure you that we know this is a period of uncertainty for many people and we are aiming to reach a final decision on these proposals as quickly as possible. Our absolute priority is to ensure children and young people enjoy the best start in life.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sanders'.

Jo-Anne Sanders  
Service Director for Learning & Early Help