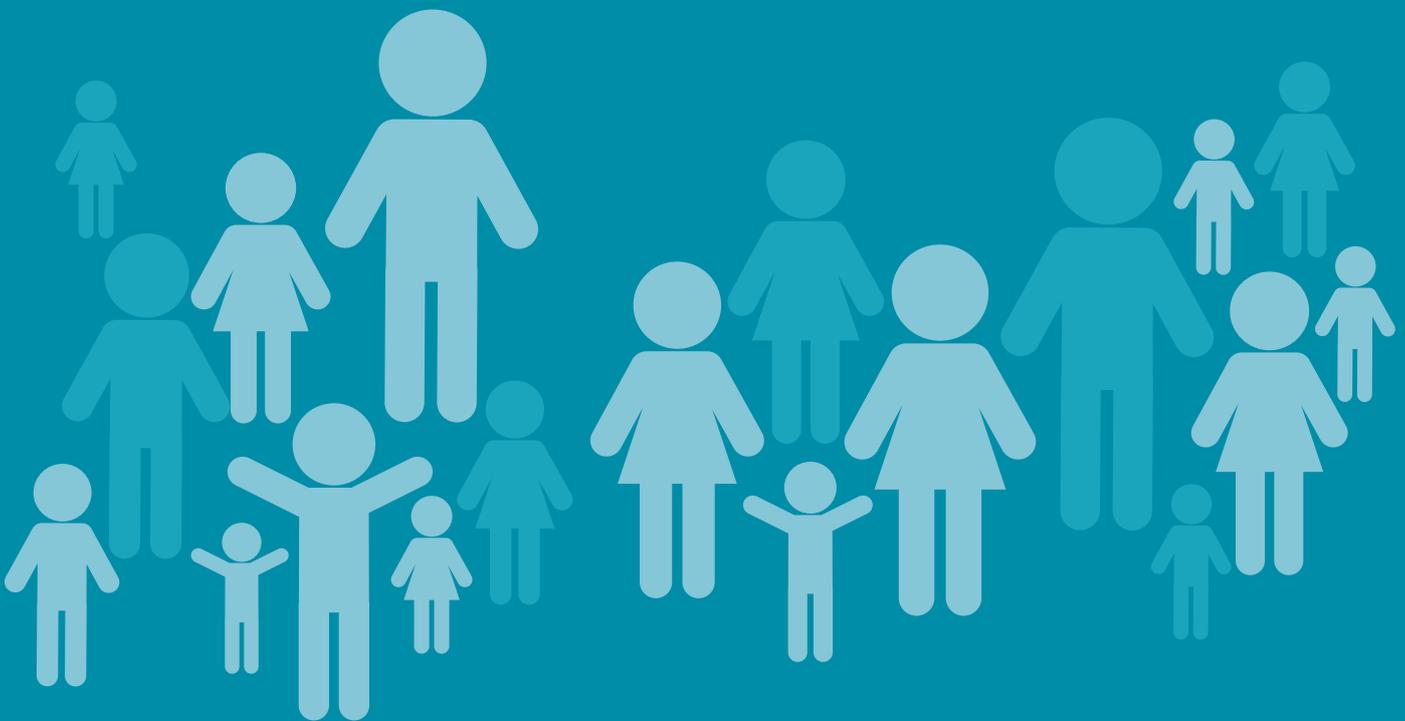


# Future options for Almondbury Community School

The basic need for school places across  
Huddersfield South & East and South West



Please tell us your views on our proposals.  
The closing date for responses is 23 April 2019

# **Future options for Almondbury Community School**

**The basic need for school places across Huddersfield South & East and South West.**

## **What is this proposal?**

When planning school places we want good-quality, sustainable school provision for all children in Kirklees.

This consultation is about proposed changes to Almondbury Community School. These changes take into account the current and future need for school places across both primary and secondary age groups. The proposals would require working in partnership with other local schools in Almondbury and the surrounding area of Huddersfield South East and South West.

## **Why are changes being proposed to Almondbury Community School?**

For a number of years Almondbury Community School has operated with a high number of unfilled places. All schools rely mainly upon the numbers of pupils they have on roll to generate their school budget. As Almondbury Community School is far from full it is very difficult for the school to continue without making some changes.

We have looked carefully at the numbers of children resident in the local and surrounding areas, and compared this to the numbers of available school places in all of the schools in the area. We have also considered the implications of future demand for school places which may result from the impact of new housing development.

Ofsted published a report on 11 February 2019 for Almondbury Community School which contained their judgement that the school requires Special Measures. This means the school is eligible for intervention and usually, legislation requires the Secretary of State for Education to issue an Academy order.

A school in this position must change and become an Academy with the appointment of an approved Multi-Academy Trust sponsor to take responsibility for the running of the school to oversee its improvement.

For more information please refer to the Department for Education's 'Schools Causing Concern statutory guidance' available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/754974/Schools causing concern guidance-November 2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754974/Schools_causing_concern_guidance-November_2018.pdf)

Part of this process would involve an assessment of a range of factors known as 'due diligence' to ascertain the long term sustainability of the school. This process would reveal that:

- 1) The school has a significant and increasing budget deficit which is mainly the result of low number of pupils (most year groups are undersubscribed by between 40-60%).
- 2) Child population indicators suggest there is a limited opportunity for pupil numbers to increase significantly in the foreseeable future.
- 3) The full range of required school improvement measures are not possible under these constraints.

As a result of these circumstances it is highly unlikely that the assessment would result in an Academy sponsor being appointed.

It is because of these circumstances that changes are proposed to Almondbury Community School.

### **What is Kirklees Council proposing?**

Making sure that in the future sustainable schools are available to local children means that these changes are being proposed;

- To remove the secondary phase of Almondbury Community School. This would take place over a period of time (still to be determined and if approved would be planned carefully to minimise disruption for existing pupils), but it would not be before summer 2020.
- To explore the possibility of increasing the number of places at King James's School which is located in Almondbury, and to make some adjustment to local catchment areas. In the future, it is proposed that children who live in the current Almondbury Community School catchment area would have priority for a place at a different school, mainly King James's or Newsome.

- To retain Almondbury Community School as a primary school and gradually reduce the number of primary places (up to and including Year 6). This would be done by admitting 30 Reception pupils annually from September 2020 onwards. Children who currently attend primary school at Almondbury Community School would not be affected because they already have a place and could remain at the school to the end of Year 6. In the future, children at the end of the primary phase would need to go through the normal admissions application process to transfer to a secondary school.

### **The objectives of the proposal**

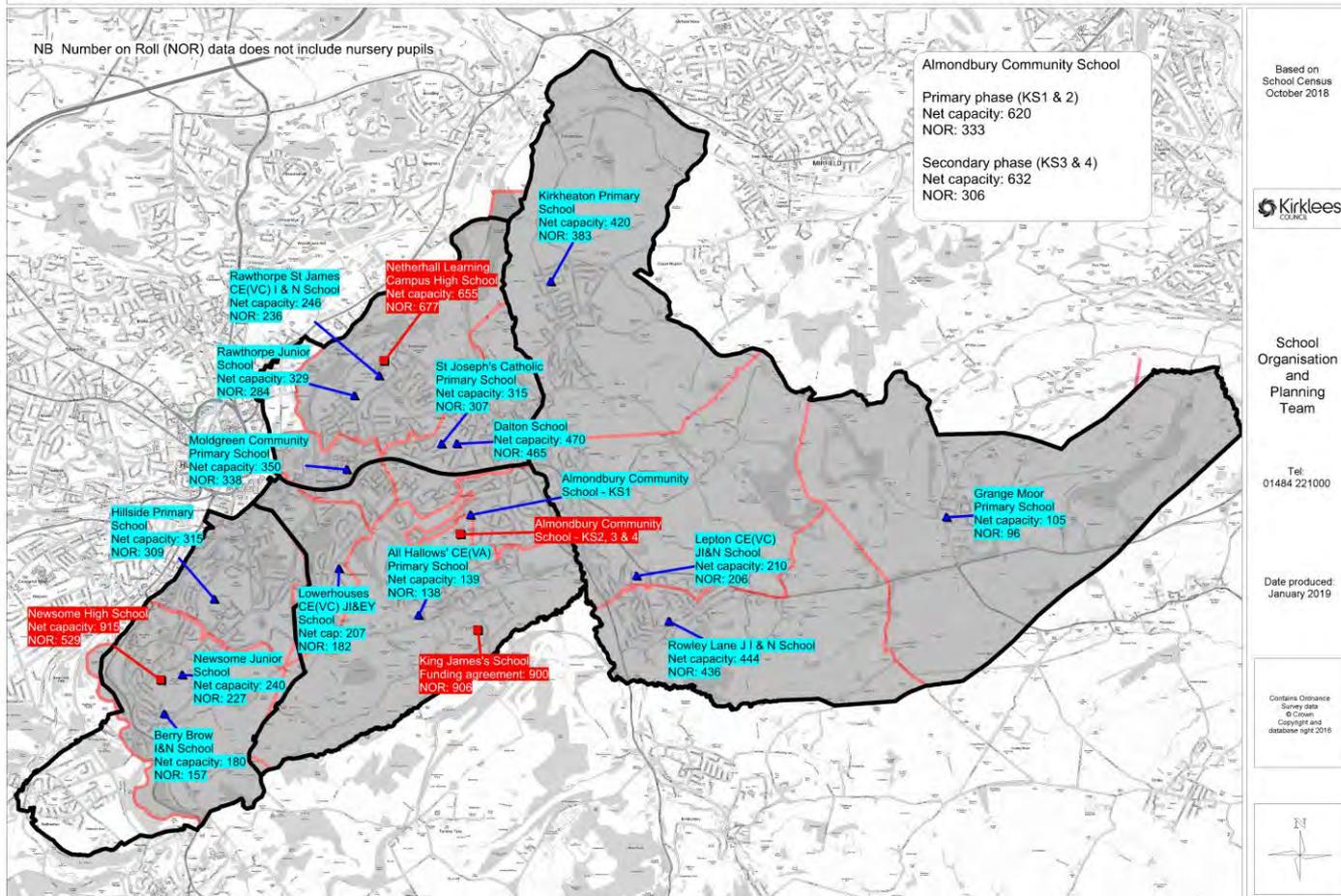
The proposals are intended to improve outcomes for children. By taking a strategic approach Kirklees council wants to ensure that sufficient primary and secondary school places are available across Huddersfield South East and South West and maximise opportunities to:

- offer high quality and inclusive education and diversity of provision to all
- provide a breadth of curriculum offer
- be financially viable and therefore have future security
- promote equality of opportunity
- strengthen community cohesion
- use sustainable travel and transport for school

### **The current pattern of provision in Kirklees across Huddersfield South East and South West**

The following map provides an illustration of existing schools and their priority admission areas:

Almondbury Community School, King James's School, Netherhall Learning Campus High School, Newsome High School



**Some of your questions answered...**

**The Local Plan commits to building lots of new homes, will the existing school places not be required to meet the new demand this will generate?**

Whilst the local plan does propose significant house building this will be spread over the full 15 year period of the plan. On average a formula of around 2 secondary pupils per year group is used nationally to predict the impact of building 100 new homes.

Across Kirklees there is a declining child population in the primary phase which will work its way into the secondary phase over time. In some areas house building will help to stabilise the child population, and numbers on roll at local schools.

## **Would the proposed changes affect my child attending Almondbury Community School?**

We are offering one-to-one meetings with:

- All parents and carers whose child(ren) is (are) currently in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 at Almondbury Community School.
- Parents and carers of children who have been allocated a year 7 place for September 2019 at the school to seek their views.

Information on how to book your appointment will be sent directly to parents and carers.

We will also be contacting parents and carers of children currently in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 about a drop-in event.

Please see the tables on the following pages which illustrate the potential changes for children each year as they progress through school.

Current pupils at Almondbury Community School Key Stage 1	School year beginning											
	Sep 2018	Sep 2019	Sep 2020	Sep 2021	Sep 2022	Sep 2023	Sep 2024	Sep 2025	Sep 2026	Sep 2027	Sep 2028	Sep 2029
<b>Current Year 2 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will remain on roll at Almondbury Community School until the end of year 6*</li> <li>To apply for secondary school place in 2022 for transition in September 2023</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2028</li> </ul>						Secondary School					Post 16 choices	
	KS1	Key Stage 2				Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4			
	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18
<b>Current Year 1 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will remain on roll at Almondbury Community School until the end of year 6*</li> <li>To apply for secondary school place in 2023 for transition in September 2024</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2029</li> </ul>						Secondary School					Post 16 choices	
	Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2			Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4			
	Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12		Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17
<b>Current Reception at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will remain on roll at Almondbury Community School until the end of year 6*</li> <li>To apply for secondary school place in 2024 for transition in September 2025</li> </ul>	Almondbury Community School						Secondary School					
	Foundation - Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2			Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4		
	Reception age 5	Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16
<b>Current 4-year olds who have applied for a school place at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National offer day is on 16 April 2019 where you will be given a primary school place</li> <li>If you chose to accept the offer then your child will remain on roll at Almondbury community school until the end of year 6*</li> <li>To apply for secondary school place in 2025 for transition in September 2026</li> </ul>							Secondary School					
	Foundation - Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2			Key Stage 3			Key St 4		
	Reception age 5	Year 1 age 6	Year 2 age 7	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12		Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	

Current pupils at Almondbury Community School Key Stage 2	School year beginning										
	Sep 2018	Sep 2019	Sep 2020	Sep 2021	Sep 2022	Sep 2023	Sep 2024	Sep 2025	Sep 2026	Sep 2027	Sep 2028
<b>Current Year 6 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer to Key Stage 3 at Almondbury Community School (or other Secondary schools) in September 2019*</li> <li>Options to be discussed with each parent/carer</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2024</li> </ul>	Almondbury Community KS2	Secondary School						Post 16 choices			
		Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4						
	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18			
<b>Current Year 5 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would remain on roll at Almondbury Community School until the end of year 6*</li> <li>No new pupils would be admitted into Year 7 from September 2020</li> <li>Apply through the normal admission round for a secondary school place in 2019 for transition in September 2020</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2025</li> </ul>	Almondbury Community School		Secondary School					Post 16 choices			
	Key Stage 2		Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4					
	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18		
<b>Current Year 4 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would remain on roll at Almondbury Community School till end of year 6*</li> <li>Apply through the normal admission round for a secondary school place in 2020 for transition in September 2021</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2026</li> </ul>	Almondbury Community School			Secondary School				Post 16 choices			
	Key Stage 2			Key Stage 3		Key Stage 4					
	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	
<b>Current Year 3 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would remain on roll at Almondbury Community School till end of year 6*</li> <li>Apply through the normal admission round for a secondary school place in 2021 for transition in September 2022</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2027</li> </ul>	Almondbury Community School				Secondary School				Post 16 choices		
	Key Stage 2				Key Stage 3		Key Stage 4				
	Year 3 age 8	Year 4 age 9	Year 5 age 10	Year 6 age 11	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18

\*The proposed transition pathways do not affect the rights of parents and carers to express a preference for other schools

Current pupils at Almondbury Community School Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	School year beginning						
	Sep 2018	Sep 2019	Sep 2020	Sep 2021	Sep 2022	Sep 2023	Sep 2024
<b>Current Year 11 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2019</li> </ul>	Almondbury CS KS4	Post 16 choices					
	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18				
<b>Current Year 10 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would remain on roll at Almondbury Community School into Year 11 in September 2019*</li> <li>Options to be discussed with each parent/carer</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2020</li> </ul>	Almondbury CS KS4	All through KS4	Post 16 choices				
	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18			
<b>Current Year 9 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Options to be discussed with each parent/carer</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2021</li> </ul>	Almondbury CS KS3	Secondary School KS4		Post 16 choices			
	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18		
<b>Current Year 8 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Options to be discussed with each parent/carer</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2022</li> </ul>	Almondbury CS KS3	Secondary School Key Stage 3    Key Stage 4			Post 16 choices		
	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18	
<b>Current Year 7 at Almondbury Community School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Options to be discussed with each parent/carer</li> <li>Transfer to post 16 choices in September 2023</li> </ul>	Almondbury CS KS3	Secondary School Key Stage 3    Key Stage 4				Post 16 choices	
	Year 7 age 12	Year 8 age 13	Year 9 age 14	Year 10 age 15	Year 11 age 16	Year 12 age 17	Year 13 age 18

\*The proposed transition pathways do not affect the rights of parents and carers to express a preference for other secondary schools

## **My child has been allocated a school place at Almondbury Community School for Year 7 in September 2019, what do I do?**

It is proposed that the secondary phase of Almondbury Community School would be phased out but would not close before summer 2020.

The LA will arrange to meet with parents and carers on a one to one basis to discuss the available options for your child.

## **My child is in a primary school and I live in the Almondbury Community School secondary school catchment area, which secondary school will my child attend from 2020?**

Parent/carers have the right to express a preference for the school of their choice. Parents/carers can name 3 schools on their application in the order of preference. Parents/carers are strongly advised to name 3 different preferences including their catchment area school. Should the proposals be approved an application would need to be made in the autumn term when children start in year 6 (**before the closing date of 31 October**).

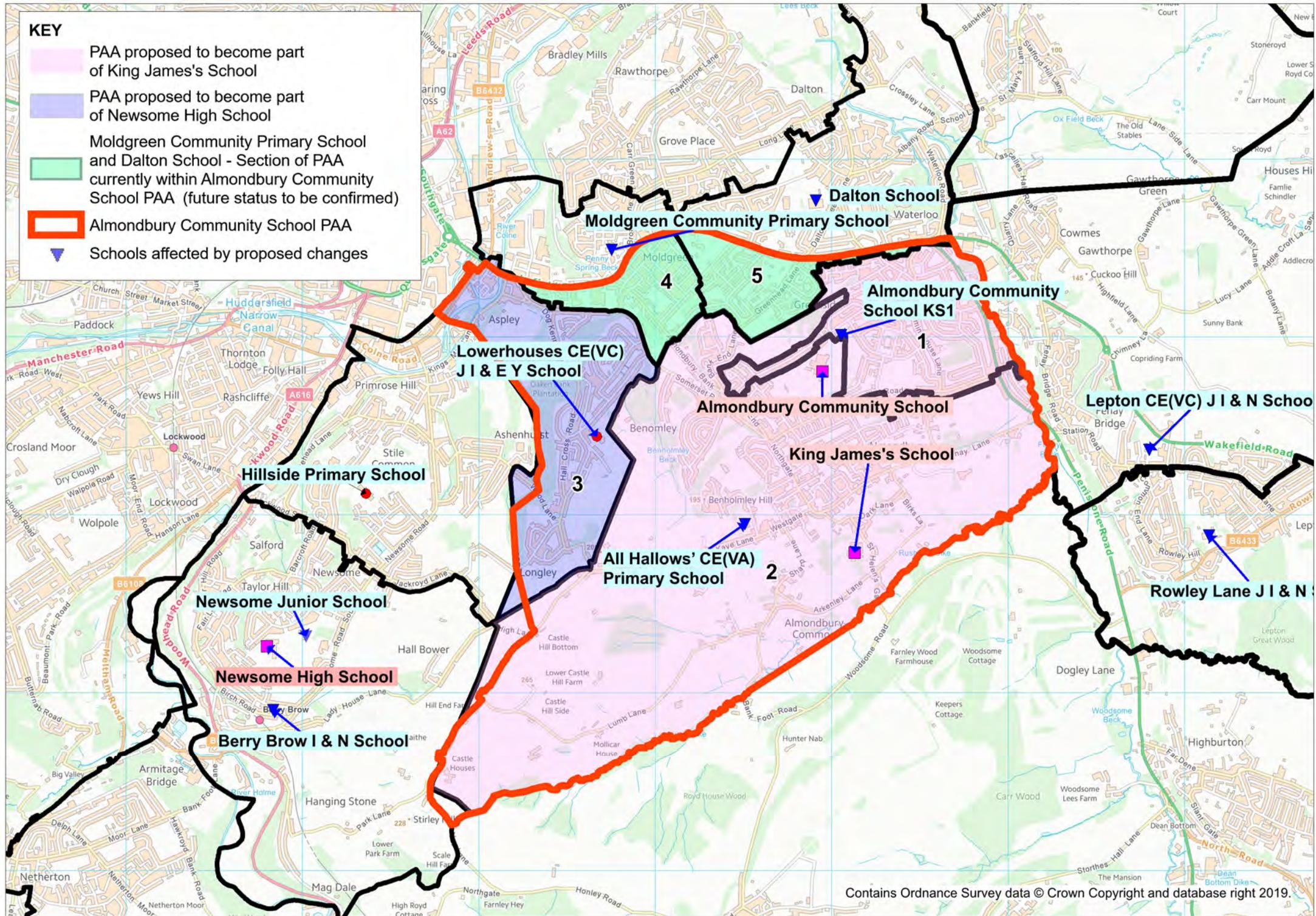
The map on page 11 provides an illustration of the current Almondbury Community School secondary catchment area (for admission to Key Stages 3 and 4). This area is further divided into 5 parts to help explain the future options being considered and help you express your views about these options.

Detailed proposals for secondary school catchment areas if the decision is made to remove the secondary phase from Almondbury Community School:

- Area 1, Almondbury Community School primary catchment area (Key stage 1 and 2) – to become part of the King James's School secondary catchment area
- Area 2, All Hallows' CE(VA) Primary School primary catchment area – to become part of the King James's School secondary catchment area
- Area 3, Lowerhouses CE(VC) Primary School primary catchment area – to become part of the Newsome High School secondary catchment area
- Areas 4 and 5, parts of Moldgreen Community Primary School and Dalton School primary catchment areas (south of the A642) forming part of the Almondbury Community School – to ensure that every child has the priority for a secondary school place, these areas could form part of King James's, Newsome High School or Netherhall Learning Campus High School secondary catchment areas. Detailed proposals will be developed as a result of the feedback received during the consultation process.

**KEY**

-  PAA proposed to become part of King James's School
-  PAA proposed to become part of Newsome High School
-  Moldgreen Community Primary School and Dalton School - Section of PAA currently within Almondbury Community School PAA (future status to be confirmed)
-  Almondbury Community School PAA
-  Schools affected by proposed changes



## **My son/daughter is happy at Almondbury Community School, how do I know that another high school will meet the needs of my child?**

Parents have the right to preference a place at any school. Schools meet the needs of a wide range of pupils every day. The best way to understand how a school could best meet your child's needs is to visit the school and speak to the staff.

King James's School is judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' and is located in Almondbury, approximately 1km (0.6 miles) from Almondbury Community School. The school is currently full and would need building work to be able to extend its existing pupil numbers on a permanent basis. A significant number of children living in Almondbury already attend this school.

Newsome High School is located to the west of Almondbury, approximately 3.6km (2.2 miles) from Almondbury Community School. Whilst the school was judged by Ofsted as having 'serious weaknesses' it has been on an improvement journey for some time and is making good progress since the appointment of a new Headteacher. Newsome has a viable budget to continue to offer a wide curriculum and continue on an improvement journey. A significant number of families from the Lowerhouses and Longley area already attend this school. The school also houses specialist provisions for children with physical and hearing impairments.

Netherhall Learning Campus High School is located to the North of Almondbury, approximately 2km (1.2 miles) from Almondbury Community School and is judged by Ofsted to be 'Good'. Netherhall is currently full in Year 7 and Year 8 and oversubscribed for September 2019. However there may be options to extend its existing pupil numbers on a permanent basis. A number of families from the North of Almondbury already attend this school.

There are other secondary schools in the surrounding areas including North Huddersfield Trust, Honley High School, Moor End Academy, Royds Hall Community School and Shelley College. Further details are available at this link: <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools/search-for-a-school/default.aspx>

## **What would happen to the staff and governance of the school?**

If the proposals are agreed by Cabinet there would be changes to the staffing structure. Staff would be organised to support the needs of the children. Any changes to staffing structure would be fully consulted with staff, trade unions and the Interim Executive Board (IEB). The IEB has replaced the governing body of Almondbury Community School. The IEB is a small body appointed on a short-term basis by a Local Authority, with the approval of the Regional School Commissioner.

The IEB's main function is to secure a sound basis for future improvement in the school and promote high standards of educational achievement.

Where other local schools have an increased numbers of pupils there are likely to be local opportunities for school staff. The LA, working with staff, trade unions and other schools will do all it can to facilitate the access to opportunities for staff.

## **What happens next?**

A 4 week non-statutory consultation is open between 27 March 2019 until 23 April 2019.

During this period you can express your views online, in writing, or in person at one of consultation events listed below. Your opinions are very important to us.

Once the consultation has finished, all feedback will be reported to Kirklees Council's Cabinet. They will then decide whether to move to the next stage. This would mean the publication of legal notices and another chance to view the proposals and comment on them before a final decision is made. The following table shows the next steps involved in the process

Dates are subject to change and would be dependent on Cabinet approval to move to each stage.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Report to Cabinet to approve non-statutory consultation</b>	<b>19 March 2019</b>
<b>Consultation and engagement</b>	<b>27 March – 23 April 2019</b>
<b>Outcome report to Cabinet and approval to next stage*</b>	<b>May 2019</b>
<b>Publication of notices and representation period*</b>	<b>May – June 2019</b>
<b>Decision by Cabinet (within 2 months)*</b>	<b>July 2019</b>
<b>Implementation starts*</b>	<b>1 September 2019</b>

**\*Subject to scheduling of Cabinet meetings which means dates might change**

## Consultation events

We will be writing directly to the parents of pupils at Almondbury Community School and to parents who have been offered a place starting in September 2019 to propose face-to-face opportunities to discuss individual circumstances and listen to their views. There will also be face-to-face meetings for staff to share their views and ask questions.

In addition to this, the following 'drop-in' event is open to the wider community and other interested parties. Officers from the council will be present to answer questions and listen to your views. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Kirklees Council wants to know what you think. Your views will be reported back to Kirklees Council Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

Date	Venue	Time
Friday 12 April 2019	Almondbury Children's Centre	3.30pm – 6.30pm

## How to respond to the consultation

### Online:

You can take part in the consultation by completing the online form on our website: [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation)

### By post:

Respond in writing to: FREEPOST Kirklees Council, School Organisation & Planning (Postage is free; you do not need a stamp).

### In person:

At the consultation events or hand in at the school.

### Email:

Please note that you can contact us via email should you have any queries regarding these proposals. Please send your emails to [school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@kirklees.gov.uk)

Please make sure you respond by **23 April 2019** to make sure your views are heard.

**Q1)** Do you support or oppose the proposals to remove the secondary phase of Almondbury Community School by lowering the age range of the school from age 3 –16 years to age 3 – 11 years?

Please tick one of these boxes.

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

Why have you decided that is your view? Please tell us about it along with anything else you would like us to consider relating to this proposal.

**Q2)** Do you support or oppose the proposals to change the planned admission number of the Almondbury Community School primary phase from 60 (Key Stage 1) and 110 (Key Stage 2) to 30 in both Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 from September 2020?

Please tick one of these boxes.

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

Why have you decided that is your view? Please tell us about it along with anything else you would like us to consider relating to this proposal.

**Q3)** Do you support or oppose the proposals for King James’s School to change their catchment area (PAA) to include the primary admission areas of Area 1, Almondbury Community School and Area 2, All Hallows CE (VA) Primary School?

Please tick one of these boxes.

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don’t know

Why have you decided that is your view? Please tell us about it along with anything else you would like us to consider relating to this proposal.

**Q4)** Do you support or oppose the proposals for Newsome High School to change their catchment area (PAA) to include the primary admission area of Area 3, Lowerhouses CE (VC) J, I and EY School?

Please tick one of these boxes.

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don’t know

Why have you decided that is your view? Please tell us about it along with anything else you would like us to consider relating to this proposal.

**Q5)** Which secondary school catchment area would you prefer Area 4, part of Moldgreen Community Primary School primary school catchment area, to join?

Please tick one of these boxes.

King James's School	Newsome High School	Netherhall Learning Campus High School	Other (enter details below)	Do not have a preference

Why have you decided that is your view? Please tell us about it along with anything else you would like us to consider relating to this proposal.

**Q6)** Which secondary school catchment area would you prefer Area 5, part of Dalton School primary school catchment area, to join?

Please tick one of these boxes.

King James's School	Newsome High School	Netherhall Learning Campus High School	Other (enter details below)	Do not have a preference

Why have you decided that is your view? Please tell us about it along with anything else you would like us to consider relating to this proposal.

## About you

This section asks you for some information that will help us to analyse the results of the survey and to see who has taken part. You will not be identified by any of the information that you provide.

**I am a:** (please tick and complete all those that apply to you):

- Parent/carer      your child's/children's school(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Pupil      your school: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Governor      your school: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Member of staff      your school: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Local resident      please tell us: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Other      please tell us: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This information will form part of the outcome report which will be presented to Cabinet for a decision to proceed to the next stage.

Please note all responses will remain anonymous.

