

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION
PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

**Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School
Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations
2007 (as amended):**

In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

St Ambrose Barlow RC High School (Voluntary Aided), 37 Ash Drive, Swinton,
Manchester, M27 9QP

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school

N/A

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The planned date of implementation is 31 August 2014.

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
 - (b) the address of the authority or governing body to which objections or comments should be sent.

(a). Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by 22 May 2013), any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to:

(b). Philip Royle (Chair of Governors), St Ambrose Barlow RC High School, 37 Ash Drive, Swinton, Manchester, M27 9QP.

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposed alteration is to expand the capacity of St Ambrose Barlow RC High School by 300 places.

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

There are currently 750 pupils with a 250 place 6th form increasing to 1050 pupils by September 2014. St Ambrose Barlow's current net capacity is 750 pupils. This will increase to 1050 by 2017.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The current admittance number is 150 pupils per year group. From 2014, the admittance number for year 7 will rise to 210. The admittance for years 9 to 11 will be increased beyond 210 (on a temporary basis), to accommodate any displaced students from the closing St George's RC High School who may chose to transfer to the enlarged St Ambrose Barlow RC High School.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

From September 2014 and beyond, admittance into year 7 will be 210.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

N/A

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

The current number of pupils registered at St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School is 750 (taken from the last school census)

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

N/A

Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

On the 15 April 2013, St Ambrose Barlow High School relocated to a new building. It is proposed that the building will be extended to accommodate additional 300 pupils. This is a linked proposal the closure of St Georges RC High School.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

The expansion of St Ambrose Barlow RC High School on its existing site will require the city council to provide additional land (as part of the PFI contract arrangements) and the transfer of this additional land will be dealt with in line with Transfer of Land guidance.

Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

N/A

- (b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

N/A

- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

N/A

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

N/A

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

N/A

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

N/A

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

St Ambrose Barlow RC High School occupies a single site from Monday 15th April 2013. The full address is:

37 Ash Drive

Wardley

Swinton

M27 9QP

The enlargement proposal for St Ambrose Barlow RC High School is linked directly to the closure of St George's RC High School and the relocation of St George's RC High School pupils to St Ambrose Barlow RC High School in Wardley, Swinton.

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

The distance from St George's RC High School to the new St Ambrose Barlow RC High School in Wardley is 2.4 miles.

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

St Ambrose Barlow RC High School site in Wardley, Swinton is the main location for displaced pupils from St George's RC High School and is central to the pupils of both communities.

- (d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

St Ambrose Barlow RC High School's staff and pupil entrance is situated on the main A6, Manchester Road, Swinton which is a main route for pupils from both catchment areas. There are excellent public transport links with two public transport buses (36 and 37) running every 10 minutes past the school. St Ambrose Barlow RC High School currently has a dedicated school bus (925) which transports pupils from the furthest point of St Luke's parish boundary. (see point (e) below).

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

Transport for Greater Manchester currently provides a school bus to transport pupils to school (service number 925). This bus has provided school transport to the pupils of St Ambrose Barlow since 2002 and is a popular, over-subscribed service.

The public bus services 36 and 37 run every 10 minutes and service the Walkden/Little Hulton catchment areas of pupils from St George's RC High School.

Once the demographic dot matrix for transferring St George's RC High school pupils is available, further discussions will take place with Transport for Greater Manchester to ask for due consideration for an additional school bus to support the transferring pupils who live in the Walkden/Little Hulton areas of Salford.

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

The aims of the St Ambrose Barlow RC High School Travel Plan are:

- To reduce the numbers of cars used for the school journey
- To promote sustainable travel options
- To improve road safety and cut down congestion
- To improve the health of our students
- To promote road safety education and make school journeys safer
- Reduce potential accidents, particularly in car 'drop off' areas and 'hotspots' around the school
- To ensure pupils are aware of the best travel cost options available to them

Action priorities within the travel plan include:

- Encourage group walking – younger pupils/older mentors
- Encourage parents to car share
- Promote IGO passes within school
- Encourage staff to car share
- Continue to promote health and safety issues when travelling to school.

At present:

- 42% of pupils walk to school and an even higher proportion 48% walk home from school (this is based on survey carried out in October 2012).
- Use of the school bus (925) has increased.

- Booklet issued to parents and pupils encourages walking and car sharing

Cycling to school

There are no off road cycle routes in the vicinity of the school. There are, however, a few advisory/quiet on road routes which may be useful for staff and pupils, particularly those living to the north east of the site.

Provision has been made within the new development for the drop off of any pupils with mobility or other difficulties affecting independent travel. These pupils will be able to use the disabled spaces which can be accessed via the Ash Drive entrance.

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

The proposal is to enlarge the current premises of St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School. The newly built St Ambrose Barlow building will create a new state of the art technology-rich learning provision for the 21st century. This is linked from 31 August 2014 the proposal is to discontinue St George's Roman Catholic High School.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
 - (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
 - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
 - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
 - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
 - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

a) List of consultees

- Parents/carers of pupils attending St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High school and associated primary schools
- Staff from St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School and their trade union representatives
- The Governing Body at St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School
- Student Council at St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School
- The Roman Catholic Diocesan Boards

b) **Please see at appendix 1 minutes from:**

- Governing Body consultation meeting at St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School.

c) **Please see at appendix 2** - Views of the persons consulted and a copy of the relevant e-mail.

d) All the necessary statutory consultation requirements relating to the proposal have been complied with.

e) **Please see at appendix 3** – Copy of all consultation letter which were also made available

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

Total estimated capital costs are in the region of £4m, to be met from a combination of realignment of planned BSF investment into St George's RC High school and school reorganisation savings.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Record of Decision from Salford LA's cabinet meeting of 22nd January 2013 confirming commitment to fund and undertake the necessary PFI contractual changes, to effect the expansion of St Ambrose Barlow RC High School.

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

N/A

Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

N/A

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

N/A

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

N/A

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

N/A

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

N/A

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

N/A

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

N/A

(c) Evidence —

(i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and

(ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

N/A

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

N/A

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

N/A

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

(a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

N/A

(b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

N/A

(c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

N/A

(d) details of how the provision will be funded;

N/A

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

N/A

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

N/A

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

N/A

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

N/A

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

N/A

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

N/A

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

N/A

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

N/A

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

N/A

20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

(a) In the latest available data, St George's RC High School has 7 pupils with statements of special educational needs, 41 school action and 27 school action plus. At St Ambrose Barlow RC High School these figures are 10 pupils with statements, 78 school action and 27 school action plus. St Ambrose Barlow RC High School is a Flagship School for Inclusion Quality Mark and is soon to be awarded Dyslexia Friendly status. As a National Teaching School St Ambrose Barlow offers specialist inclusion support to other schools in Greater Manchester. The expertise of St Ambrose Barlow's SEN department has been recognised and praised by Inclusion inspectors and examination results for SEN pupils are higher than the national average on leaving school.

(b) Pupils have access to a range of external professionals:
Hearing support, speech and language, ASD, Education Welfare, Occupational therapy SPLD and Inclusion, ADHD, Connexions, Brief Intervention, SEN Admin Caseworker, Inclusion and Access Consultant,

	Young Enterprise Development Manager, Young Enterprise Business Manager
(c)	Accommodation for SEN pupils within St Ambrose Barlow includes: Learning Resource Centre, small group classrooms, one to one support in the form of TA's. All SEN pupils have access to and integrate within mainstream curriculum areas very successfully.
(d)	The proposal will offer fully accessible provision.

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

N/A

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

N/A

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

N/A

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school’s extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

The location of the extended St Ambrose Barlow RC High School is within the Swinton Extended School Cluster area which is delivering the full core-offer of Extended School. The newly built St Ambrose Barlow RC High School will provide additional capacity to further enhance the fully extended services for children, families and communities associated with the school.

Need or demand for additional places

1. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Additional places required due to the proposed closure of St Georges RC High School.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

The demand for Roman Catholic faith based education is evidenced by the continued oversubscription of St Ambrose Barlow RC High School. There is a growing number of Catholic pupils in our feeder primary schools. We are also absorbing what will be the Catholic pupils from St Georges RC High School.

- (a) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

N/A

2. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

N/A

(b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

N/A

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

N/A

Appendix 1

Extracts from St Ambrose Barlow RC High School Governor minutes

Full Governing Body meeting – 6 December 2012

A presentation from Mr M Taylor and Mr M Waller from Hochtief RE Facilities Management preceded the meeting actual.

Travel Plan – Governors were informed that a meeting with some of the residents who lived near the new school took place last week and no objections to the proposed Travel Plan had been received.

St Georges R C High School was recorded as a confidential minute. However, the following recommendations were agreed:

The governing body agreed to link the proposal to close St Georges RC High School to the expansion of St Ambrose Barlow up to a maximum of 1050 places subject to the availability of the appropriate funding.

It was an agreed decision that the Governing Body would give their full support to the Head and Chair in the decisions they make regarding SAB taking on the Catholic pupils of St Georges R C High School.

Management – 10 January 2013

Although there has not been any official confirmation, the Governing Body of St George's held a Full Governing meeting on 7 January 2013 and subsequently met with all staff the following afternoon to inform them of plans to close the school. At the same time Mrs Garside held a brief meeting for our staff informing them of the decision. The authority now want to see copies of our Governing Body minutes agreeing with the closure of St Georges, however, there had been no mention of the Statement of Intent signed on 10 May 2012 by both Chairs of Governors. Mr Conroy, Mr Royle and the Head are on the Core group and a first meeting is expected shortly.

Personnel – 7 February 2013

The Head has been number crunching since her latest meeting regarding accommodating St George's pupils and it is apparent that we cannot house the additional pupils without a radical build on the new site.

Management – 26 February 2013

Updating the Committee on St George's, the Core group had just had their third meeting and the following issues were discussed:

- Up to sixty Year 7 places will be offered to St George's pupils provided they have met our admissions criteria. It has been confirmed by the LA that we are legally within our rights to accept places based on our admissions criteria.
- TUPE was the second item discussed

Appendix 1

- Housing the additional pupils and financing an extra building is a major issue and the Head is due to attend a meeting with John Corrigan, Diocesan Capital Projects School Buildings Officer shortly to discuss the financial elements.

Full Governing Body meeting – 13 March 2013

The minute on St Georges RC High school was recorded as a confidential minute. The following recommendation was made:

It was an agreed decision that the school continues to move towards expanding capacity and pupil transfers from St Georges and that a new staffing structure is drawn up.

ST AMBROSE BARLOW R.C. HIGH SCHOOL RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION LETTER

The following e-mail responses have been received in relation to the consultation letter issued in March 2013.

Received Friday 22.3.13 at 10.35 a.m

From: Shaw Marie [REDACTED]

Dear Sir / Madam

Whilst I have every sympathy with the children currently at St Georges my first concern is for my son who will be moving into Yr 10 in September. The next two years are crucial to his academic future and the influx of children joining the year will unsettle and disrupt peer groups who in the last year have settled and begun to work hard towards their GCSEs, including early entry in two subjects. I understand that existing classes will be split in order to amalgamate the St George's children. This means that children will be displaced from groups they are established with, and could disengage the children from learning as they have to 'find their place' in the class again.

In the school league tables St George's last cohort of school leavers (BBC news website) achieved 33% **less** GCSE's at A* to C than St Ambrose leavers. St Ambrose school has a long standing record of high expectations and aspirations of pupils, which starts from day one in Year 7. I am concerned at the impact on this level of expectation when the St Georges children join with the school directly into Year 10, without having had the same level of support behind them in previous years.

The latest Ofsted reports for St Georges state that levels of teaching are Satisfactory in Maths and Science. With the teaching groups being split there will be a requirement for more teaching staff and I feel that teaching standards will drop if 'Satisfactory' teachers transfer over to the new merged school. I appreciate that training can be given to upgrade these teachers but there will still be an impact on the children in two of the most vital subjects at an important stage of their school career.

The headteacher has dismissed my concerns, stating that this is what happens when the children go to College. I disagree completely with this. Not only are the children two years older and two years more mature, they also have an expectation and a 'gearing up' towards the next stage in their school life along with the successful completion of GCSEs under their belt. The move to the new school has already disrupted this years teaching and learning, with children helping to clear out classrooms instead of participating in lessons, and the additional weeks holiday at Easter to facilitate the move.

I would prefer if St Georges remained open for two years, so that the current yrs 9 and 10 would be taught out at the school. The remaining year groups could amalgamate immediately with St Ambrose meaning there would be consistency of approach for all the pupils who would then move together into Yr 10 with the same ethos and expectations in a year's time.

Regards

Marie Shaw

Received Thursday 21st March at 15.21 pm

Please see attached, my support and arguments for keeping St Georges High School open

From [REDACTED]
To: iain@iainlindley.co.uk
Subject: RE: St George's RC High School
Date: Thu, 21 Mar 2013 15:21:47 +0000

Hi Councillor Lindley

I am Jennie Ennis, the mother of Heather Ennis who was one of the Justice 4 Georges campaigning to keep the school open.

I am sickened and disgusted that the council have starved the school of funding, and am very much behind you in your efforts to keep the school open. I have always truly believed St Georges is a fantastic role model and asset to this community. They help all children to reach their full potential in a very caring environment and should not close as I think the children of this community will be at a massive disadvantage if this happens.

My daughter is now in her 3rd year at Exeter University and would probs not have got this far in her education without the help and support of St Georges of whom I and my daughter feel we are grateful and always indebted to them.

If you need my support or If there is anything I can do to help then just ask

Thank you for contacting me about this matter, and would very much like to be kept in the loop with any info you may have

Thanking you Jenni Ennis

From: iaim@iaimlindley.co.uk
To: iaim@iaimlindley.co.uk
Subject: St George's RC High School
Date: Wed, 20 Mar 2013 18:48:56 +0000

Hello there,

Please accept my apologies for e-mailing you out of the blue. I'm e-mailing you because at some point between 2006 and 2010, you contacted me or one of my colleagues regarding the future of St George's RC High School in Walkden, or you signed the online petition which called for the school to be saved from the proposals put forward by the Council to close the school.

As you will likely be aware, just over two years on from the School Adjudicator's decision to save the school, the Governing Body at St George's have decided that the school should now close, and pupils accommodated at an expanded St Ambrose Barlow in Swinton. A copy of a letter to parents and carers has been uploaded to the school website with further details: <http://www.st-georghigh.salford.sch.uk/downloads/News/Proposed%20Closure.pdf>

As one of the local Councillors for Walkden South, I was deeply disappointed and concerned by the announcement, having supported parents, pupils, staff and the local community in the fight to keep the school open. My view has not changed since 2006; St George's should remain open as long as there is support from the local community.

I'm also very sad that, from my perspective, by refusing to award St George's a fair share of the Building Schools for the Future pot, the Council have effectively starved the school of the required capital funding to the point of submission. However, the Governing Body have made a decision, and I am under no illusions about the difficulty of keeping a school open when the Governing Body have expressed a wish for it to close.

The formal consultation on closure is set to start next week. I appreciate that some of you may have moved away or may no longer be connected with the school, but I'm really keen to hear the views of current or former parents and pupils, and the wider community, on this issue, so that I can make a submission as a local Councillor to the consultation. Both myself and my ward colleague Councillor Les Turner are very keen to hear from you, and I'd be extremely grateful if you could reply to me to let me know what you think about the decision.

As always, if I can be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Best wishes, iaim

Councillor Iain Lindley
Walkden South Ward

Councillor Iain Lindley – representing the people of Walkden South
Visit my website at www.iaimlindley.co.uk.

Received 11th March 2013

M Wadson [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in relation to letter Ref: PJH/AM dated 4 March 2013. Before I feel able to make informed comments I would appreciate it if you clarify a few details.

1. What is the current capacity (before proposed extension) of the new site and is there a max number of pupils per year?
2. The current years 7 to 9 from St George's will be transitioned across in time and be fully integrated in September 2014. What is the number of pupils in this category who may potentially move across?
3. 60 places are available to children who have already applied to St George's for intake of year 7's in 2013. How will the intake criteria alter for future years such as:
 - i. How will the size of each year be affected (ie projected extra number of pupils if St George's was not to close)?
 - ii. How will the catchment area and criteria for admission be affected?

I would be grateful if you could provide me with these details so I am able to provide comments before the end of the informal consultation period.

Kind Regards,

M Wadson

Appendix 2

Received 6.3.2013

From:

Darren Fletcher

To whom it may concern –

As requested please find my views (in red) in relation to the above and closing comments

To close St George's RC High School by 31 August 2014. The closure proposal is linked to the proposal to enlarge St Ambrose Barlow RC High School to create 300 additional places" This expansion will be completed by 1 September 2014.

It's difficult to comment on this proposal without seeing costs for new build against costs to modernise St Georges School, I will however say that I've brought up five children all of which have attended St Georges. This is an excellent School with excellent staff, some of which I've come to know on a personal level. As part of the proposal I think it's only fair that parents get to see costs and benefits detailed within the proposal and why St Georges can't do the same.

To offer all existing St George's pupils a place at the new St Ambrose Barlow High School, once the expansion is complete.

Thankfully my youngest son is in year 9 and will transfer to St Ambrose in September if the proposal goes ahead. I do however feel there maybe a "gap" for Catholic children if St Georges closes. For this reason I would like to see St Ambrose/St Georges current number of pupils (maximum) and proposed number of pupils for St Ambrose once St Georges closes.

To transfer the current Year 9 pupils at St George's to the new St Ambrose Barlow RC High School in September 2013.

Given examinations and the important time for year 9 pupils this simply has to happen.

To transfer the remaining St George's pupils in September 2014.
The current Year 10 St George's pupils will complete their studies on the St George's site.

Don't think there is any other option to this transition given the new build required.

There will be no year 7 curriculum offered at St George's in September 2013. Pupils who have applied for a place at St George's will be able to apply for a place at St Ambrose Barlow, up to 60 places are available, subject to St Ambrose Barlow's admission criteria.

Concern raised above at point 2

In summary sad to see this go ahead however if all the figures add up and there is no impact on our Children then can see the reasons behind it. I think it is important to understand the figures involved and see that pupil maximum numbers are not affected. Please can someone confirm if this will be shared, many thanks.

Appendix 2

Darren Fletcher
07500005506

Regards

Darren

[Redacted signature line]



[Redacted address line]



[Redacted phone number line]



[Redacted mobile number line]



[Redacted email address line]



Ref: PJH/AM

4 March 2013

Proposed Closure of St George's RC High School in 2014 and the transfer of pupils to St Ambrose Barlow RC High School

Dear Parent/Carer

As the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is coming to an end, the Governors of St George's had a difficult decision to make with regards to the future of the school. St George's buildings require considerable investment to deliver a high class educational programme for the future. The current economic climate has drastically reduced the spending available for new school buildings and refurbishments. The Local Authority (LA) in conjunction with Salford Diocese have committed considerable funds to rebuild all the other schools in Salford but they are unable to find the necessary resources to enable the same level of enhancement to the St George's buildings to improve its facilities to make them comparable with the other schools in Salford.

In anticipation of these difficulties alternative proposals have been investigated to ensure that the pupils of St George's RC High School continue to have a first class educational provision including access to enhanced facilities. In discussion between the Governors of St Ambrose Barlow and the Governors of St George's there was the possibility of creating an extension to the new St Ambrose Barlow school building creating an additional 300 school places. It is proposed that by September 2014 St George's will close and all the existing pupils of St George's will be offered a place at the new St Ambrose Barlow RC High School.

The Governors of both schools want to seek your views on these new proposals which are:

- To close St George's RC High School by 31 August 2014. The closure proposal is linked to the proposal to enlarge St Ambrose Barlow RC High School to create 300 additional places. This expansion will be completed by 1 September 2014.
- To offer all existing St George's pupils a place at the new St Ambrose Barlow High School, once the expansion is complete.

- To transfer the current Year 9 pupils at St George's to the new St Ambrose Barlow RC High School in September 2013.
- To transfer the remaining St George's pupils in September 2014.
- The current Year 10 St George's pupils will complete their studies on the St George's site.
- There will be no year 7 curriculum offered at St George's in September 2013. Pupils who have applied for a place at St George's will be able to apply for a place at St Ambrose Barlow, up to 60 places are available, subject to St Ambrose Barlow's admission criteria.

Within the table below, we have provided details of the timetable that needs to be followed to carry out the legal processes for the proposed closure of St George's and the expansion of St Ambrose Barlow RC High Schools.

Action	Date(s)
Informal consultation period	4 March to 22 March 2013
Formal consultation period starts (legal notice published)	28 March 2013
Comments and views to be submitted to the governing body (during the formal consultation period)	28 March 2013 to 8 May 2013
The decision is made by the LA on the linked closure and enlargement proposals	14 May 2013
Works commence to enlarge the new St Ambrose Barlow RC High School (on the Wardley site)	September 2013
St George's RC High School closes	31 August 2014
St Ambrose Barlow RC High School Enlargement Completed	1 September 2014

Further information regarding these proposals can be obtained from the St George's website www.st-georghigh.salford.sch.uk

If you would like to comment on these proposals in writing please either write a letter to the address above or an e-mail can be sent to the following e-mail address

stgeorges.rchighschool@salford.gov.uk


office@ambrose.salford.sch.uk

The Governors will receive all views in this informal consultation period which will run from 4 March to 22 March. The Governors are keen to hear your views and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



Grahame Walker
Chair of Governors of St George's



Philip Royle
Chair of Governors St Ambrose Barlow