

APPENDIX 3A

Analysis of Consultation

Consultation Meetings

Brentwood Early Years Centre

Present:

Cllr Phil Davies (Chairman)

Marie Stacey – LA

Chris Batman – LA

David Armstrong – LA

Sally Gibbs – LA

Phil Edwards – Technician

Jane Tunnicliffe – Headteacher

C Jones – Chair of Governors

Attended by 23 parents, 16 staff members, 6 governors, and 2 other interested persons.

Poulton Primary School

Present:

Cllr Phil Davies (Chairman)

Marie Stacey – LA

Chris Batman – LA

David Armstrong – LA

Sally Gibbs – LA

Phil Edwards – Technician

Tom Howarth - Headteacher

Kay Hobson – Chair of Governors

Attended by 39 parents, 19 staff members, 5 governors, 1 councillor and 12 other interested persons.

30% of pupils were represented by at least one parent/carer.

Park Primary School

Present:

Cllr Phil Davies (Chairman)

Marie Stacey – LA

David Armstrong – LA

Sally Gibbs – LA

Phil Edwards – Technician

Hilary Ryan - Headteacher

Kay Hobson – Chair of Governors

Attended by 83 parents, 19 staff members, 5 governors, 2 councillors and 29 other interested persons.

38% of pupils were represented by at least one parent/carer.

Pensby Infant School

Present:

Cllr Phil Davies (Chairman)

Marie Stacey – LA

Chris Batman – LA

David Armstrong – LA

Sally Gibbs – LA

Phil Edwards – Technician

Lesley Keyworth – Headteacher

Christopher Gitsham – Chair of Governors

Attended by 25 parents, 13 staff members, 9 governors, 1 councillor and 7 other interested persons.

Pensby Junior School

Present:

Cllr Phil Davies (Chairman)

Marie Stacey – LA

Chris Batman – LA

David Armstrong – LA

Marie Lawrence - LA

Sally Gibbs – LA

Phil Edwards – Technician

Graham Johnstone – Headteacher

Mike Collins – Chair of Governors

Attended by 12 parents, 9 staff members, 4 governors, 2 councillors and 1 other interested person.

21% of pupils attending Pensby Infant and Junior collectively were represented by at least one parent/carer.

Pensby Park Primary School

Present:

Cllr Phil Davies (Chairman)

Marie Stacey – LA

Chris Batman – LA

David Armstrong – LA

Sally Gibbs – LA

Phil Edwards – Technician

Michelle Aldersey – Acting Headteacher

Ted Tyndall – Chair of Governors

Attended by 40 parents, 14 staff members, 7 governors, 2 councillors and 9 other interested persons.

46% of pupils were represented by at least one parent/carer.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Present:

Cllr Phil Davies (Chairman)
F. Michael Clarke (Diocese of Shrewsbury)
Marie Stacey – LA
Chris Batman – LA
David Armstrong – LA
Sally Gibbs – LA
Phil Edwards – Technician

Ann Melville – Headteacher
Father John Feeney – Chair of Governors

Attended by 33 parents, 11 staff members, 4 governors, 3 councillors and 28 other interested persons.

36% of pupils were represented by at least one parent/carer.

Castleway Primary School

Present:

Cllr Phil Davies (Chairman)
Marie Stacey – LA
Chris Batman – LA
David Armstrong – LA
Phil Edwards – Technician

Stephen Hughes – Headteacher
Simon Clitheroe – Chair of Governors

Attended by 63 parents, 7 staff members, 4 governors, 3 councillors and 8 other interested persons.

47% of pupils were represented by at least one parent/carer.

Leasowe Primary School

Present:

Cllr Phil Davies (Chairman)
Marie Stacey – LA
Chris Batman – LA
David Armstrong – LA
Phil Edwards – Technician

Roger Flaherty – Headteacher
K Hutchinson – Chair of Governors

Attended by 45 parents, 18 staff members, 3 governors, 3 councillors and 19 other interested persons.

43% of pupils were represented by at least one parent/carer.

Number of responses received by school

Responses	Total	Directly related	Others
Brentwood	16	7	9
Park	30	27	3
Poulton	11	8	3
Other South Wallasey	12		
Pensby Infant	7	7	4
Pensby Junior	4		
Pensby Park	113	36	77
Other Pensby and Thingwall	13		
Castleway	89	64	25
Leasowe	14	10	4
Our Lady of Lourdes	25	8	10
Other Leasowe area	1		

All written responses (forms, letters, e-mails) by respondent category and area

Please note: Totals may not match with previous table as some people fit into more than one category, for example parent and staff.

SOUTH WALLASEY

Category of Respondent	No	%
Parents	33	48
Staff	12	17
Governors	4	6
Other	18	26
Total	69	

A **petition** was received in support of Brentwood Early Years Centre containing 783 entries, of which 376 were incomplete or non-existent addresses, out of borough or persons not on the electoral roll.

Of the remaining 407 entries:

Catchment zone	Percentage
Somerville	46
Poulton	8
Kingsway	7
Park	7
Liscard	6
Riverside	6
Egremont	3
Other Wirral	15

PENSBY AND THINGWALL

Category of Respondent	No	%
Parents	48	35
Staff	5	4
Governors	5	4
Other	88	64
Total	137	

A **petition** was received in support of Pensby Park Primary School containing 770 entries, of which 248 were incomplete or non-existent addresses, out of borough or persons not on the electoral roll.

Of the remaining 522 entries:

Catchment zone	Percentage
Pensby Park	58
Pensby Infant/Junior	16
Other Wirral	26

LEASOWE

Category of Respondent	No	%
Parents	64	50
Staff	27	21
Governors	7	5
Other	41	32
Total	129	

A **petition** was received in support of Castleway Primary School containing 484 entries, of which 143 were incomplete or non-existent addresses, out of borough or persons not on the electoral roll.

Of the remaining 232 entries:

Catchment zone	Percentage
Castleway	53
Leasowe	23
Other Wirral	24

A **petition** was received in support of Leasowe Primary School containing 453 entries, of which 211 were incomplete or non-existent addresses, out of borough or persons not on the electoral roll.

Of the remaining 242 entries:

Catchment zone	Percentage
Leasowe	81
Castleway	4
Other Wirral	15

APPENDIX 3 B

Summary of responses by school

People allied to Poulton Primary School

Falling rolls

- People tend to move in and out of the area

Staff and Standards

- Teachers are friendly, caring and considerate
- Staff are like a second family
- Staff were very helpful when I was training as a teaching assistant
- SEN resources and care are exceptional here
- It's not just about league tables
- Standard of teaching is very high
- Staff work well together as a team
- This will lower staff morale
- Concerns about loss of teaching and non-teaching staff
- Concerned about impact of supply staff on continuity
- Concerns about availability of staff vacancies elsewhere
- Concerns about class sizes

Building and site

- Bigger and better
- New windows have been installed
- Big playground with a separate Foundation play area
- There is a lift installed and ramps outside
- The parking area is great for unloading wheelchairs
- Plenty of safe drop-off areas and good parking
- There is a medical room with special changing facilities
- Full disabled access
- Central Park is used for football and summer PE
- Park would need a bigger extension if we merged there
- Park has tatty portacabins
- Concerns about poor disabled access at other schools
- No nursery class at Park
- Concerns about size of playground at Park

- Building a whole new school would be a waste of money

Pupils

- Children go on to do really well in secondary school
- Children should be able to go to a local school
- Children gain self-esteem and confidence
- Attending a school nursery makes the transition to big school smoother
- My children have never been bullied here
- If Poulton's nursery closes, where will the children go
- Other schools cannot cater for children with special needs
- Disruption to education for children in Year 6
- Children would be split up from their friends if the school was closed
- Importance of extra support for the most vulnerable children in coping with transition
- Welfare of the children is the most important thing to consider

The Process

- Taking away parents choice
- The views of the children haven't been consulted
- Local residents should be consulted
- St George's parents should be consulted about the catchment area changes
- Concerns about length of time it would take to implement proposal
- Why were mobiles taken away before decision was made?
- How does potential cost saving compare with necessary capital investment?
- Would a new school have to be a Foundation school and what is the difference from a Community school?
- Rationale behind potential catchment area alterations

Traffic and transport

- Some people can't afford to travel to other schools
- Concerns about drop off and parking at Park Primary
- Sending more children to Park site will make traffic and drop off worse
- Houses on the Marymount site will make traffic congestion at Park even worse

The Options

- Amalgamation would be better for children as they would move with their friends, and have familiar staff in the new school

- Amalgamation would combine the strengths of the two schools
- Amalgamation would best for the community
- You could close Poulton, but guarantee all the children a place at Park Primary to keep them together
- Why not merge at Poulton and use the money for a new roof
- Could build a new nursery at the Poulton site to make more space in the main building
- Proper sensible consideration must be given to both sites
- Concerns about size of new nursery at Park
- Concerns about availability of places at alternative schools
- Where would children go while building work took place?

Other comments

- School is an important piece of Wallasey history, 100 years old next year
- Generations have been to this school

People allied to Park Primary School

Falling rolls

- Understand need to reduce surplus places
- Understand that pupil numbers are falling
- Park has the lowest number of surplus places
- School is bigger than the 180 viable minimum
- Closing schools causes overcrowding and large class sizes
- This is the school of choice for parents

Staff and Standards

- This is one of the best performing schools in the area
- Staff reward and encourage good behaviour
- There are lots of out of school activities available
- School has a good reputation for academic achievement and discipline
- There is an open door policy and issues are addressed quickly
- Staff are a hard working, dedicated, supportive and friendly team
- School has a happy, friendly atmosphere and positive ethos
- Teacher-parent relationships are good
- The headteacher and staff know all the children
- Larger schools lose their community spirit

- School keeps parents well informed and involved in school life
- Standards would go down if amalgamated
- Amalgamation would disrupt two sets of staff instead of just one
- New school would not have the same ethos, staff or governors
- Results are on an upward trend
- I don't want my child taught by under-performing teachers
- This is a happy place to work
- Staff would welcome the challenge of bringing more pupils and their families into the school community
- High standards of teaching

Building and site

- Central Park location is safe, calm and accessible
- The site is secure and well set back from the road
- School uses Central Park as a grassed area for PE
- Excellent facilities
- Poulton's playground is unappealing

Pupils

- Children get certificates for 100% attendance
- Children are well cared for, polite and keen to go to school
- Children go on to do really well in secondary school
- Children gain self-esteem and confidence here
- Concerns about educational disruption, particularly for those in Year 6
- Attending a school nursery provides a smooth transition to school
- My child is happy and settled here
- Children get more individual attention in a small school
- Children need stability and to feel safe and comfortable
- Former Poulton children would need more attention so my child would get less

The Process

- Important to make a speedy decision to remove uncertainty
- Numbers and graphs mean nothing in the real world
- It is sad that money comes before children's education
- Consultation meeting wasn't long enough
- You've already made a decision

- Taking away parents choice
- New housing will bring in more children

Traffic and transport

- Out of zone children come here which shows how popular the school is
- Children can walk to school without crossing major roads

The Options

- Why disrupt Park by amalgamating it when it is doing so well
- The special quality of Park would be lost if it was amalgamated
- Closing Poulton and dispersing the children would help with surplus places at more schools
- Closing Poulton would disrupt less children
- Would there be enough places for all the children of both schools if amalgamated?
- Building work would be disruptive
- All primary schools would be better with a nursery class
- I don't want my child to go to Poulton as children are from different backgrounds
- Would have gone to Poulton already if that was what I wanted
- Better to amalgamate at Park site
- A nursery class would take up surplus space at Park
- A nursery class means children can go to same school as older brothers and sisters
- There is room at Park to accommodate more children if required
- Leave both schools open so that children are not upset

Other comments

- Cost per pupil is lower than Wirral average
- This is a much loved school
- Friends of Park (Parents Association) does a lot for the school
- Generations have gone to this school

People allied to Brentwood Early Years Centre

Staff and Standards

- Staff are friendly, helpful, dedicated, qualified and understanding
- Staff communicate well with parents
- Staff are familiar with the SEN statementing procedures and paperwork

- High standards of education
- Has a warm, friendly, positive and happy atmosphere
- Provides training to students from secondary schools and colleges
- School provides support and training for Children's Centre workers
- Has recently achieved Healthy School status
- Has received good Ofsted inspection reports
- This is an extended school
- Inclusive
- Important to have trained teachers in early years provision
- Recommended by Social Services

Building and site

- There is plenty of grounds for children to play in safely and exercise
- Offers a clean, safe and secure environment
- Day nursery is open 48 weeks of the year, 8 am to 6 pm
- The site is secure and well set back from the road
- Children can learn about trees and plants
- Excellent facilities
- A purpose built nursery in excellent condition

Pupils

- My child's special needs could not have been met anywhere else
- My child has come on leaps and bounds
- Children gain confidence here
- I would not put my child in a school nursery class
- I don't want my child mixing with junior pupils

The Process

- This is not a school, so why does it complete the annual census?
- Children's happiness is more important than cutting costs

Traffic and transport

- Some parents do not have cars and would find it difficult to travel anywhere else

The Options

- Other children with special needs will need Brentwood in future
- Parent must have access to early years places to enable them to work or attend further education

- There is nowhere else in Wallasey for preschool children with special needs
- I could not afford daycare at private preschools
- Somerville can take pupils from other schools if they close or combine
- Closing Brentwood will create overcrowding in nursery classes and schools
- You have said that the F1 provision would be replaced at local schools, but what about the daycare facility?
- It would be difficult to recreate this facility somewhere else
- Somerville's preschool is too small to take anymore children
- Waste of investment to close

Other comments

- Free nursery places are not available anywhere else
- Generations have gone to this nursery
- Nursery has been open since 1946
- It would be a loss to the community if it closed
- Why is it that we can only admit children after their 3rd birthday, instead of at 2 and a half like the private sector?

People allied to Leasowe Primary School

Falling rolls

- School roll has fallen, but has now stabilised
- The state of the old building is the main reason why parents chose to go elsewhere
- Entry to F2 has recently increased
- New housing will bring more children into the area

Staff and Standards

- Good relationship and combined activities with Wallasey School
- Staff are dedicated and experienced
- Has had three good Ofsted reports
- Weak features on last Ofsted report will now have been resolved
- Staff go out of their way to make school an enjoyable experience and get the best out of every child
- There are lots of after school activities
- Caters well for children with special needs
- Works closely with community

- Family and adult learning courses run from the school
- Behaviour has improved dramatically in the new building
- School participates in various external schemes including music and PE
- Concerns about quality of teachers arriving through redeployment
- Standards are rising
- Attendance is going up

Building and site

- In the centre of estate
- We have waited a long time for a new building, don't take it away now
- More classrooms can be built if necessary
- Secure and safe, away from the main road
- Excellent facilities
- Forms almost a campus with Wallasey School and the City Learning Centre
- The site is secure and well set back from the road
- Can meet children's needs into the future
- Classrooms and equipment at Castleway and Our Lady of Lourdes are not as good
- We use facilities at Wallasey School, the CLC and the leisure centre
- Purpose built
- 100% suitability rating
- Cannot build on at Our Lady of Lourdes site because it is on landfill
- Why move children from a superior building to an inferior one?
- Concerns about PFI contract
- Authority allowed old building to fall down with detrimental effect on numbers, they are now going up again

Traffic and Transport

- Concerns about increased traffic on access road
- Travel plan in place which could be expanded if necessary

Pupils

- Children already know pupils at Wallasey School, so less chance of bullying
- There has been enough disruption with the move to the new building, don't make any more
- My children love the new school and are happy to go every day

- Attendance rates are good
- Children go on to do really well in secondary school
- Concerns about disruption to children's education
- Children would benefit by moving to Leasowe Primary
- My child is happy and settled here
- If pupils move to schools outside the area it will make surplus places worse in Leasowe
- Concerns about excluded pupils or bullies returning to their former school

The Options

- Should close Our Lady of Lourdes as is smallest school
- You will not close a Catholic school
- How much influence do the Church have on decisions?
- Can the Authority withdraw funding from Our Lady of Lourdes
- Could put a joint faith school at Leasowe site in the heart of the estate
- Makes sense to have one community and one joint faith school
- Why does Our Lady of Lourdes have a "no action" option?
- What impact would there be on admissions?
- This site must continue as a primary school
- Would there be funding for additional classrooms if they were needed?
- Concerns about costs of amalgamating on Leasowe rather than Castleway

Other comments

- This is a different community to the other two schools
- Free meals levels are high here
- Generations have gone to this school
- Comparative costs for the three schools

People allied to Castleway Primary School

Falling rolls

- Understand need for the review
- Falling rolls are a poor excuse to close schools
- New housing developments will bring in more children as more families will move into the area
- Families in this deprived area tend to have more than one or two children

- Many children come here from out of zone
- This is the school of choice for parents in the area
- This is the largest school in the area with the least number of surplus places

Staff and Standards

- This is the best and most popular school in the area
- It is the Council's fault the school is in Special Measures
- School is in Special Measures because funding has been cut
- Should be out of Special Measures before end of 2008
- Standards vary at all schools over time
- Teachers make education fun
- Staff are dedicated, hard working, caring and understanding
- Staff have good rapport with parents
- Staff identified my child's special needs
- Attendance levels are high
- Good behaviour is rewarded
- Exclusion rate is low
- Has whole school assemblies
- Castleway is higher in the league tables
- Value added is significantly better than Leasowe
- Other schools have not had an Ofsted under the new inspection regime
- League tables do not reflect excellent teaching and care
- Was a Beacon School for Behaviour from 2000 to 2003
- Good reputation for ICT
- Small schools are better than large schools
- Concerns about increased class sizes
- Many after school activities
- Participates in various external schemes such as Children's University
- Each school has a different flavour
- Warm, friendly, family orientated atmosphere
- Additional children and their families would be welcomed

Building and site

- Large light classrooms and hall, with good playground access
- Garden and climbing frame

- Compact building
- The building may need work, it is what happens inside that counts
- Castleway has two entrances where Leasowe has only one
- Should take away the temporary buildings
- There is space to expand if necessary
- Would a new school have better facilities than now?
- School uses St Chad's Church for nativity and harvest festivals
- Family groups use the school
- Safe and stable environment
- Leasowe's new building has not been inspected by Ofsted
- Refurbishing would be cheaper than building another school
- Easy access from the car park
- Our Lady of Lourdes is built on marshland and may subside in future
- You would have to build on less rooms here than at Leasowe
- Building a new school would be a waste of money
- Concerns about lack of parking at other schools
- What would happen to the site if the school closed
- Can we go and look round Leasowe Primary School?

Pupils

- Children go on to do really well in secondary school
- Children are happy, well-behaved and settled
- School teaches children moral values and manners
- Children with SEN are nurtured
- Bullying is rare and is sorted out by the school
- Children are treated as individuals
- Disaffected children integrate well here
- For children from difficult backgrounds, school provides stability
- The other schools have a problem with bullying
- Some parents have taken their children out of Leasowe to come to Castleway
- Concerns about educational disruption, particularly for those in Year 6
- Uprooting children would do more bad than good
- Concerns about disruptive pupils at Leasowe
- Other schools would not meet my child's additional needs

- Will other schools make our children welcome?
- I would prefer to home-school my child if Castleway closed

The Process

- Taking away parents choice
- Other two schools have not had an Ofsted report under the new system, you should wait until then
- Why has Special Measures been used as a reason to review the school?
- No pupils have transferred out since Special Measures
- In other reviews closures were only for small schools
- As the government keeps taxing us and putting more money into schools there should be no reason to close any school
- Cheaper to keep school open than close it
- Council just wants to sell the land
- Council has already made an agreement with a developer
- Council has already made a decision
- We will not be dictated to by people who are only concerned about money, not our children
- Trying to force us to go to Leasowe
- Waste of money to amalgamate schools
- Would receiving schools get additional funding for the extra children?
- Would Castleway staff run the amalgamated school?

Traffic and transport

- Children can walk to school without crossing busy Twickenham Drive
- School is close to my house
- The majority of children walk to Castleway
- If children had to travel further there would be more risk of road accidents
- Distance to Leasowe Primary
- Some people will not be able to afford bus fares
- Car traffic would be increased if more children were on one site
- Concerns about traffic congestion at Leasowe site
- I would have to travel out of the area if Castleway closed
- No entrance to Leasowe from the main road
- Parents may decide to keep children home on wet cold days rather than travel to Leasowe

The Options

- Close Our Lady of Lourdes as it is the smallest school
- Close Leasowe Primary
- Amalgamate Leasowe and Our Lady of Lourdes
- Amalgamate all three schools and build a new school on a central site
- If have to amalgamate, use Castleway site
- Leasowe could be used for something else - as a sixth form block for Wallasey School or for Solar School services
- There should be a school at either end of the estate
- You can't close Leasowe as you have a long lease and it would be a waste of money
- I don't want my child to go to Leasowe as children are from different background
- Council will not want to take on the Catholic Church
- Not all parents would want to go to Leasowe in an amalgamation so my child would be separated from their friends
- Unfair to close school just because it is in Special Measures
- No school should be closed
- My children are C of E and I would not want them to attend a Catholic school
- Our Lady of Lourdes already takes children of all faiths, will not make any difference if it is joint denominational

Other comments

- We moved house to get into Castleway
- School is managing its budget
- Why was a new Leasowe Primary built when there were not enough children to fill it?
- School trip to Moreton Shore and Common at end of year
- I will call for a Council Tax strike and sit-ins at the school if it closes
- Generations have gone to this school
- School provides stability in the community
- If school closed my milk round would be affected
- Does "Education, education, education" mean close as many schools as possible?

People allied to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Falling rolls

- Understand reasons for review
- Number on roll is stable
- Number on roll will increase
- Small schools have educational and pastoral benefits
- Numbers are skewed by small Year 4
- This is an area of high child poverty where schools are particularly important and should not be closed
- Diocese predict 125 on roll plus nursery
- Surplus places have already been removed
- Three of the five Catholic schools within a 2 mile radius are full

Staff and Standards

- Staff are dedicated, hard working and caring
- School has excellent Extended facilities -breakfast and afterschool club
- Teachers are friendly and easy to talk to
- This is the best school in the area
- Ofsted say school has outstanding leadership and good education
- Works closely with the community
- Open, helpful and informal ambience
- High standards of education
- Bullying is addressed firmly and fairly
- School has improved
- Other schools would not meet my child's additional needs
- Open door policy for parents and children to discuss issues
- PTA organises fund raising events and makes toast at breaktimes
- Many after school activities
- Only school in area with free after school clubs
- Participates in outward bound residential course for pupils
- Links with a school in France
- Chair of Governors supports the school well
- Teachers make learning an adventure
- Removed from Special Measures in 2005
- Best value added in the area
- Like an extended family

- Caring, nurturing and inclusive
- Health promoting school
- Supportive of families experiencing difficulties
- Holiday and breakfast club

Building and site

- Garden
- Advantages of having church building close by
- Football goals and an adventure playground

Pupils

- Children gain confidence and self-esteem
- Children go on to do really well in secondary school
- Pupils excluded from other schools do well here
- Children's social, emotional and physical needs are met
- Children are treated as individuals
- Children are happy, enthusiastic and caring
- Children with SEN would be upset by a move
- All children are treated with respect regardless of religion
- First priority for access to Catholic secondary schools would be lost if children went to community schools
- Every child really does matter here

The Process

- Closure would take away parents choice

Joint-denominational option

- Happy to have a joint-denominational school
- Would show how we can all work together
- Concern about loss of existing schools' ethos and spirit
- School's ethos would be strengthened by joint-denomination
- Opportunity to be a flag-ship school
- Inter-denominational school would contribute to community cohesion
- St Mary's College would be interested in using a Multi-faith centre
- Diocese could not afford to build a new school on a new site
- No CE school in Wallasey at present
- Multi function centre would remove surplus places

Closure option

- Why is closure even being considered
- Parents should be able to choose a faith school if they want one
- The only faith school accessible to Leasowe and south Wallasey Village
- Close links with Parish
- Faith schools provide a rock in a moral declining society
- Taking away a religious school would damage the community
- No more Catholic education on the estate
- Money spent on building would be wasted if school closed

Traffic and transport

- Difficulty and cost of travelling to alternative Catholic schools
- Dangerous road between here and Sacred Heart

Other comments

- School has had budget surpluses for the last two years
- All three schools are expensive to maintain

People allied to Pensby Infant School

Falling rolls

- What are class sizes like at other schools?

Staff and Standards

- Very good school
- Good Ofsted reports
- Has won various awards
- Concerns about staff redeployment
- Concerns about standards at Junior school
- Infant and Junior working together to address concerns
- Nottingham University uses teachers to train other teachers
- National shortage of headteachers
- Infant head could be head of new primary school
- Good reputation

Building and site

- Building work should be managed for minimal disruption to running of the school
- Concerns about sufficient play area after new build

Pupils

- Concerns about educational disruption

The Process

- Documents are biased in favour of primary schools, what about the positives of separate schools
- Lessons must be learnt from previous amalgamations

The Options

- Children usually go on to the Junior school anyway
- Sensible to amalgamate smaller schools
- Happy in separate schools, why change it?
- Should close Pensby Park, keeping Infant and Junior separate until new building is ready, then amalgamate
- New school could include the Children's Centre and other community amenities
- Would amalgamated school have a single headteacher?
- Can you guarantee funding for a new school building?

Other comments

- School has had financial problems for a long time, managed by careful planning

People allied to Pensby Junior School

Falling rolls

- Surplus places means smaller class sizes
- Financial savings are not the first priority
- If everyone went to their zone school, would this be a problem?

Staff and Standards

- No longer any educational advantage to keeping a separate Junior school

Building and site

- Who owns the school sites?

Pupils

- Concerns about educational disruption

The Process

- Why weren't there options for Heswall?
- Need a stable long term solution
- Another school has not abided by the Authority's media protocol, what impact will this have on Cabinet's decision

The Options

- Sensible to amalgamate smaller schools
- Happy in separate schools, why change it?
- Close Pensby Park, but keep the Infant and Junior separate for now, then amalgamate when the new school is built at the Infant/Junior site
- Any solution which leaves small schools means the problem will return again and again
- Should keep primary school in the heart of the community, not on the Pensby High site
- Can we trust the politicians to build a new school?
- As long as new school is all-through primary, location does not matter much
- We want to see a new school being built before we amalgamate
- Three schools cannot be educationally or financially viable
- New school would allow community needs to be addressed, such as Children's Centre

People allied to Pensby Park Primary School

Falling rolls

- Understand need to review surplus places and rationalise assets
- People move here just before they have children
- Older residents will eventually be replaced by younger people who will have children
- Admissions have been artificially low for years because of scaremongering and Council reviews
- Number on roll does not accurately reflect the school's popularity
- Predictions are unreliable
- Parents who might have chosen Pensby Park have gone elsewhere because of a belief the school will close
- Rolls would increase if school stays open as threat of closure is lifted
- We will work hard to improve the school's profile and attract more pupils
- We want more government funding to continue to operate the school at this size
- More families will move into the area to fill the surplus places
- Less surplus places than Infant and Junior
- Concerns about availability of places in other schools outside Pensby
- What if more places are needed in the future

- Birth rate calculation is flawed

Staff and Standards

- Recommended by friends
- Special and unique school
- Staff are supportive, approachable, friendly, caring and understanding
- League tables say school is value for money
- Inclusion is encouraged
- Excellent, dedicated and skilful recent leadership
- Excellent and improving Ofsted reports
- Concerns about lack of leadership, low morale and large classes in other schools
- The best staff are now leaving and being replaced with temporary staff
- Continuous provision must be maintained in any new school
- Becoming increasingly difficult to deliver the curriculum with falling numbers on roll
- Good teacher:pupil ratio
- School caters for both sexes, all religions, cultures and abilities
- School works closely with Orrets Meadow Special school
- Links with Calday Grammar and Hilbre
- Participates in various external schemes such as Children's University
- Anti-bullying policy in place
- After school activities
- Good behaviour is rewarded
- Children benefit from a small school environment
- Concerns about increased class sizes
- Children get more attention in small classes
- Teachers cannot control classes with over 40 pupils
- Large schools hinder children's future prospects
- Ofsted reports should be more available

Building and site

- Successful pre-school on same site as school
- Modern well maintained building
- No graffiti or vandalism
- Safe and stimulating environment

- Full disabled access and ramps
- Excellent playground equipment
- ICT suite
- Cycle shelter
- Space to build more classrooms or a Children's Centre
- Close to Pensby High schools and sports centre
- Site could be used temporarily while building work went on elsewhere
- Concerns about the future of the land if the school closed
- Large field which is well used in the summer
- Money spent on building would be wasted if school closed

Pupils

- Concerns about educational disruption, particularly for Y6
- Children of all ages interact
- My children are already facing family problems they do not need more disruption
- Some vulnerable children do not cope well with change
- Children are treated as individuals, not numbers
- Many children attend Sunday school
- Parents are already pulling their children out of the school
- Children's education must be safeguarded while this is going on
- Children go on to do really well in secondary school
- Disabled and able-bodied pupils are integrated
- Concerns about psychological and behavioural effects on children
- Concerns about bullying in other schools
- My child's special needs would not be met anywhere else
- Children are happy, polite and well mannered
- Would children have to go back to a school they had left?
- My child does not like crowded and noisy atmospheres
- Children who go to large primary schools cost more later on because they need more help

The Process

- Consultation meeting was not long enough
- Projected figures are misleading and inaccurate
- Council decided to keep the school open in 2000, why is it proposed for closure now?

- School has been under review for years
- You are putting financial considerations ahead of children and parents interests
- Statistics can be used to prove anything
- Pensby Park has been treated unfairly
- Taking away parent's choice
- Who is looking after children's interests?
- Needs of the few are being overlooking in favour of penny pinching, bureaucracy and jobs worth attitudes
- Authority is playing upon parents fears so the school will close itself
- Council does not care about the outcome of their decisions
- The consultation is a waste of time as the Council does not listen
- Taking too long to make a decision will unsettle everyone
- Consultation pack (*Cabinet report?*) arrived on December 14th which did not allow time to change my admission preferences
- School does not have 25% surplus places
- 25% surplus is not a statutory reporting requirement
- Net capacity calculation assumes 30 children in a class
- More people would have complained about the schools closure if were not for the proposed health centre

Traffic and transport

- Travel plan includes walking bus which is healthy and pupils enjoy
- Do not want to take children to two different locations
- Car traffic congestion would be increased as further to travel
- Too far to walk to Irby or Thingwall if I do not want either a Catholic school or separate Infant/Junior schools
- I would have to travel out of the area if the school closed
- I do not drive and would not be able to travel to another school

The Options

- Would my two children be able to go to the same school?
- Should amalgamate Infant and Junior as parents and children expect to go on to Junior anyway
- Makes sense to amalgamate Infant and Junior as they are on the same site
- Better to have continuous primary school not separate schools
- Pupils of different ages can interact more in a primary school

- Separate Infant and Junior schools do not allow older and younger children to interact
- I chose Pensby Park because I did not want separate Infant and Junior schools
- Leave Pensby Park alone
- Closure would not benefit anyone
- School should stay open as a Church of England school
- Strong links with the Parish
- CE status would bring more funding to the school
- Amalgamate all three schools as a Church of England school on the Pensby Park site
- Must ensure sustainable primary education in the area which may mean amalgamation
- I would refuse to take my child to school if amalgamation takes place
- Why merge with a school with a poor reputation and results?
- You are closing the school so you can build a health centre

Other comments

- Closure would be detrimental to the whole community
- We have already moved our child rather than wait for the uncertainty to be resolved
- Would there be enough pre-school places in the area?
- Governors say the school has no financial problems
- We would rather move out of Wirral if the school closed
- Any reduction in amenities would affect house prices
- Generations have gone to this school
- What happened to “Education, education, education”?

Other comments from the Pensby and Thingwall area

Falling rolls

- Concerns about potentially increased class sizes at neighbouring schools in future
- Pensby Park could be viable in future, if still small

Staff and standards

- Pensby Park has a distinctive atmosphere and culture

Building and site

- Building could be redeveloped after closure as an Extended school centre for working parents used by all the schools in the area

Traffic and Transport

- Concerns about increased traffic in Fishers Lane if Pensby Park site is used for amalgamation
- Inadequate safe crossing points on Fishers Lane

The Process

- Do not let any bad feeling that may have been caused affect your judgement
- Parents should have the opportunity to choose Pensby Park rather than the more structured and traditional approach of the Infant and Junior schools

The Options

- Creating another CE school seems like a waste of money
- Aided schools can be seen as elitist, if CE option goes ahead it should be a Controlled school with an open admission policy

Other comments

- All governors first priority is the education and well being of children