

APPENDIX A
Summary of responses
People allied to Cole Street Primary School

Falling rolls

- Decision should not be based on how many pupils are here
- Surrounding area is being rejuvenated
- More families will come here
- People are still sending children here even with the threat of closure
- You should take into account numbers of nursery children
- School has already lost 30 children since last October
- Understand that the LA has to make changes because of surplus places

Staff and Standards

- First rate school with excellent teaching
- Headteacher has been very supportive and has gone out of her way to help
- Full of fun
- Going from strength to strength
- Friendly and inclusive
- Teachers will be lost
- Dinner ladies and lollypop man are great
- Teachers are dedicated and support children and parents
- A good school that will improve
- My child's special needs were diagnosed and this would never have happened without the support of teachers at Cole Street
- Cole Street is the best equipped school to deal with my child's special needs
- School helped me get into a good secondary school
- Staff are approachable, excellent and irreplaceable
- Cathcart Street does not have a very good reputation
- Many Cole Street pupils have passed the 11 plus exam
- Excellent extra-curricular activities, summer fairs, Christmas plays
- Smaller class sizes are better
- Wirral has no redeployment scheme and jobs are scarce

Building and site

- Good practical building, recently refurbished
- Cathcart has many classrooms in portacabins
- Cole Street is a historic building, Cathcart Street is not
- Secure, solid and well maintained, no vandalism
- Big enough for the children of both schools
- Scope for expansion into nearby buildings
- Sufficient outdoor play with three playgrounds
- The grassed area outside could be incorporated
- Birkenhead Park is used for outdoor and sports activities so there is more green space than at Cathcart Street
- Cathcart has repeated vandalism and is broken into in the holidays
- Cathcart is rundown and prefabricated
- Cathcart would need more classrooms to house all the children
- No scope for expansion at Cathcart Street
- Cathcart is in an industrial area – health and safety concerns
- No outdoor space at Cole Street – my children are bored with nothing to do
- Facilities are not as good at Cathcart Street
- If there will not be a new building, why is Cole Street still closing
- Closing a perfectly sound working school when the reason for doing so has gone is economic vandalism
- Room to house several small schools

The Process

- Has not been enough consultation on the new school in the Park
- Only English Heritage were consulted about a school in the park, why not parents
- Frank Field said that there had been a delay in applying for funding and this is why we're not getting a new school
- You have not done enough research when choosing which schools to close
- Pupils, parents and staff have been treated unfairly
- A full consultation has not been carried out
- You have picked on the school with more pupils and happy pupils than those who attend Cathcart Street or Christ Church

- Cathcart pupils should come to Cole Street because there is fewer of them
- Moving pupils to Cole Street would allow the demolition of Cathcart Street so a new school can be built
- A triple move defies logic
- Parents have not been invited to visit Cathcart Street
- Frank Field said the school should stay open
- Lack of clarity, sharing of information has been vague and insulting
- Should not have allocated pupils to F2 if the school was going to close
- No places in other schools

Pupils

- My child has made great progress here
- Children would miss their friends
- Moving school would affect children's confidence, they would go back into their shells
- Children love coming to school
- My children are happy, settled and excelling in all their subjects
- Moving my children will be detrimental to their education and push their development back
- Moving to a bigger school with more children would mean my kids would have more mates
- If school closes my children will not go to Cathcart Street or Christ Church
- If children do not go to Cathcart Street you will be left with empty places again
- If I thought Cathcart Street was a better school I would already have sent my child there
- Concerned about effect on the 11 plus
- My children may find it hard to be accepted in a new school

Traffic and transport

- Many parents do not own a car, low income families
- Having to travel an extra half a mile to another school is an erosion of public services
- Easy to get to Cole Street
- I choose to send my children to Cole Street even though it takes an hour to walk to school
- We have moved house closer to Cathcart Street but I kept my child in Cole Street

- I would have to give up my college course if it took longer to travel to school

Financial

- Understand the Government has changed and the economic downturn has seen school building developments scrapped
- Council should support the school until the number of children goes up again as an investment in the children and community, offset by the saving in staff retirement costs
- This is all about economics and not what is best for children

Other comments

- Generations have gone to this school
- Open for 80 years
- My family is very distressed
- My memories would be crushed
- Heart of the community
- Historic school, landmark in the community
- Upset that the building will be used after the school closes
- May as well close Birkenhead Park as well