

Summary of responses

Overall funding issues

- It costs a lot to educate the children, but don't they deserve it?
- This is all about money
- Council wants to sell the land
- More staff would be needed at the other schools which would cost more
- Can the Council put money into the Dedicated Schools Fund from other budgets?
- These children will always be expensive due to their physical and medical needs and will be equally expensive at another school
- Should give the school more money to keep it going
- Taking money from another school to keep Lyndale going would mean less money for the children at that school
- The dedicated schools grant is ring fenced so closing the school doesn't save any money for the Council, it is merely redistributed
- Council has admitted there is no saving from closing the school
- Looking into donations from the business community to bridge the £70,000 gap
- I am happy to pay a bit more on my council tax
- If funding arrangements for transport change parents may opt to send their children to a more local school
- Could appeal to the D of E for additional funding

Capital

- How much is the Elleray Park extension costing and where is the money coming from?
- Council is wasting money on ridiculous things like exercise equipment in parks and town hall renovations
- Why not spend the money for extensions on keeping Lyndale open instead
- Lyndale has had substantial investment over the years, including charities money, to make safe stimulating environment
- School has been underfunded over many years and relies on donations for equipment
- Will Stanley school be extended?
- Elleray Park and Stanley have both had recent investment and this would clearly influence parental choice and impact on Lyndale
- The public have raised £80,000 to install a sensory garden

Appendix 6 – List Of Issues Raised At The Public Meetings

Funding bands

- What is the national average spend on PMLD children compared with the spend on Lyndale children?
- What is the definition for Band 5 as there is a significant difference in funding for Band 4 and Band 5?
- Band 5 funding is less than under the old place-led funding system
- Elleray Park may have 44% of PMLD children but how many Band 5 children does it have?
- What is the methodology for the top up bands?
- What is the definition of PMLD?

Lyndale School size

- After the last consultation it said there should be two primary CLD schools for 200 pupils
- Larger schools harbour more infections
- There are only a small number of PMLD children so Lyndale will always be small
- Lyndale did not choose to specialise in children with PMLD but now parents with less profound children do not choose it
- Consultation document does not give positives of a small school
- When does a small school become a financially viable large school?
- In 2011 it was recommended to close Kingsway Primary as a small school but it is still open so officers were incorrect to recommend closure and are incorrect now
- Children would not cope in a larger school

Health and Safety of the Lyndale pupils

- Children would miss their friends
- I would not want my child interacting with children with different special needs
- Moving school would be an upheaval for children
- Options will compromise children's education
- Pleased with child's progress here
- Concerns about safety of children
- Children's health is very fragile and many have life-limiting conditions
- Children at Stanley and Elleray Park have behavioural problems and autism and may attack my child who cannot defend themselves
- Children's oxygen or feeding tubes might be pulled out by other children

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- Many children can do nothing for themselves and need the constant attention of an adult 24 hours a day
- Concerns about communal lunch and assembly at Elleray Park
- Concerns about impact on existing pupils at other two schools
- Concerned children would be left in a corner and not educated
- Children have been dealt a bad card in life and need support
- Slightest change in daily routines can be devastating
- Concerns about teaching able-bodied children alongside disabled children
- Concerns about impact of seeing Lyndale children's medical needs on Stanley or Elleray Park children
- Stanley has an open door policy and staff are like an extended family
- Understand that Elleray Park and Stanley can provide for Wirral's children really well
- Lyndale children will still receive excellent care and attention at either of the other primary schools and when they transfer to secondary CLD schools
- Stanley and Elleray Park each have a single entrance so how will children all arrive and be offloaded safely by escorts

Future of the Lyndale staff

- Concerns about future of staff
- Teachers expertise is invaluable
- No redeployment policy in place for staff
- All staff work as a team
- Gone out of their way to meet the needs of my child
- Supportive, hard working dedicated, caring, professional and understanding staff
- Staff are devoted to dealing with each child's individual needs – personalised learning
- All the children have similar needs and staff know them well
- Full time nursing staff
- If the Council can ring fence children's centre staff why not Lyndale staff?
- Staff would like help from HR earlier in the process
- Would put additional strain on teachers and would take a lot of hard work to ensure a smooth transition
- Some of the teaching staff and assistants could be retained in their new schools

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Assessment of children

- Children's needs are not all the same and they should be treated as individuals
- Who will carry out the needs assessment on the children and will parents be involved?
- How would children be allocated to other schools if Lyndale closes? Will parents have a choice?
- Will out of borough places be funded if that is what parents want?
- Would need to ensure there are sufficient staff at the other schools who are suitably skilled and experienced
- Would children be mixed in with the Stanley/Elleray Park children or segregated in separate classrooms?
- Would want the staff to move with the children as much as possible to give parents some security and ensure care needs are met
- I was told the Statementing officer would choose the best school for my child to go to and they chose Lyndale so what has changed?
- Neither of the other two schools are suitable for my child
- Importance of continuity with their peer group

Hydrotherapy pools and physical environment

- Classrooms need to be large because of the wheelchairs and other equipment, and space needed to stretch on the floor
- Accessible sensory garden
- Soft play room and sensory rooms
- Physiotherapy, speech and language and other therapy and medical rooms
- Children love the wheelchair bikes
- If new space being built at Elleray Park is used for Lyndale children the school will be overcrowded again
- Children would have less space in another school
- Children would get less time in the hydrotherapy pool if there were more children
- Building work is noisy and would upset autistic children
- Lyndale has an emergency nurse call button in every room
- Stanley School is a low arousal environment due to all the autistic children who go there, but Lyndale children need stimulus
- Why was Stanley built with hoisting equipment when there are no children there who need it?

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- Stanley does not have the facilities for high needs PMLD pupils
- The hydrotherapy pool at Elleray Park is too small
- The other two schools do not have hydrotherapy pools
- No suitable outdoor space at either of the other two schools
- Could knock down walls at Lyndale to make larger classrooms
- Keeping Lyndale maintains a geographical spread of special schools
- Do the other schools have the same facilities as Lyndale?
- Stanley School has got a brand new building and Elleray Park is being improved
- Playground at Stanley has road markings for drop off which confuses some children
- Should have thought about this when Stanley was being rebuilt
- Document says it is unlikely that free transport would change, it should be guaranteed
- The hydrotherapy pool at Lyndale is shared with children with other schools
- Would the buildings be ready for when the school closes?

Pupil numbers

- Other special schools have taken more children than they should
- Constant threat of closure and uncertainty puts parents off
- Parents have not been told Lyndale was an option or have been discouraged from coming here
- Council should make children come to Lyndale
- Council should promote/publicise the school to encourage more children to come here
- If Elleray Park is over its numbers wouldn't it make sense for some of the children with PMLD to go to Lyndale
- Now Lyndale has had all this press coverage a lot more parents will want to come here so numbers will increase
- Children attending other special schools would benefit from attending Lyndale
- Council could bring back expensive out of borough pupils to go to Lyndale
- Lyndale should seek admissions from Cheshire and North Wales, paid for by those authorities
- Children from the immediate area should be given the opportunity to attend Lyndale

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- Numbers and complexity of PMLD children is rising nationally and will be the same in Wirral
- Numbers of children with CLD are increasing
- Other two schools are already oversubscribed
- Council is obliged to provide capacity for future projected pupils
- There is already a waiting list for Stanley
- Projecting future numbers would be like consulting a crystal ball
- If there is the capacity at the other two schools then the children from Lyndale should be offered these places
- Restricting places at Elleray Park and Stanley would lead to possible under occupancy and no financial benefit
- How will you fit children into the other two schools if they are already full?
- Fewer special schools means less flexibility
- There is a shortage of primary school places across the country because schools have been closed short-sightedly
- Figures in the consultation document are misleading

Retaining the Lyndale ethos

- My child loves coming to school here
- My child is happy, safe and well looked after
- Children go on to do really well in secondary special school
- Ofsted said was a good school
- Fantastic unique school
- Gone out of their way to meet the needs of my child
- High staff to pupil ratio
- Calm, happy atmosphere
- Warm, colourful, quiet, sensory school
- One to one teaching
- Family school
- Would children still get trips and outings at other schools?
- Staff are devoted to dealing with each child's individual needs – personalised learning
- Outstanding care and education
- No other school can provide the level of care children need
- Open door policy for parents

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- Try to make children's life as normal as possible and allow some independence
- Children have a communal lunch and assembly at Lyndale
- South Wirral students come here for work experience
- Almost a hospital school
- Like an intensive care unit within the school system
- Parents are quickly notified of any changes
- There is a very thorough process for transition to Foxfield and Meadowside
- If the school has to close, should design a setting that has the atmosphere and facilities valued by parents

SEN Improvement test

- If the SEN Improvement Test isn't met, will Lyndale stay open?
- Who makes the final decision about the SEN Improvement Test?
- How will the options be assessed?
- Why fix what isn't broken?
- Would be a sad waste to close the school
- Should keep Lyndale open
- Taking away my choice
- This should be about children, not about statistics or money
- Council should do a thorough review of provision for children with PMLD
- Should have considered SEN provision as a whole picture and not school by school
- The proposal to close Lyndale is the correct one
- These are our most vulnerable 0.1% of children with the most complex needs of all you are targeting

The Consultation

- Decision should be based entirely on children's needs and not be a political decision
- Press campaign has led to unfortunate criticisms of other CLD schools which is unfair
- You have been trying to close the school for 8 years
- School has lived through this before and there was no satisfactory conclusion – must make a decision this time
- You've already made a decision

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- Disappointed by the lack of response from councillors who all sent the same letter back
- What is the timetable for the process?
- Parents questions have not been answered at the public meetings – mostly “point taken”
- Parents from the other two schools are not interested in the consultation
- Minutes should have been distributed at the consultation meetings, how can people check their point has been taken down correctly
- Will meeting notes be available to the public and shared with councillors?
- Chair of the consultation meetings was rude and brusque
- No paediatricians have been consulted
- Consultation is a waste of tax payers money
- Life is stressful enough with a disabled child without all this hanging over us
- The Councillors have no understanding of what families of disabled children face every day
- Conservative and liberal democrat councillors called in the decision to consider closure
- Petition is the largest since 2010 indicating significant public support
- Consultation meetings were at very restrictive times for parents and other interested parties
- Good to have six consultation meetings

Comments on other options

- Should not split the children between two sites as they would be in the minority
- Should have 2 to 19 or 2 to 23 school at Lyndale
- There are 2-19 and 2-23 schools in other areas
- The local authority could make Lyndale into an Academy then they are not involved in running the school
- Option to move as a unit to Foxfield school where most children go to at 11
- Option to amalgamate with a mainstream school under a single headteacher, keeping a Lyndale unit in the existing building
- Federation can lead to leadership issues and competing agendas
- Why co-locate when the other schools can accommodate demand?

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- Academy or free school does not alter pupil numbers or finance as there only so many children to go around
- Option to close the school, but continue to operate as a split site with another special school for a period of time

Other Comments

- Vital part of the community
- I have spoken to Wirral companies who are against the closure of the school
- If this is allowed to happen I will no longer be voting labour in the general election
- To close any special school is a total disgrace and shows the inhumanity of the times
- Should be celebrating the school, not closing it
- Closing Lyndale for any reason would be criminal
- Leave this important facility alone