

Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

9th July 2015

I am writing regarding the second part of the Alnwick Partnership schools consultation, initiated by Northumberland County Council in December 2014 as a result of some of our local first school head teachers wanting to consider conversion to primary schools. The initial consultation took place until March 2015, and the outcomes were considered by the Council's Labour-led Cabinet on 18th June 2015.

The Cabinet is now consulting on revised proposals for the future of some of our schools. The revised proposals can be found online here: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=16679> or you can telephone the Council to ask for a hard copy on 01670 624 050.

I responded to the initial consultation, setting out my views proposing:

1. First schools in Alnwick town, where there is strong support for a two-tier system among parents and schools, should be able to become primary schools. I have made it clear that County Hall must make funds available to ensure the new Duchess's High School is able to accommodate years 7 and 8 onto the existing site;
2. A Seahouses 'mini' Partnership, including Embleton, should be established and remain under the three-tier system for now, to allow the schools to federate and work together. Parents who wish to send their children to the Duchess's School at 11 could do so, or could wait until the children are 13, allowing for a split entry system which works well elsewhere in the country;
3. Similarly, that a Wooler 'mini' Partnership including the outlying villages of Branton and Whittingham, be established to allow the three-tier system to continue for now, which seems to me to be in tune with the wishes of parents.

Before I submit my views on the latest proposals, I am keen to seek the views of parents and other residents on the future of their local schools, in order to inform my response. I have enclosed a survey and would be grateful if you would take the time to let me know what you think about the Council's proposals.

Your replies will be treated confidentially, and you do not have to include your name. I will not be referring to individual named comments in my submission, but would like to present my views in the context of local opinion.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to let me know what you think.

Member of Parliament for Berwick-upon-Tweed

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