

**Secondary School Review – West Gateshead  
Drop-In Session**

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**Meeting:** Community Drop-in Session

**Date/Time:** Wednesday 7 July at 2.30pm – 6.30pm

**Venue:** Hookergate Comprehensive School

**Present:** Sandra Punton – Learning and Children, Gateshead Council  
Allan Ranson – Development and Enterprise, Gateshead Council  
Nicky Wise – inspiredspaces  
Vikki wilson– inspiredspaces  
Anita Dowson – Learning and Children, Gateshead Council  
(notetaker)

**Attendance:** 4

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- No bus routes for pupils at after school clubs – where do the pupils catch a bus to get home – when will discussions start with Nexus?
- Timescales for choosing a new school do not sit comfortably with timescales for the decision for closing?
- Start time of new school? People in High Spen will have to leave at 7:40am!
- Future use of Hookergate site? Lack of community facilities in High Spen?
- No mention has been made in any of the documentation about 6<sup>th</sup> form provision. Will there be a 6<sup>th</sup> form provision and can places be guaranteed?
- Highways / Junctions – Very dangerous – You must use this opportunity to resolve the transport links between High Spen and Ryton and the dangerous junction!
- Will the transport links be improved? What about the busy roads and will I get free transport to the new site?
- Could years 7, 8 and 9 be kept at Hookergate and would Ryton years 7, 8 and 9 pupils join them? It could be a middle school. The pupils would then integrate better before moving.
- What happens now that I understand that there is no funding over the building schools for the future process?
- Transport is a problem, buses no good from this area as only 1 bus per hour!
- Kids disappointed at not getting new state of the art school.

- Are two schools being linked yet sports events etc between the two schools being organised?
- Why not build where were going to rather than adapt Ryton? Still could happen?
- Is there room in Ryton for any pupils?
- Why can't community not support the school in the community?
- Some parents felt better and more re-assured following meeting on 06-07-10. Everyone needs to know what is to be gained ie. Drama / Music facilities / Photography.
- Detail is not getting to people, need to inform people about what is known. Joint website for both schools so parents of both schools would have some information.
- People feel like a facility is being lost in the area. Make transport a major part of the process and ensure more regular bus services to Ryton. Current bus service very poor, hourly service.
- Feeling of de ja vu, similar situation as Blaydon closure, don't want that to happen again.
- What does this mean for staffing levels? Can pupils / parents go to look at Ryton? Communication required to parents on how transition will be practically applied.
- Will Ryton be re-branded even though there won't be a new school now?
- Will all pupils be guaranteed places at Ryton School? Will younger siblings be guaranteed places at Ryton School?
- Will students be accommodated in temporary accommodation at Ryton? How will money be found for temporary accommodation?
- Main concern about transition and how its handled, how will staffing at Hookergate be handled? Some good staff moving to Ryton, need reassurance on detail.
- High Spen primary school holds sports day at Hookergate– what happens next year and the year after?
- How will the community ethos of Hookergate be maintained at Ryton schools?
- Can we take our children to see the facilities at Ryton when there are no other children around.
- People need to know advantages. Have joint pupil event and get children to promote the benefits.
- Have short working groups with parents from both schools to discuss discipline issues etc. How do others get involved, do via pupil groups to invite their parents to

take part. Pupils to host sessions to encourage parental attendance, joint sports events could be arranged.

- Transport to Ryton? All parents in Hookergate have to face fact pupils not get into a new school, need to focus on transition into Ryton.
- More involvement is needed. Somebody should have asked parents what strengths are at Hookergate. Things I value as a parent and what kids value. Have small group sessions. Kids suffer if parents aren't on board.
- Please give more detailed information on transition. Lack of information for people and how things will be managed. More opportunity for more detail. Disappointed about schools budget.