

Proposal to Close Hookergate School

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE8 1HH proposes to discontinue Hookergate School, School Lane, High Spen, NE39 2BX with effect from 31 August 2011.

It is proposed that pupils attending Hookergate School will transfer to Ryton Comprehensive School with effect from 1 September 2011. Admission may also be sought at other secondary schools which may have places available.

It is also proposed that the Hookergate site be maintained for a further academic year (2011-12) to provide education for former Hookergate students starting Years 8, 9 and 11 only. The site will be managed as part of Ryton Comprehensive School. Former Hookergate students starting Year 10 will transfer to the Ryton site. Hookergate students starting Year 12 will be able to apply for places in the sixth form at the Ryton site, or with other post 16 providers. All existing Ryton students will continue to receive their education on the Ryton site. It is proposed that the Hookergate site should be decommissioned after the end of the academic year 2011-12 and that all staff and students be consolidated on the existing Ryton school site, with additional accommodation provided as necessary, with effect from 1 September 2012.

It is proposed that Ryton Comprehensive School increase its planned admission number from 215 to 240 increasing the 11-16 capacity from 1075 to 1200 and that the number of post 16 places be increased from 244 to 300. Pupils who would have started Year 7 at Hookergate in September 2011 will be able to apply for places at Ryton Comprehensive School, in accordance with the usual admissions procedure.

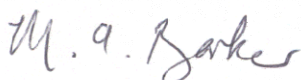
It is proposed to discontinue the Mainstream Support Base (MSB) attached to Hookergate School, which offers places for up to 16 pupils with moderate learning difficulties. Over recent years the MSB has been underused with a significant number of vacancies. Children with SEN will continue to have their requirements met at Ryton School or such other local secondary school selected by parents. The SEN Improvement Test has been applied and the Local Authority concluded that an inclusive model rather than tuition in a special class is more appropriate to meet the needs of these children.

The following primary schools are currently part of the Hookergate catchment area; Chopwell, High Spen, Highfield, Rowlands Gill, Parkhead and Winlaton West Lane. It is proposed that the catchment areas for all these schools be included in the catchment area of Ryton School, together with all its existing linked primary school catchment areas. A review of home to school public transport is in progress, to promote access to Ryton School from all areas without the need for additional car journeys. The Council's existing Home to School Transport Policy will apply.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Margaret Whellans, Group Director, Learning and Children Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 1HH Tel: 0191 433 2702 or from www.gateshead.gov.uk/secondaryreview

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Legal and Corporate, Gateshead Council, Civic Centre Regent Street, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 1HH.

Signed:



Solicitor to the Council

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