

Statutory proposal for the closure of The Henry Prince CE (C) First School, Mayfield

NOTICE is given in accordance with section 15(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the governing body of The Henry Prince CE (C) First School proposes to discontinue The Henry Prince CE (C) First School, Main Road, Mayfield, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2LB with effect from 31 August 2019.

The Henry Prince is a co-educational, voluntary controlled school with an age range from 3 to 9. The school currently has 24 compulsory school age pupils on roll and capacity for 75 pupils. In addition, four 3-year olds and three 4-year olds attend the nursery. There are no pupils on roll with an Education, Health and Care Plan. There are no specialist facilities reserved for children with special educational needs.

Places for all children in current age ranges 3 to 11 would be available at Dove CE (VC) First School, which would replace The Henry Price as the catchment area school. Dove First has 97 pupils on roll and capacity for 150 pupils. There are also places available in neighbouring schools. If the school closed, the county council and diocese are satisfied that there would remain sufficient denominational provision across the area.

The county council's current transport policy would apply: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schooltransport. Free transport would be given to Dove First and to the nearest primary school, if it is over two miles from home. Dove is 5.7 miles from The Henry Prince.

The school is designated as a rural primary school and Section 15(4) has been considered. Although many local children attend different schools, closure would impact our parents and children who form friendships around the school. The school also takes part in community events. If the village loses its school fewer families could be attracted to live in Mayfield.

Within a 3-mile radius of the school there is one day nursery registered to provide funded childcare. Within a 3 to 5-mile radius there are three day nurseries, one pre-school provider and one childminder. Based upon Staffordshire County Council data, there were sufficient childcare places available to meet the current level of demand.

This notice is an extract from the full proposal document. The document will be published on the school's website within one week of the date of publication of this proposal and can be requested via the school office. Within four weeks from the date of publication, by 5.00pm on Tuesday 16 April 2019, any person can send objections to or comment on the proposals to Staffordshire County Council, School Organisation Team, Staffordshire Place 1, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH or email school.organisation@staffordshire.gov.uk.

Date of publication: 20 March 2019

Additional information

It is with regret that the governing body has published this notice but it has concluded that there is no financially viable alternative. The key issues facing the school are low pupil numbers and its finances. The school is judged "good" by Ofsted however too few local parents are choosing The Henry Prince for their children. Low pupil numbers result in lower funding, which means that the school has built up a large financial deficit,

cannot set a balanced budget and cannot afford to maintain a good quality of education for the pupils in its care. The final decision on this proposal will be taken by the county council's Cabinet on 15 May 2019, in accordance with relevant legislation.