



19th April 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Stakeholders,

As you are very aware a tremendous amount of time and labour has been invested in finding the most appropriate model to deliver the best possible education for our children. This is pitched against a need for educational and financial sustainability. Myself and Mrs Harrison have worked closely with the Governing Board, the Local authority and we have taken into account your views via the 'Drop-ins' and written feedback. Ultimately we have been looking for an option that delivers the best possible education for our pupils now and in the future.

As stated in our letter dated 22nd March 2018 the option provisionally recommended by the governors ("Option 7") was an option for internal reorganisation of the schools. Option 7 did not have sufficient community support to proceed. Some people who responded were in favour of this option, but many had very strong reservations about it. There were three other options for internal reorganisation of the schools which were projected to deliver a budget surplus by 2020/21. One of these ("Option 3") also attracted both some support and equally strong opposition. The other two did not have any significant support.

Below is the model that we have agreed is the most viable. We have called it 3A as it is a variation similar to the original Option 3:

Option 3A					
	Askrigg base	Bainbridge base	West Burton base	Total	Notes
Year 6	0	4 pupils	4 pupils	8	1 KS2 class at West Burton
5	6 pupils	2 pupils	5 pupils	13	
4	2 pupils	3 pupils	4 pupils	9	
3	10 pupils	4 pupils	4 pupils	18	2 KS2 classes at Askrigg (afternoons 1 class)
2	4 pupils	3 pupils	1 pupil	8	
1	9 pupils	7 pupils	4 pupils	20	1 KS1 class at Bainbridge
Rec	5 pupils	9 pupils	2 pupils	16	1 Nursery/Reception class at Bainbridge
Nursery	15 (expected numbers that may attend part time)		N/A		
*	The above plan would work Monday-Thursday each week with Fridays operating a different system –Federation Fridays.				

Work has been done comparing this option to the existing 3, 6, 7 and 8. As 3 was the preferred (viable) option from the community and option 7 was the Governing Board's preferred option we have compared them in the table below:

How do the main options compare?

Option	Pros	Cons	Further comments
3A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All West Burton children to remain at West Burton apart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 year 1+2 children would travel to Bainbridge (+2) 	This model is only slightly different with the present

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	<p>from the 7 KS1 and Foundation Stage pupils expected to be on roll in 18/19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small minority of children travelling between schools • 4.5 classes (brings schools into a positive financial scenario by 2020/21) • Supported by LA Finance officers as it delivers a balanced budget by 20/21. • Smaller KS2 classes • More children have access to better outdoor resources/Sports facilities • Dedicated EYs and KS1 unit at Bainbridge • Minimal staffing changes at all schools. • No loss of learning time involved. • All KS2 pupils together once a week. 	<p>reception children starting in Sept 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 17 children on site at West Burton-isolating • Afternoons at Askrigg would see combined KS2 class-this can work well in foundation subjects 	<p>system (which is acceptable to parents)</p> <p>2 New Reception year children would be very isolated at West Burton and would instead start their schooling at Bainbridge which is a dedicated unit for Early Years.</p> <p>Younger children are in 'healthier' sized cohorts enabling good peer relationships and socialisation.</p> <p>Classes reducing from 6 to 4.5</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All West Burton children remain at West Burton • No extra travel for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 class structure –this would not see financial stability for many years • Large whole KS2 class at Askrigg for 100% of time. • Only 1 class at Askrigg-isolating • Rec taught with Year1 and 2 at West Burton-only 7 children. • Cohorts of children never being taught together. 	<p>A whole KS2 class at Askrigg would be a backward step (31 pupils years 3-6)</p>

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7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good pupil numbers at all sites. • Positive financial picture by 2020/21 • No classes have more than 2 Year groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of travelling for up to 80% of pupils- loss of learning time. • Only 1 class at West Burton -isolating • Bainbridge has just EYs on site-no older role models • Staffing restructure 	Lots of children travelling within the school day (45) some of whom have already travelled to their base school.
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The school day structure

This is presently being looked at on an individual pupil basis and will be communicated further should 3A be approved. Travelling time and the legal requirement of learning time for each class and site is being considered.

One of the great strengths of the BAWB federation is the quality and talent of its staff. We are working hard to maintain the consistency of this as we move forward for the benefit of our children.

Future years – 19/20 and beyond

In putting forward this proposal it needs to be noted that no class construction plan can be fixed as numbers on roll are subject to change and there is a need to be flexible year to year to direct teaching resources as appropriate.

What are Federation Fridays?

Each Friday all of the KS2 children would come together at one school (we will explore if this could alternate on a termly basis). These days give the children the opportunity to mix in bigger age groups and access sport etc. Staff would have the opportunity to share planning and assessment time which would be beneficial to all.

Other Federations in the local area operate this system very successfully. Transport for these days is being looked at on an individual pupil basis in order to find the quickest and most efficient option for the child to arrive at their teaching school.

During the Summer term all Year 2 would join the KS2 on Fridays as a transitional period to support their move into KS2.

Each Friday there would be a whole federation Celebration assembly at Bainbridge for Early Years and KS1 and at a different time of day there would be the KS2 celebration at Askrigg/West Burton.

A number of people have expressed that they do not know the other school sites so very shortly we will be offering you all the opportunity to see each of our schools with open days designed for this purpose.

Please take your time to look closely at this model. The Local Authority have passed this as a viable option and are realistic about how it meets the needs of the present pupils whilst having some degree of future proofing.

Kind regards

Maxine Price and Eleanor Harrison

(Acting Co-Headteachers)

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A note from The Governing Board

As you can see from the above summary, the Head Teachers and the Governing Board have worked hard to take into account your comments received following the recent drop in sessions.

We have today published the full schedule of all 104 responses on the website <http://b-a-wb.co.uk/>

Your main area of concern related to the transportation arrangements which were linked to some of the models presented.

Following some detailed research by Maxine and Eleanor, we have arrived at, what we think, is an extremely workable model, which removes much of the need for additional inter-school transport, whilst maintaining the best possible education for all pupils within the available funding. This model, which includes other small cost savings, is backed by the Local Authority in terms of sustainability, provided we can maintain the forecast number of pupils. Also published today on the engagement section of the website is the financial summary for this option 3A. The estimates of the transport costs included have been obtained for us by NYCC through their contact with existing providers.

In conclusion, the Board are of the opinion that model 3A, where all three of our schools remain open, is the best solution to the issue of primary education in mid-Wensleydale. We know from the responses received that a proportion of community members have a preference for a one school model but evidence states that this is not financially viable due to the implications of the lump-sum arrangements. Equally as you know, all our local councillors, together with NYCC, are keen to retain our three schools. Model 3A is our final attempt to achieve that objective under the Government's current funding formula.

Please complete the proforma below and return to any of our schools, either in hard copy or by email to the admin address by 3pm on Thursday 3rd May 2018. Responses will be considered by the Governing Board on 9th May and parents will be informed of the decision by the end of the school day on Thursday 10th May 2018.

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Option 3A

Please return this form to any of our three schools, for the attention of the Governing Board. Alternatively, you can email it to the admin address of any of our schools.

Please mark your subject field as: *ENGAGEMENT CONTRIBUTION*. **Deadline for return: 3pm Thursday 3rd May 2018**

Name _____ (optional)

1. Please tick one of the following to best describe the capacity in which you offer this feedback:

- I am a parent of a child at Bainbridge / Askrigg / West Burton*
- I am a resident of Bainbridge / Askrigg / West Burton*
- I am a relative (e.g. grandparent) of a child at Bainbridge / Askrigg / West Burton*
- I am a (parish/local) councillor
- I am a member of staff
- I am a governor
- Other (please specify) _____

* Please delete as appropriate

2. Please tick one of the following which best describes your response to the option presented in the document:

I support Option 3A	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Any further comments:	

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