

## Proposal to Close St Pius X Primary School

# St Pius X Catholic Primary School

### Informal Consultation- 13th October to 17th November 2020.

An informal Consultation took place following the issue of the first proposal to all stakeholders. Staff were invited to a courtesy meeting 12 October 2020, lead by the Chair of Governors, and Director of Education, Clifton Diocese. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure staff were the first to be informed of the Board's intention to propose closure and begin an informal consultation.

All Parents/Carers and Stakeholders were sent copies of the Proposal the following day along with publication on the school website. Staff were given copies of the Proposal to Close document. Stakeholders were invited to send comments or objections to the Chair of Governors by the closing date for consideration by the Board.

Governors received 6 letters from 1 parent & 6 emails from other parents, many of the comments referred to personal circumstances - some of the comments received are as follows :

*parents expressed sadness at the proposal to close a small community school*

*they praised staff and the care they gave to the pupils and parents*

*"children and parents love St Pius X"*

*"relationship between staff and parents is amazing"*

*"I've had my ups & downs with the school, but my children are third generation pupils at the school"*

*"many parents have struggles with mental health and the school being on the doorstep makes it easier for them to get the children to school"*

*"I am saddened about the proposal to close St Pius X. "*

*"I am aware of the financial costs going forward with low pupil numbers, but why does everything revolve around money. Although being rated Inadequate by Ofsted, I feel it is an excellent school"*

*"The gradual decline in numbers attending both church and school is a sad reflection of the times we live in and I hope this can be reversed and school and church can exist side by side. Myself and my 6 brothers and sisters all attended St Pius along with many other large families in Withywood and Hartcliffe"*

*Notification of an online petition ([change.Org](https://change.org)) with 243 signatures from Parents, Grandparents and Children.*

*Letter from a member of staff commenting "I was devastated to learn of the potential school closure. I was not surprised to hear of the reasons behind the proposed closure: roll drop, lack of funding"*

*Letter from an ex Headteacher now retired (22 yrs in post) commenting - "we have fought off a number of proposals to close/amalgamate our beloved school since 1983.*

*Trustees' articles of government declare that you must preserve the Catholicity of the school so with only a small number of Catholics how can we justify keeping it open?"*

### **Proposal to Close St Pius X Primary School**

Letter from the previous Chair of Governors - *“economics don’t lie. A school needs enough students to justify its existence.”*

**Parent Consultation Meeting - 10 November @ 6.00pm to 7.45pm** (Virtual Meeting due to Covid Pandemic)

**Attendees** - Eleanor Nye - Chair of Governors, Colleen Collette - Director at Clifton Diocese, Ian Bell - BCC School Place Planning Manager, Sue Burns - Clerk to the Governors

5 parents, 8 Staff, 1 NEU rep and the Previous Chair of Governors attended the meeting.

Questions and Answers were recorded by the Clerk to be considered by the Governing Board at the determination meeting 18th November 2020.

### **Extraordinary Interim Exec Board Meeting 18th November 2020**

The notes from the Parent Consultation Meeting and letters from parents and staff had been circulated in advance for consideration by the IEB members. All IEB members confirmed that they had read the circulated documents.

It was proposed by the Chair of Governors that the Board determined the closure of St Pius X Catholic Primary School with effect from 31st August 2021.

The proposal was seconded by Colleen Collette and a show of hands was unanimous.

The findings of this meeting were forwarded to the Local Authority.

### **Formal Proposal**

SECTION 15 OF THE EDUCATION AND INSPECTIONS ACT 2006 (AS AMENDED BY THE EDUCATION ACT 2011) and the SCHOOL ORGANISATION (ESTABLISHMENTS AND DISCONTINUANCE OF SCHOOLS) REGULATIONS 2013

A formal Proposal in line with the above was published on the School Website along with a Press Release and 2 Notices clearly posted on all three School Gates on 18th December 2020. The formal consultation period of 4 weeks, inviting comments or objections, ended 15th January 2021.

No objections or comments have been received to date.

**Eleanor Nye,  
Chair of Governors, St Pius X Catholic Primary School**