

Sarah Moore Statement to Cabinet 21-Jul-10

I am a parent of a 12 year old boy with Special needs that currently attends Culverhay and at the point these changes would take effect he would be at the most vulnerable stage in his education and would totally disrupt his future prospects.

The vision of BANES Council stated each secondary school BECOMES a learning campus where Sport and Cultural facilities and extended services are located together for the benefit of young people and the wider community,

Culverhay is categorised as a Community school. It is the only school with an Aquaterra leisure centre on-site for use by the wider community, it runs evening classes and courses in the holidays for the community and is used by the surrounding primary schools for a wide variety of activities. It is also a school of choice for Bath Spa University.

In BANES last released admission booklet, Jan 09, the number of students on role at St Marks was 296, however the number at Culverhay was 371, how can accepting this proposal of opening another co-ed school in the North and allowing St Mark's to form a hard federation increase this number.

The Council wants schools where the curriculum design actively engages young people in their learning, Culverhay is one of only a few schools in the Country with an excellent, established Enrichment program, it has it's own Air Cadet Core and it's own student run radio station.

The Cabinet meeting in 2008 unanimously agreed with the proposals put forward to have one new co-educational school in the NORTH of the city and one new co-educational school in the SOUTH.

The documentation provided to ALL parents did not mention the chance of closing Culverhay for good, but providing a co-educational school on the site, which is why there was a low response from parents and the community in the South and as the Council have agreed that they want 6 not 7 secondary schools in BANES if this report is accepted, it would appear that no further consultation process will be able to save the school.

If, as the proposed Academies bill states any new Academy takes it's pupils wholly or mainly from the area in which it is situated, by your own figures (72%), Oldfield's application would not be able to go ahead, and the recently announced amendment suggests Oldfield would have to have another OFSTED review carried out prior to any award as their last one was over 24 months ago, so how can you agree to back this option.

I have already submitted to the cabinet, the comments of support for a co-educational school at Culverhay, received up to 14th July on the Chronicle site and also our facebook page which now has 1,224 members and I have here a petition signed within the last 3 weeks by over 1,900 members of Culverhay's community in support of the school remaining on the site and converting to a co-educational non-denominational school as originally proposed by the panel to Bath and North East Somerset.