

Statement of Jane Parsons , Partnership Manager **Southdown Methodist Church Centre**

I speak as someone who has been working in and with the local community for more than fifteen years.

I was appalled at the idea that Culverhay, a school at the very heart of the community, and originally built for that very purpose should be closed.

Culverhay serves an area where there are many needs. Over the years it has built enormous trust between its pupils and their families through its ethos of care and compassion.

It is a school with a good success rate as it works individually and collectively with its pupils and their families to realise their full potential.

But it offers much more than just the academic success. It provides many other relevant activities so that the pupils can learn and enjoy developing new skills for their future development in the outside world.

The school, because of its particular Community base, is an integral part of the Community

In an area of many social needs the closure of Culverhay will have a huge impact on the Community, its pupils and families.

At the Southdown Methodist Centre we have developed a close link with the school and have enjoyed the pupils' involvement in our community work.

I ask that Culverhay be allowed to continue to serve its local community as a co-educational school . There is a need for it to remain open.

What message are we sending to the local community by its planned closure?

It is an absolute disgrace to treat the school in such a shabby manner and deprive the community of this facility on this site .

July 19th 2010