

Statement to Cabinet 25-Nov-10 by Sue East Culverhay

- + Representing all of the 27 headteachers of the Bath Primary schools –these views are also shared by many headteachers from outside the Bath LAP**
- + We are asking not simply to keep Culverhay open, but that the council consider putting into place an alternative kind of educational provision, not available elsewhere in Bath and North East Somerset. A flagship community of learning that would continue to mark out Bath and North East Somerset as a highly performing Local Authority in terms of its schools.**
- + All members of the Bath primary heads group have a collective passion for securing the best outcomes for all of our children.**
- + ALL of the children in the city matter to ALL of us and we believe that the educational needs of these children are best met through a diversity of settings, offering a maximum range of parental choice.**
- + We believe there is a place within the current secondary system for a smaller school setting, particularly suited to more vulnerable learners who find transition difficult.**
- + This year Bath and North East Somerset is the most highly ranked Local Authority in the South West measured on GCSE results**
- + Last year Bath and North East Somerset was ranked 12th nationally.**
- + We believe that you have an opportunity here to catch a new vision for education and do something new which would put Bath and North East Somerset at the cutting edge of educational provision.**
- + Alternatives to closure need to be given serious consideration: for example, a ‘wrap around school’ serving children from aged 3- 18 with the added benefit of close links to a Teaching Training college.**
- + A flagship establishment, a place of excellence and innovation.**

- ✦ We live in the most uncertain times at present. We ask you to pause and consider other changes that are presently afoot, for example, what are the new implications for local demographics as the new government's plans for reducing tenancy duration come into effect?– Would not more families with school age children would be able to be housed in the area around Culverhay.**
- ✦ We are presently witnessing an increased demand on places at Primary level. In the present economic climate we are also seeing children coming into the state system whose parents might previously have looked to Bath's many private schools**
- ✦ We do not believe this is the right moment to be removing a school**
- ✦ At the present time, Education across the world is at a cross roads . In the UK all headteachers are hanging on trying to make sense of what Michael Gove is saying and to analyse what the new possibilities on offer might mean to our individual schools and to our schools collectively. We are waiting , watching, working together, wanting to make the best decisions for all.**
- ✦ We are urging you likewise not to make a rash, ill advised decision, but to look at the possibilities that may be afforded by the new government's thinking.**
- ✦ We believe that this is the right time to be taking a transformational step. A time to be doing something radically different. It is a wonderful opportunity.**
- ✦ A flagship academy, for all ages.**
- ✦ The most amazing and inspirational things can happen at times of great change – here is an opportunity to embrace and make our own, a new model of education , a flagship establishment, for Bath. A small co-educational learning centre in the heart of a well established local community.**
- ✦ We urge you not to vote for closure but instead to open the door to a new and transformational approach to learning.**