

# **Appendix 6:**

# **Forest Hall and Ivy Road Stage 1**

# **Pre-Publication Consultation**

# **responses.**

Section 1: Stage 1 Pre-Publication Consultation responses – Formal responses to free text questions.

# Potential merger of Forest Hall Primary School and Ivy Road Primary School

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

02 October 2025 - 13 November 2025

**PROJECT NAME:**

Consultation on the future of Forest Hall Primary School and Ivy Road Primary School

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## SURVEY QUESTIONS

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**Q1 | We would like to know what your suggestion is and how you think it could be achieved - please explain in the space below**

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 12:22 PM

Close Ivy road primary school and the pupils from there can choose to attend Forest Hall or another Primary school in the area.

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 12:54 PM

Split Ivy Road students across different schools in the area: Forest Hall, Benton Dene, St Mary's, there are so many options. Why aren't those school having anything to do with this... other than... I don't know... protecting the posher schools? You've thrown Forest Hall under the bus – you're thinking of sacrificing our school because Ivy Road got terrible OFSTED results.

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 02:08 PM

Give all pupils a chance to have there alternative school. My child will not be attending the school once they merge and will be looking for a new school

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 07:18 PM

I am a staff member at Ivy Road Primary School, I've seen firsthand the incredible impact this school has on our students, families, and the wider community. Closing the school or considering a merger wouldn't be the best solution. A merger would likely lead to significant changes in the school's culture, curriculum, and community dynamics, potentially disrupting the education and well-being of our students. Additionally, integrating two schools can be logically challenging, from combining staff (which wasn't even an option to us IRPS staff members being told we wouldn't be kept on unless needed by FH Primary school which couldn't be more unfair) and resources to managing different teaching styles and school traditions. Given the strong sense of identity and community that Ivy Road Primary School has built, a merger could dilute what makes our school special and effective. Instead of exploring closure or merger, I believe we should focus on finding ways to support and strengthen our school, ensuring it continues to thrive and provide the high-quality education our students deserve. Alongside this I have a permanent contract at Ivy Road Primary School, yet I'm deeply concerned about the uncertainty and utter disregard surrounding our school and staff member's future's whether they're permanent or fixed term, I feel as if we have been dismissed without choice. Again how is this fair? What's often overlooked in these discussions is the impact on the staff who work tirelessly to provide the best education for our students. We are not just employees; we are people with families, mortgages, and responsibilities. Yet, we have been left without a voice or a meaningful say in the decision-making process. The lack of

consultation and transparency has been disheartening, and many of my colleagues including myself are now anxious about what lies ahead not just for our students and families but for ourselves too. We understand the challenges the school may be facing, but we believe that our experience and dedication should be valued and considered in any discussions about the school's future. We want to work collaboratively to find solutions that benefit everyone involved, including our students, families, and the staff who care for them.

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 07:36 PM

Keep both school open - find ivy road an academy and get rid of senior leadership!

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 08:26 PM

Don't merge them. Ivy road has a terrible reputation and the latest ofsted report echos that. Don't bring down a good school by trying to bring up a a bad one.

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 09:05 PM

With more houses comes more families and children. The birth rate may have fallen but 3000 plus new houses that are built for families will bring more children to the area. Are you sure you have worked the maths and predictions out correctly? It's seems a ludicrous propsoalt

Screen Name Redacted

10/03/2025 09:38 AM

Firstly, your option is predicated on incorrect information. The birth rate of around 12 in 2000 and down to around 10.5 in 2020 had a net impact of 3 less children per intake. The birthrate is now predicted at 9.7 in 2027 (this is from office of national statistics). Which means still an impact of 3 per intake. Couple that with the fact the school being closed has a larger than average catchment area and the recent Reception intake was 40 students. Well it is clear to see your argument is completely inaccurate. Instead you're proposing to place a huge catchment area onto the other school so you can take the land and sell - a smash and grab for cash. Your recent committee meeting proposes up 125% pay rises across the committe and mayor despite you running a -c£450m budget. The counter proposal is you stop falsifying data to achieve the goal which is back handed payments for land while you dessicated the community. I am taking this information to GB News, and this information applies to all the schools whose land you're trying to Rob to develop. The developments - whose schools will their kids go to? Your response, who cares that's another councils problem. This is why you're being removed from power.  
#Reform.

Screen Name Redacted

A more fitting description for the proposal is that Forest Hall School is

10/03/2025 03:46 PM

closing and the pupils merging with Ivy Road School, on the Ivy Road site. Therefore it feels there is a hidden agenda to also bring the Forest Hall School name. The proposal describes both schools two-thirds full. Two-thirds multiplied by 2 is greater than one therefore surely the single site would be over subscribed.

Screen Name Redacted

10/17/2025 07:19 PM

Too much money is being spent on the three tier system in Whitley Bay. A fairer system should be put in place for all children. Why are successful schools in Whitley Bay protected from closures and mergers and yet in less affluent places children's education is disrupted by all these changes

Screen Name Redacted

10/21/2025 01:09 PM

- Reconsider the merger model to create a new, shared identity for both communities.
- Ensure curriculum continuity and emotional support for all pupils.
- Offer fair employment opportunities to staff from both schools.
- Retain or replace the essential 2-year-old provision currently offered at Ivy Road.

Screen Name Redacted

10/28/2025 07:12 AM

The situation is fluid in terms of birth rates, it can go up and down. With the ever increasing house building programme, the population in the local area will rise in the not to distant future. Once a school is closed, I will assume that school will be demolished to make way for the alleged ever increasing demand for housing stock. Then the council will have to build a new school, something that will take years at a cost which will be out of control. What will happen to those children then, where will they go? They will end up in overcrowded classes, probably in temporary shipping containers. The whole situation is terrible, we should be investing in education, not measuring by the £ to pupil ratio. We should be actively driving down class sizes, in order to improve standards. I have been told that council debt is a good thing, well debt driven by education should be something we should ask the community to fund.

Screen Name Redacted

11/05/2025 08:14 AM

A merger of the two schools on the Ivy Road site, but not being bias to one school. A completely new named school where both sets of pupils can begin a fresh start. The proposals will isolate some children, especially the Ivy Road pupils. It will confuse them and they will find it harder to adapt to the new ethos etc whilst remaining on the same site. No familiar faces (e.g staff) will be present to make the situation even harder. In addition, if the council had invested in the building at the current Ivy Road site, then an academy will have taken over, which will have then benefitted the council long term as it would no longer be their responsibility financially.

Screen Name Redacted	<p>[REDACTED] and to me,</p> <p>the local authority hasn't to me explored alternative scenarios. The usage of the word merger is very misleading. You could just keep Ivy Road open and make use of what they do well. Some alternatives though; 1. Hard Federation (Shared Leadership, Two Sites initially) Both Forest Hall and Ivy Road stay open but share one governing body, one executive headteacher, and joint leadership structures. Benefits: Retains both schools and community identity. Achieves savings through shared leadership and resources. Supports school improvement through collaboration rather than closure. Over time you move to the Ivy Road site as per the plan and then rebrand once all year groups on the one site. 2. Shared Campus (Two Schools, One Site) Both schools operate separately but share the same site and facilities, for example on the Ivy Road campus. Benefits: Reduces running costs by using one site efficiently. Keeps both school identities intact. Allows a gradual transition and review before any full merger, which could be done gradually slowly removing Ivy Roads identity due to the academy order, and realistically no-one would take this school on if this was happening</p>
Screen Name Redacted	<p>I would like the Council to consider an alternative proposal that builds on Ivy Road Primary's existing strengths in supporting children with additional needs. The school already has a higher-than-average proportion of pupils with SEND and social, emotional, and behavioural needs, and has developed significant staff expertise in these areas. Rather than closing the school, the Council could explore developing a specialist unit or inclusion hub within Ivy Road to serve children with SEND or behavioural needs across the wider area. There is currently a shortage of such provision locally, which places pressure on mainstream schools and limits parental choice. In addition, Ivy Road is the only school that has a growing catchment area and has the establish building space to take on this role.</p> <p>Establishing a small resource base or behaviour support centre could help secure the school's long-term sustainability by attracting pupils from a wider catchment, while addressing a clear gap in local provision. This would maintain educational continuity for current pupils and allow the Council to meet its statutory duties for inclusive education in a cost-effective way. I therefore suggest that, before considering closure, the Council works with Ivy Road's leadership and community to assess the feasibility of this model and seek relevant funding streams (for example, SEND improvement or inclusion grants).</p>

**Optional question** (15 response(s), 33 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q2 | We are keen to understand how a proposal to merge the schools could affect you, your child or your family. Please use the space below.**

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 12:22 PM

We bought our house 4 years ago to be next to Forest Hall Primary school. We love that our children live right next to the school. We do not want Forest Hall Primary school to move locations. We are happy for the schools to merge/more pupils to come to the school but we would like the location to stay where it is. This change is too much to ask. Relocation is too much to ask of the parents.

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 12:54 PM

My son is very resistant to change and gets really anxious around it. He's taken months to get settled at Forest Hall and now the upheaval will dramatically impact his education. We also specifically selected Forest Hall because it's a lovely little school. We're now being penalised because Ivy Road has had terrible OFSTED results. If the school is that bad, shut that school down. Sell THAT land off for houses (which you're blatantly going to do with Forest Hall). I've lived in Forest Hall all my life. Ivy Road has always been known as being a terrible school. Close THAT school down, yes, if it's so bad. The Ivy Road kids obviously need somewhere to go – so all schools in the area should do their part and take a number of students from that school. The classes could be part of the problem – splitting the classes up could be a good thing. Let them settle into better schools run by better teachers. Don't make Ivy Road's problem OUR PROBLEM. The way you've positioned this is very manipulative – blaming a decline in birth rates, rather than being honest about what this is really like – Ivy Road being a bad school and you now knowing how to improve it. At least own that. My son's education will be severely impacted by this change. Everyone we know, all the parents, are absolutely fuming about this.

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 02:08 PM

Parents should have access to a different school of choice if they merge forest hall with ivy road they are a failing school with failing kids were forest hall children will be kept behind because ivy road is a failing school with children not up to date

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 03:36 PM

As a working parent with 2 children at the school my concern is the funding that ivy road primary school receives at the moment they get breakfast club which is free forest hall does not have this.

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 04:37 PM

I will loose my job and it is pathetic

Screen Name Redacted 10/02/2025 04:38 PM	I have removed my child from ivy road last year for the poor teaching staff and will not be sending her back there under the current teaching staff I would like to know if this merger go throw which teaching staff will be staying and under which headteacher thanks
Screen Name Redacted 10/02/2025 05:28 PM	Ivy Road primary School has been poorly performing for quite some time. The staff don't have much of a handle on SEND a restructure would be fantastic for the pupils in the area..
Screen Name Redacted 10/02/2025 07:18 PM	This would impact myself as I would ultimately lose my job. It would likely have a significant impact on my financial stability, emotional well-being, and career trajectory. I would need to adjust to a reduced income, which could affect my ability to meet financial obligations and maintain my current lifestyle. Additionally, the stress and uncertainty of job loss will most definitely impact my mental health and self-esteem. From a career perspective, a job loss could disrupt my professional growth and potentially lead to gaps in employment or a shift in career path. Overall, losing my job would require me to reassess my priorities and explore new opportunities, that overall I am not happy or comfortable in doing so. I am a mum [REDACTED] who depend on me working full time as stability in their lives. This has NOT been taken into consideration at all by anyone in the decision making process. Including those at the very top who couldn't even have the decency to come to our school and stand in front of us as member's of staff and tell us to our faces.
Screen Name Redacted 10/02/2025 07:23 PM	I am gutted ivy road is closing as myself my mam and all my kids have attended and continue to attend but I think merging the schools would be best for all involved as ivy road have good facilities and it means less up heavel for most. It's not to far away from forest hall school either. I think its a shame that good teacher ie [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will loose their jobs as they are fantastic. I'm praying we get answers soon as we have been messed about for nearly 2 years
Screen Name Redacted 10/02/2025 07:36 PM	I will lose my job
Screen Name Redacted 10/02/2025 08:26 PM	We considered the school choice carefully. As a parent of a previously looked after child it is paramount that we reduce the amount of change in my child's life. Change can have some serious affects on a child that has gone through the social care system. Forest hall moving into ivy road building will have a massive impact on the children. They will be moving into someone else's school, with children that are reported to make other children and teachers feel

unsafe. There is no benefit to forest hall primary to move to ivy road.  
It will only benefit ivy road.

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 09:05 PM

Will not affect me personally but the housing and school decisions being made by NTC at the moment is so corrupt and not in the Interest of the people.

Screen Name Redacted

10/02/2025 09:22 PM

More successful and well resourced schools across North Tyneside benefits everyone in the borough. Children and families should be prioritised to ensure we have a bright future.

Screen Name Redacted

10/03/2025 09:38 AM

It will affect the whole area by closing so many schools and developing land for your own personal back handed corruption.  
Labour out!

Screen Name Redacted

10/03/2025 01:30 PM

[REDACTED] I believe this will be a good move for all concerned. The FHPS site isn't great and is very outdated.

Screen Name Redacted

10/03/2025 02:38 PM

The council must make cost saving decisions and merging schools with excess places is a way to do this .

Screen Name Redacted

10/03/2025 03:46 PM

In the emergency meeting for staff at Ivy Road school we were informed that if the proposal goes ahead for the merger that the staff at Ivy Road school would lose their jobs and the staff from Forest Hall Primary would keep their jobs and transfer to the Ivy Road site. The failing of the school is down to senior management and not all staff. A more ethical approach would be for staff from both schools to apply for each role within the merged school by a neutral interview panel.

Screen Name Redacted

10/03/2025 07:55 PM

All my children and my self went to ivy road primary school. It will never be the same changing the name of the school. There is a lot of children in the school with additional needs who have a very strong bond with teachers and other children and I feel they are going to suffer a lot with the changes. A lot of staff's jobs are at risk and therefore I think it's only right that all staff from both schools if it is to merge have to re-apply for their jobs to make it fair. I agree with the merge but it should be made fairly and children's feelings and opinions should be taken into account and their needs not just for the kids with additional needs but other children as well.

Screen Name Redacted

10/03/2025 08:07 PM

I agree to the merge but I feel that it's taking part of the community away the school has been open for a long time I have had 5 of my children attend the school 3 of my grandchildren still attend the school and are all doing amazing 2 of my grandchildren along with many other children are on the send list and rely on the staff and helpers of the school for there daily learning I feel that changing the schools name and staff will affect the whole community of the school and the pupils that attend.I have never had any problem with how my children/grandchildren have been cared for or taught in the school I also think that staff should all be given a fair chance in keeping there jobs so should all be able to reapply from both schools involved

Screen Name Redacted

10/03/2025 11:03 PM

It won't.

Screen Name Redacted

10/07/2025 07:10 PM

My son would move to the Ivy Road site for his final year of primary education. I feel it is too disruptive to expect two schools to integrate in this way. I have concerns regarding Ivy Road's current ofsted report and also regarding numbers of pupils exceeding current capacity.

Screen Name Redacted

10/08/2025 07:08 PM

The school cannot hold that many students

Screen Name Redacted

10/12/2025 07:17 PM

How will other schools in the locality be supported to manage and meet the need of displaced pupils?

Screen Name Redacted

10/14/2025 09:12 AM

I don't agree with the proposal to merge Forest Hall Primary with Ivy Road Primary. Forest Hall is a close-knit school with a strong community feel where children are happy, settled, and supported. A merger would disrupt that stability and risk losing what makes the school special. I'm also concerned about moving pupils to Ivy Road, especially as the school was recently rated inadequate by Ofsted. It doesn't seem fair to take children out of a stable environment and place them somewhere that's still working through improvement plans. For many families, the move could also mean longer journeys, more difficult drop-offs, and added pressure. Before making such a big change, I think the council should look at other options — like sharing resources or leadership between schools — rather than closing one completely. Overall, I don't believe this merger is in the best interests of the pupils, families, or staff.

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Screen Name Redacted	I am excited for the prospect of improved funding for education. The increased number of children will be good for socialisation. After attending the consultation tonight I am extremely worried about the successful integration of the two school committees. It felt like a die hard core of Ivy Road members will make the integration difficult and enforce an us and them mentality. I hope that the plans are able to overcome this as I worry that the children will pick up on this and it may lead to tension between children causing bullying. In the main I hope that the educational standards remain high and the focus is on the children.
Screen Name Redacted 10/16/2025 05:48 PM	This merger will increase traffic in the streets surrounding the school. Ivy Road, Crescent Way, Crescent Way South and Clousden Drive are all used for parking at the start and end of the day. Parents don't hesitate to block roads and property access. Doubling the attendance at Ivy Road site will significantly make this problem worse. As you say there is more than enough land than required on site. Will a drop off/pick up zone or new car park be created with access from Meadoway? What measures will be taken to alleviate traffic problems and maintain road safety as a result of the increase in vehicular traffic? Will parking restrictions be created to allow residents to easily access properties? With parents travelling from further afield other routes to the school will also become more congested at junctions and streets used as rat runs.
Screen Name Redacted 10/17/2025 10:35 AM	My main objections to this whole scenario is not that merging the schools is not a good idea or doesn't make financial or logistical sense. But that there is a complete lack of care and empathy for the students and teachers at Ivy Road. All we are told is that this is just a proposal and not all decisions are made. But teachers of Ivy Road have all been told that they face redundancy from the merger. This means that Forest Hall staff and students have all the certainty about how they will be taught and who by and Ivy Road students and parents have absolutely none. The worst case scenario is that in January you announce the merger and teachers from Ivy Road naturally start looking for new jobs and leaving. This means that Ivy Road students face a revolving door of back up teachers who don't know them well enough to get the best out of them. If this happens from Sept 2027 then that's over 18 months of uncertainty and disjointed learning. My children will be going into year 6 in Set 2027 and will not be best prepared for SATs and all the important prep for high school. Additionally one of my daughters has an EHCP and a 1-2-1 support and there is no way she will be able to work to her potential with a consistent teacher who understands her strengths and weaknesses. If this merger has to happen then why can't all teachers and teaching assistants be given assurances that there is a

job for them at the end of it. Whether that is in the new Forest Hall school or supported to move to another school.

Screen Name Redacted

10/17/2025 12:26 PM

3 of my children attend Ivy Road, my eldest & middle child do not respond well to change. And having been in the school from Little buds into now years [REDACTED] They've built relationships with the teaching staff. Its rather unfair to disregard IRPS staff in this situation if this was to proceed. I really hope it doesn't happen. IRPS has a great community feel and breaking it and the children's great relationships with the teaching staff, could have a detrimental effect on the children. I think it is absolutely disgraceful that you's have threw IRPS staff under a bus. Seriously need to rethink & keep IRPS as it is along with it's staff.

Screen Name Redacted

10/17/2025 06:09 PM

My son is currently in forest hall primary school and I feel the building just isn't big enough, the yard is very small, having a bigger space would be much better. I am happy for the move to happen as long as my son keeps his teachers and the current teachers at Ivy Road won't be there. Ivy Road building needs updating which I hope this will be done before the move is made so less disruption during school time.

Screen Name Redacted

10/17/2025 07:19 PM

I want the best for all children across the borough irrespective of the location of the school

Screen Name Redacted

10/21/2025 01:09 PM

While I acknowledge that the legal requirement for Ivy Road to close is tied to the academy order, I am deeply concerned about the current proposal which designates Forest Hall as the continuing school and site for the merged provision. This proposal raises several serious issues that risk negatively impacting both school communities, the staff, and, most importantly, the children. 1. Equality and Identity: A Fair Merger The decision for one school to retain its identity (Forest Hall) while the other closes (Ivy Road) is deeply unfair to the children, staff, and families of Ivy Road. This approach risks creating a sense of inequality and loss for the Ivy Road community, and could hinder efforts to foster unity among pupils from both schools. To ensure a truly inclusive and equal merger: • A new name for the merged school should be considered. • A new uniform, shared vision, ethos, and values should be introduced, giving all children a fresh start on an equal footing. • This mirrors the approach taken in the Hazelwood and Greenfields merger, where a new identity will be formed. It is unclear why a different, less balanced approach is being proposed here, and clarification would be welcomed. 2. Curriculum and Educational Continuity The two schools currently use different curriculum packages and teaching methods. A sudden shift in approach for Ivy

Road pupils—without careful transition and support—could disrupt their learning and emotional well-being. It is essential to:

- Plan a phased and inclusive transition to any new curriculum.
- Provide targeted support to ensure all children adapt without experiencing educational disadvantage.

3. Staffing and Fair Employment Opportunities

The proposal places staffing decisions under the remit of Forest Hall's governing body, which is likely to result in the majority of Ivy Road staff losing their jobs. This not only disadvantages experienced professionals who have built relationships with the children but also risks losing valuable institutional knowledge and continuity of care. A truly fair merger should:

- Open up all staffing roles to applicants from both schools, with an equitable and transparent recruitment process.
- Prioritise continuity and inclusion by valuing the contributions of all staff, regardless of their originating school.

4. Early Years Provision: Continuity and Capacity

Ivy Road Primary currently provides high-quality early years education, including a provision for 2-year-olds and a Nursery, which manages its own admissions. This is a vital service in the community, with full cohorts and waiting lists projected into 2026. Forest Hall does not currently offer 2-year-old provision, and there are limited alternatives nearby. Questions that must be addressed include:

- Can Ivy Road Primary continue to admit into the 2-year-old and Nursery provision beyond September 2026?
- If not, how will the loss of this provision be mitigated to avoid disruption for children, families, and working parents?
- If the early years provision is removed prematurely:

  - There will be a significant gap in access to early education, especially for disadvantaged families.
  - Current pupils could face disruption, being required to leave their school prematurely and return later.
  - Families may choose to remove older siblings to maintain continuity, further fragmenting the school community.

In Conclusion

This merger must be handled in a way that is equitable, inclusive, and child-focused. Without significant adjustments to the current proposal, the merger risks creating division rather than unity, and loss rather than opportunity. I urge the local authority and decision-makers to:

- Reconsider the merger model to create a new, shared identity for both communities.
- Ensure curriculum continuity and emotional support for all pupils.
- Offer fair employment opportunities to staff from both schools.
- Retain or replace the essential 2-year-old provision currently offered at Ivy Road.

I hope these concerns will be taken seriously and that the final decision reflects the best interests of all children and families affected.

Screen Name Redacted

10/23/2025 10:01 PM

Disrupting children's education and placing the children of Forest Hall Primary into an inadequate school will disrupt and cause detriment to their learning journeys.

Screen Name Redacted 10/28/2025 07:12 AM	Birth rates rise and fall. This shortsightedness from the council will cost us dearly in the future, because these proposals will deprive the future generations of education assets that are very difficult, time restrictive and costly to replace.
Screen Name Redacted 11/02/2025 06:53 PM	<p>Having had the opportunity to read the information on the proposal to relocate FHPS, whilst I have some concerns over how the proposal has been explained, I do wish to express my support in principle for the proposals [REDACTED] The proposal is for the closure of Ivy Road Primary School, which is sadly subject of an inadequate judgement from OFSTED and an academy order (with no identified sponsor) and the relocation of FHPS to the Ivy Road site. I recognise that school staff &amp; parents in our community, and across the Borough, are feeling anxious at this time and I do not underestimate how emotive the proposal is. Every parent wants the best for their child. My support for the proposal is based the ability to continue to offer high quality primary education to the children of the Forest Hall and Palmersville community being at the heart of the proposal. FHPS was rated good by OFSTED at its last inspection in November 2021 and has continued to see good results across all year groups including at key milestones for Y6 and Y1 phonics. The proposal offers the opportunity for this good quality education to be accessible to our community which may otherwise see existing schools continue to decline in numbers and funding. A move brings inevitable disruption and it is disappointing to potentially move from the FHPS site where a school has stood for over 100 years and which was extended in 2014 to provide permanent, modern accommodation for our EY and KS1 children. However, the Ivy Road site is larger both in terms of the school building and grounds and so can accommodate a 1-2 form entry primary school. In terms of its location, it has been explained that the Ivy Road site is the more central location for the Forest Hall &amp; Palmersville community. This makes sense. The current school buildings are aging and I know children, parents, staff and governors will want to make sure that the accommodation is fit for purpose and ready to support higher occupancy. Both FHPS and Ivy Road have seen a consistent decline in pupil numbers over the last few years. These are not the only primary schools in the area and there is an increasing pressure to attract pupils from a dwindling pool given the low birth rate. It has been explained that both schools currently have a significant surplus of places, and this is set to continue as the birth rate falls. This has had a dramatic impact on the funding available to both schools. Currently funding for each pupil is £3824. FHPS has around 77 unfilled places which amounts to lost income of around £294,000. Despite this, the school currently continues to offer single year cohorts from nursery through to Y6, funding teaching and support staff for each of the seven year groups. More than half the year groups have less than 20 children but the teaching requirement</p>

and cost is the same as for a class of 30 children but with less income. Carrying a deficit budget is not down to poor management by the school leaders and governors. Scope for savings to be made is a constant pressure and has meant that access to outside activities and events for the children has had to be reduced alongside staff access to training events to support their continued professional development. The price of school meals has also had to be increased and parents are charged (at cost) for breakfast and after school clubs. Staffing is the biggest cost to any school and to manage the budget, FHPS reviewed its staffing structure and had to take the disappointing step of making a teaching staff redundancy in 2025. If pupil numbers, and hence funding, continue to fall, it would be expected that further staff savings would have to be found alongside further reductions to non-essential spending. It is possible that as pupil numbers continue to fall it will not be affordable to continue to run single cohorts and there would most likely be a need to run mixed year groups. Mixed year groups are not uncommon, but it is my belief that children should, wherever possible, learn in their own year groups where they can focus on an age appropriate curriculum and teaching to support them to achieve the best progress and attainment. Whilst small classes might mean children get more personal attention, outcomes are ultimately linked to the quality of teaching. Smaller classes can also mean children may build a smaller group of friends and socialise less and have access to fewer extracurricular activities. The retention of two LA maintained one form entry schools in the community is not sustainable in the long term. It is certain that both will see further reductions to their roll and budgets. This is likely to impact on the morale of staff and pupils and the loss of experienced teachers. The future of both schools would become increasingly uncertain. Children in the community may be pushed further from home to other schools, and it might become more difficult for parents to get siblings into the same school. I believe that children should be educated in their local community wherever possible. It means they have the chance to make friends who live nearby enabling them to play and as they become more independent, socialise locally and develop friendships which can last a lifetime. The children from both schools already come together at Longbenton High School in Y7 when they join children from other nearby primary schools. The proposal to relocate FHPS and bring the children from both schools together offers a more sustainable future for high quality primary education in our community. There are clear cost efficiencies for running a 1.5-2 form entry school. Whilst a larger teaching and support staff than currently exists in either school is likely to be needed, operational costs can be managed more efficiently. FHPS was rated good in all areas by OFSTED in 2021 – quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and early years provision. School leaders were described as ambitious and determined and pupils were seen to be

respectful of the staff and of each other. They felt safe and said bullying was rare. The school environment was calm and purposeful. Improvements have continued since 2021, with FHPS having recently been awarded school of sanctuary in recognition of its good practice in fostering a safe and inclusive environment. Rather than see this quality of provision decline with reducing funding, this culture, environment and quality of teaching can be expanded. The proposal provides the opportunity for our community to continue to access good quality education in a local setting. I am mindful that there will be likely to be some job losses and changes which some children may find it more difficult to adapt to. This is a very sensitive time for us all. We have been assured by the LA team that support will be made available to all the children if the proposal is agreed and the GB will expect to see support provided by the LA. The proposal would be a big change on many levels. People are likely to feel degrees of a sense of loss with the changes. Forest Hall school has been on its site for a long time & there are psychological attachments to the building. Pupils at Ivy Road will have to handle some staff changes and will need support to cope with new challenges as they adapt to a new learning environment. The FHPS staff team has worked hard and collaboratively to achieve the good OFSTED rating and outcomes for our children and I know that they will bring their skills and enthusiasm to make bringing the children from both schools together a success. I would encourage the community to support the proposal and continue to sustain both schools in readiness for bringing the children together.

Screen Name Redacted

11/05/2025 08:14 AM

To begin, it has had a detrimental impact on my mental health. I have put so much effort into this school and became extremely attached. I thought I had the financial security of a job for life here, which is now being taken away. I personally think this has been on the agenda for years. The local authority have let this school slide and the decisions made alongside the lack of support have driven the school into special measures. Consequently, making this decision more credible. A few weeks ago, there was a parents meeting where you faced some questions. I was wondering whether there will be a staff meeting as it us that will suffer and we all have mortgages to pay, children to feed etc. I would also like to make you aware of my disgust that no member of the local council could attend the meeting to deliver this news. When it is such a massive proposal with such devastating consequences, it is just not good enough. You need to realise you are making decisions that have a huge impact on people's lives, health and financial situations.

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11/09/2025 11:01 PM



[REDACTED] I am deeply concerned about the proposal to close Ivy Road and 'merge' with Forest Hall Primary. I am aware that there is limited options available for Ivy Road due to the OFSTED rating, the requirement to academise and the failure to match to an academy sponsor or trust. Although I am disappointed and saddened by the prospect of Ivy Road closing I realistically can see there is most likely no other option of keeping the school open in its current state. I however have a number of concerns about how the closure of the school will be handled and the affects it will have on pupils and staff. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have concerns as to what will happen to the staff employed at Ivy Road and how any job losses will be managed. We have been informed that all of our jobs are at risk and we expect that we are all going to lose them. This obviously causes immense stress and worry for all staff. I am also concerned as a member of staff about the pupils at the school. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I am concerned about the impact the closure and 'merger' will have on my children. I am also sad that the school I chose to send my child to is no longer going to exist. I chose Ivy Road for a number of reasons including the staff, the ethos and the school community [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Although I was aware that the school had its difficulties I truly believe that it was in the process of improving and I am despondent that sadly the school is not going to be given the opportunity to continue to improve and become an excellent school. I disagree with the terminology used in the proposal. A merger of schools implies that aspects of both schools will 'blend' together and create a new school. This is not proposed to happen with Forest Hall and Ivy Road Primary Schools. Ivy Road will cease to exist- its name, ethos, uniform, curriculum and potentially staff will all be lost whilst everything related to Forest Hall Primary will continue. This concerns me in many ways as whilst Forest Hall Primary staff and pupils will undergo a move to new premises then everything else will stay the same- uniform, curriculum, ethos, school rules and for the pupils the staff will be mainly the same. For Ivy Road pupils although the building will be most likely familiar for them although I anticipate that some building work will be required to adapt the current building structure and layout to accommodate a larger primary school everything else- uniform, curriculum, ethos, school rules and staff will be new and unfamiliar. This immediately puts ex Ivy Road pupils at the 'merged' school at a complete disadvantage on every level and will make a stark divide between them and previous Forest Hall Primary pupils. I feel strongly that to level the playing field and ensure all pupils at the 'merged' school can have a fresh start and are brought together as a new community a new shared identity is needed with a new name, uniform and new ethos/school rules. This fresh start would mean that all pupils would be starting together to build a new school community. Aspects of the previous ethos/school

rules could be incorporated but it would mean that all pupils learn the expectations of this new school community together. This would mean a new shared identity for both schools and their communities and would mean that the 'merger' is inclusive and does not disadvantage or discriminate against former Ivy Road Primary pupils. I also have concerns about how if the closure and 'merger' of the schools goes ahead the impact it will have on the current pupils at Ivy Road. Potentially they will be in a building which will require building work done to it to accommodate the larger primary school and could have to deal with upheaval and disruption as the work takes place. Potentially staff might leave due to them seeking employment elsewhere as they are losing their jobs. This will have a negative impact on morale, staffing levels and the continuity of education for the pupils. I feel that Ivy Road pupils and staff are sadly going to get the raw deal with this proposal as they face all the uncertainty, upheaval and many changes whilst Forest Hall Primary pupils and staff get to continue as they are until their 'new' school building is ready for them to move into. As a member of staff I worry about the impact the proposed closure and 'merger' will have on our pupils and wish to ensure that we strive to limit the negative impact as much as we can but feel that in order to do that we need support from the education authorities and that they need to ensure that our pupils are valued, treated with respect and not put at any more disadvantage than is unavoidable. As a parent I feel the same and I worry whether my children's education is going to be compromised. I have one child currently at Ivy Road and she is loving school and is making good progress and I do not want her education, confidence and happiness to be impacted unfairly. I also have concerns about my son who is due to start Reception in September 2027 as potentially that is when the proposed closure and 'merger' will have taken place and I worry that any delays to this proposed process will mean he starts school in chaos and uncertainty and I do not want that for him or any child. I ask for the education authorities to please work with both Ivy Road Primary and Forest Hall Primary schools staff and pupils to ensure the best possible outcomes for everyone involved are achieved. This is a stressful, emotional and challenging time for both schools and everyone needs to be involved with ensuring that ALL pupils and staff are treated equally with respect, dignity and support. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I want is for ALL children regardless of which school they currently attend or where they live to be able to attend a local school which has a kind, caring and supportive ethos, has excellent staff, has suitable facilities and resources and provides excellent teaching and learning opportunities. If the 'merger' of the schools currently known as Ivy Road and Forest Hall primaries is done in an equitable way then an exciting opportunity to create a bright future for educating our children in the Forest Hall community can be achieved.

Screen Name Redacted	
11/12/2025 12:24 AM	would like you to realise these are some of the very best educators in North Tyneside and this entire process is very unsettling for them and it's flies in the face of everything the Building a better North Tyneside outlines
Screen Name Redacted	
11/12/2025 05:58 PM	<p>The proposed closure of Ivy Road Primary School has had a profound impact on me both professionally and personally. As a dedicated member of staff, I feel deeply saddened and frustrated by how this process has been handled and by the potential consequences for our pupils, families, and staff team. All staff at Ivy Road have been informed that we will lose our jobs if the closure goes ahead. This has created enormous uncertainty and distress, especially given how committed we are to the children and families we serve. Many of us have devoted years to building trusting relationships with pupils who often struggle in larger or less supportive environments. Being told that our jobs will simply disappear feels neither fair nor appropriate, and it has been very difficult to remain motivated and hopeful in these circumstances. I have personally been advised that I cannot apply for a mortgage due to this instability, which has had a significant effect on my own future plans. My greatest concern, however, is for the children. Ivy Road serves a community with high levels of additional need, including many pupils with SEND and social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties. These children have made real progress in our small, nurturing environment where they are known, understood, and supported by staff who have specialist experience and strong relationships with parents and carers. If the school closes, these bonds — which have taken years to establish — will be torn apart. Many of our parents have already expressed anxiety about this and, as a result, some have withdrawn their children or chosen not to enrol new ones. This has contributed to a further fall in pupil numbers — not because of any lack of quality or care at Ivy Road, but because of uncertainty and a loss of trust in the proposed merger. They also do not agree with the ethos of the school stating that if they wanted their child to go they they would have, however they chose Ivy Road. It also feels unjust that Ivy Road is being closed largely because it has been rated 'Inadequate', while Forest Hall has not had a recent Ofsted inspection (last done in 2021 and prior to this was required improvement). Ivy Road is working tirelessly to improve and remove this grading. This makes it difficult to accept that the merger is in the best educational interests of pupils. It feels as though the process has been driven by administrative convenience and financial pressures rather than by what is right for children. The relationship between our staff and our families is something truly special. Parents often tell us that this is the first school where they have felt listened to and supported. They trust us with their children because we take the time</p>

to understand their needs and circumstances. That trust cannot simply be transferred to another school. Overall, this proposal has caused deep distress for pupils, parents, and staff alike. It threatens to dismantle a caring and inclusive community that has worked tirelessly to support some of the most vulnerable children in our area. I urge the Council to reconsider this decision and to work with us to find a fairer and more constructive alternative that protects both our pupils' wellbeing and the livelihoods of those who care for them.

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11/12/2025 09:45 PM

I believe that the proposed merger will ultimately proceed; however, I am concerned that the closure of Ivy Road and the relocation of Forest Hall to the Ivy Road site will not effectively unite the two communities. A more appropriate approach would be to close both existing schools and establish an entirely new institution on the Ivy Road site, with a new name, vision, and set of values. The creation of a new school would facilitate a smoother transition for all pupils, fostering a shared identity and sense of belonging from the outset. Ensuring a positive transition experience for all children, particularly those with additional or high needs, should remain a central priority. Furthermore, staffing arrangements should be managed equitably across both schools, ensuring fairness and avoiding a situation in which only Ivy Road staff face job losses as a result of the merger.

**Optional question** (39 response(s), 9 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question