

Consultation on a proposal to close North Walney Primary and Nursery School from 31 August 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

We have put together this list of questions that are most frequently asked about school closure proposals. If you have any further questions that you feel are not answered in this list then please email school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk and a member of the team will be pleased to assist with your enquiry.

What is the timescale for the consultation and decision-making process?

The consultation will run until the 12th December 2023. After the consultation ends, the Council's Cabinet will consider all consultation responses and make a decision about whether or not to proceed with the proposal. If the decision is taken to proceed, then the Council is required to publish a statutory notice setting out its intention to close the school. This will mean that there will be a further four- week period when all interested parties will get the opportunity to give their views. The Council's Cabinet will be asked to make a final decision on the proposal in April 2024.

I am the parent of a child who currently attends North Walney Primary School. Do I need to start applying for a new school place for my child?

No, the Council is currently consulting on the proposal to close the school from 31 August 2024 so the school will continue to run as it currently does. Following the consultation and statutory process, the Council's Cabinet will be asked to make a final decision on the proposal in April 2024. If the decision is taken to close the school, the Local Authority will contact the parents of all the pupils at the school to discuss their personal circumstances, support them in applying for new school places and ensure that their child is supported to transition to their new school.

What advice and support will be provided to staff at the school?

The Local Authority recognises the ongoing commitment of the leadership and staff at North Walney Primary School to ensuring that the school continues to provide a quality educational offer for all pupils. The Local Authority understands that the staff will be concerned about the proposal and what it means for them personally and professionally. During the consultation, the Local Authority will be listening very carefully to the views of staff and their representatives, to ensure that if a decision is taken to close the school from 31 August 2024, that all staff are given appropriate advice and support depending on their individual circumstances.

If a final decision is taken to close North Walney Primary School what will happen to the school building?

The Council is currently consulting on a proposal to close North Walney Primary School. It would be prejudicial to the outcome of any consultation process to enter into discussions about the potential use of a school building during this consultation process.

If following the consultation process, a final decision is taken to close the school from 31 August 2024 then discussions would commence at an appropriate time regarding the most appropriate future use of the building.

How do I make sure that Westmorland and Furness Council is aware of my views on this proposal to close North Walney Primary School?

You can make sure the Westmorland and Furness Council is aware of your views by:

- Completing the online questionnaire
<https://consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/education/consultation-on-a-proposal-to-close-north-walney-p/>
- Completing and returning the paper questionnaire that is attached to the consultation leaflet.
- Emailing school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk
- Attending one of consultation meetings at the school on Wednesday 8 November 2023. There will be separate meetings for the staff, governors, parents and other stakeholders at the times below. Representatives from the Local Authority will be available to answer any questions that you might have.
 - School Staff only - 4pm to 5pm
 - Governors only – 5.15pm to 6.15pm
 - Parents & other stakeholders– 6.30pm to 7.30pm