

Outcome of statutory notice on a proposal to lower the age range of Wetherby High School from 11-18 years to 11-16 years from September 2022

Representations received during statutory notice period (22nd November – 19th December 2021)

Response no.	Response/comments	Supporting, objecting or neither but wish to comment
1	<p>I am extremely saddened to hear Wetherby is no longer planning to hold a 6th Form. I went to Wetherby High school and Wetherby 6th form its small size enabled me to fly as a student and not go unnoticed, I also feel most 16 year old are not quite ready to leave High school life and security (which was definitely the case for me) I had strong bonds with my teacher and love for the school. I wasn't ready to leave. I feel Wetherby will be at a loss without its 6th form and I certainly intended on my children attending until 18. Wetherby is absolutely worth the funding to keep this open. A very sad loss.</p>	Objecting
2 (i)	<p>I am very concerned at the complete lack of evidence on the impact the lack of a sixth form has on remaining Y7 to Y11 students. The only research papers I have managed to find indicate that the lack of a visible sixth form decreases the aspirations of the remaining pupils. This is not mentioned. Why should any parent in Wetherby consider Wetherby High at all if it is not aspirational for its pupils? There are vague references to new house building in the area but no data on the likely impact this might have on pupil numbers. Data relating to this change is non-existent and there are no statements from the proposed sixth form institutions referenced; two out of four are faith-based institutions which may or may not be everybody's preference, however good they are. Where is Boston Spa Academy in all of this? Has anybody done ANY work on this or is it just a rubber stamp for a gloomy situation?</p>	
2 (ii)	<p>Thank you, [redacted], for your personal and detailed reply. A little explanation is due but it is up to you if you consider it feedback to the process! I'm sensitised to this issue for a number of reasons: 1) My own RC children went to Fishers, [redacted], so i know the excellent results it can turn out. I also know and value the almost unlimited opportunities it enabled in A level subject choices. But many local RC parents choose Aiden's for the better facilities: there is a hierarchy in school selection which impacts aspirational parents. Wetherby was snobbishly considered a bit of a sink school by comparison, which I found very unfortunate. 2) [redacted] was involved in opening up a new Sixth Form in Hartlepool [redacted], despite the numbers issues, precisely to address the aspiration gap. It was not done lightly. 3) You still do not mention research on the impact on aspirations of the children attending the school. I know there is little about but you only describe the post-16 options. Some of us are evidence fans! 4) The situation in Wetherby could only otherwise be addressed by having excellent facilities and proven school-wide relationships (including with more non-denominational sounding ones like Boston Spa), not just heading off after Wetherby. The cart is before the horse. It sounds like a done deal. The Sixth at Wetherby has gone anyway and this seems like a rubber stamp consultation. I worry that Wetherby is going to get the sink school that has been lurking for years. It does always seem that Leeds finds Wetherby a bit of a nuisance! All that said, I really appreciate your reply and know that it is a complex situation. Many thanks for taking the time to reply.</p>	Objecting
3	<p>I just want to say that I support the proposal to lower the age range of Wetherby High School from 11-18 to 11-16. As they have not recruited into the sixth form since 2019, it already technically is 11-16, so it may as well be made official. I would also support plans for a new school building. As a parent of a child in Year [redacted], we have been looking at and considering high schools. It would be helpful to have everything confirmed/sorted out as soon as possible, as it will affect some parents choices.</p>	Supporting

4	Thorp Arch Parish Council support the decision to lower the age range to 11-16 years from September 2022.	Supporting
5	Hi, My view as a parent of ■ children who attend and will attend WHS in the future is for it not to be a sixth form. It is clear you have evidenced why it is not required and that students have a wide range of options in the area. It would be better to have the resources and focus maintained in those vital years leading up to and including GCSE.	Supporting
6	A sixth form would be a good option to have at Wetherby high school, so that children don't have to travel to 7-10 miles to Harrogate/Knaresborough/Leeds for colleges or sixth forms at other schools. I am a wetherby resident.	Objecting
7	To whom it may concern, I would like to express my objections to the Wetherby High School proposal to only offer education for Years 7-11. Having recently moved to the area, one of the reasons for choosing Wetherby was to enable ■ ■ to be able to attend school in ■ home location for their entire school education up to the age of 18. Given the high volume of new builds that have been built in Wetherby in recent years, along with the ones that are still being built, I don't believe this has been taken into consideration when looking at the future demand. The number of Primary School intakes for September 2021 saw some of the Primary schools in Wetherby taking their highest volume of children into Reception, with one school having an intake 3 times the intake of 2019. This clearly shows the future demand for the High School and in turn the Sixth Form. I would urge you to reconsider the proposal and look to incorporate a Sixth Form into the build of the new High School in Wetherby. Thank you for reading my email.	Objecting
8 (i)	Lots of new housing gone up in Wetherby. A sixth form at Wetherby High again would be good forward thinking. Reducing the age is not proactive.	Replied to respondent to seek position
8 (ii)	Thanks for your feedback back ■. Yes I am definitely objecting to the proposal.	
8 (iii)	No problem ■. Anytime I can be of help. ■ our children have been educated at Wetherby High, so I felt it was important to comment. Had there been a 6 th form at Wetherby, then all ■ would have stayed. ■ went to Leeds, and ■ one is looking at going to Harrogate. Real shame. Happy to give feedback anytime.	Objecting