



Bishop's House
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The Rt Revd Dr John Thomson
Bishop of Selby
bishopofselby@yorkdiocese.org

Mr Jeff House
Sent via email: weaverthorpeparishcouncil@gmail.com

20th April 2022

Dear Mr House,

Re: The Closure of Weaverthorpe School

Thank-you for copying me into your letter to the Secretary of State for Education regarding the possible closure of Weaverthorpe School. Although the school falls within my area of pastoral oversight and I sent a card to the interim head teacher last year when I heard about this prospective closure, the Archbishop has delegated the Education portfolio to the Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Paul Fergusson. So any matters relating to questions of the viability of the school etc., would be better directed to him. He can be contacted by email: bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org or by post to 21 Thornton Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough. TS8 9DS.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Revd Dr John Thomson
Bishop of Selby

Subject: Closure of Weaverthorpe School

From: Bishop of Whitby <bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org>

Date: 21/04/2022, 20:16

To: Weaverthorpe Parish Council <weaverthorpeparishcouncil@gmail.com>

CC: Bishop of Selby <bishopofselby@yorkdiocese.org>

Dear Mr House

Thank you very much for sending a copy of your letter.

I realise that the prospect of the village school closing is something that will be disappointing to people within the community. However, it is not the only instance where a small school has faced difficulties, both in terms of financial viability and the educational experience of pupils, which is not helped when there are very small year cohorts. As you will be aware, a Directive Academy Order requires an academy solution to be sought, but there is no requirement on any academy trust to take a particular school within it. The Diocese of York itself does not directly run schools or academies.

I know that it will not be welcome when I say that the Diocesan Board of Education (which I chair) has not taken the decision to object to the closure of Weaverthorpe School. However, I am aware that my colleague Bishop John Thomson is ready to offer pastoral support to the community and especially those who are most directly affected by the need for new arrangements to be made for the pupils.

Yours sincerley

XPaul Whitby

The Right Revd Paul Ferguson | Bishop of Whitby

T: 01642 593273

21 Thornton Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough TS8 9DS

PA: Mandy Robinson mandy.robinson@yorkdiocese.org Mon-Thu

Office of the Bishop of Whitby | dioceseofyork.org.uk

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-----Original Message-----

From: Weaverthorpe Parish Council <weaverthorpeparishcouncil@gmail.com>

Sent: 21 April 2022 09:33

To: Bishop of Whitby <bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org>

Subject: Closure of Weaverthorpe School

Good morning

The attached letter was copied to the Bishop of Selby as he is listed on the internet as having responsibility for Schools in the York Diocese.

It has been pointed out to me that the Bishop of Whitby is now responsible for schools.

We would be pleased to hear what you can do to help our situation.

Regards

Jeff House