

Proposal to Close Camerton Church School, Camerton, BA2 0PS

Notification of Decision

This is to confirm that on 11 April 2018 Bath and North East Somerset Council decided to close Camerton Church School, Camerton, BA2 0PS on 31 August 2018.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

One response was received during the statutory notice publication period, in support of the proposal.

The Council has a duty of care to ensure children in its schools are able to receive a good education. At this current size with only seven pupils in total on roll, the school is not educationally or financially viable and it is not possible for the Governing Body to provide pupils with a rounded education that meets their academic, social and emotional needs. Keeping the school open would therefore have a negative impact on raising standards and narrowing the attainment gap and would not be in the best interests of educational provision in the area.

It is not clear why parents have chosen not to send their children to Camerton Church School and there is no evidence that parents aspire to send their children to the school. As there is currently no significant new housing development proposed for Camerton, there is nothing to indicate that numbers of children in Camerton village are likely to increase significantly in the near future, to lead to increased pupil numbers at the school.

There are projected to be sufficient places available in other existing surrounding local primary schools to accommodate future pupils living in Camerton. There are a diverse range of other good quality local schools in the area providing places in Academies, Community, Voluntary Controlled and Voluntary Aided schools. The next closest schools to Camerton are St Mary's C of E Primary in Timsbury and Peasedown St John Primary in Peasedown. In addition to existing available capacity in the area, a feasibility study is currently being carried out to add more places to Peasedown St John Primary.

The closure of the school and the loss of the building as a community facility is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on the local community as the school premises are not used by any groups or organisations to deliver community services for the village.