

Please ask for: Vicky Wibberley
Direct Line: (0116) 252 7793
E-mail: wibbv001@leicester.gov.uk
Fax: (0116) 229 0029
Our Ref: VW/ /EGD/I:020
Date: 25 January 2005

Parents/Carers of Western Park pupils

Dear Parent/Carer

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF WESTERN PARK SCHOOL

I am sure that you will have been aware of events at the Cabinet meeting on 24th January 2005. It was agreed that informal consultations commence on the Proposed Closure of Western Park School. The result of the consultation will enable members to decide whether to publish formal notices of closure.

If this is agreed, the LEA will write formally to you again to invite you to comment on the proposals to close. The results of the formal consultation will then be discussed by the School Organisation Committee, who will make the final decision on closure.

If following consultation, the Council decides to proceed to closure, arrangements will be made for you to discuss a range of alternative placements to be available for pupils currently at Western Park School.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Wibberley
Education Officer (SEN)

Please ask for: Jane Douglas
Direct Line: (0116) 252 7714
E-mail: jane.douglas@leicester.gov.uk
Fax: (0116) 229 0029
Our Ref: PL/JD/EGD/I:027
Date: 3 February 2005

Parents/Carers of Pupils at Western Park School

Dear Parent/Carer

Consultation on the proposed closure of Western Park School

I wrote to you on 25th January 2005 regarding the decision of the Cabinet of Leicester City Council to consult on the proposal to close Western Park School with effect from September 2005. You may recall from a series of meetings held last year, one of which took place at Western Park School that, the Council was considering realigning its special schools to produce a smaller number of viable schools.

It is the view of the Local Authority that the decline in numbers on roll in the school, will lead to a reduction in the quality and breadth of education that the LEA, governors, head teacher and staff would wish to provide for Western Park pupils.

This is because the method of funding the school is linked directly to the number of pupils on roll. Although other special schools have seen a reduction in numbers, for Western Park, this has become significant. In September this year, there will be fewer than 30 pupils on roll. This would mean that the school would have to continue to provide a full curriculum for pupils of all ages, on a significantly reduced budget.

The Council does not feel that this situation should continue and is, therefore, considering closure of the school.

Before closure, the LEA would arrange for each pupil's parent/carer to discuss alternative arrangements for their child's education, with officers of the Authority. These arrangements may involve the child taking a place in another of the LEA's special schools, a special school in another LEA, or any other arrangements that parents and the LEA may agree are appropriate to meet the child's needs.

I am now writing to invite you to comment on the proposal.

Your comments will be collated and included in a report for Cabinet to consider. Cabinet members will then decide whether to initiate the formal process of consultation and to publish formal notices of closure.

If you wish to make any comments, you may do so in the following ways:

- In writing to the Corporate Director Of Education and Lifelong Learning at the address above
- Directly to the Headteacher at Western Park who will pass them on; or
- By telephone to the LEA - contact Jane Douglas 0116 252 7714

I would be grateful if you would let me have your comments by 1st March 2005 at the latest.

If Cabinet members decide to issue formal notices of closure, you will be contacted again when arrangements will be made for you to discuss a range of alternative placements to be available for pupils currently at Western Park School.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Livock
Service Director, Pupil & Student Support.