

Appendix 8

Statutory Notices published in the Express and Star

- 1. Original statutory notice published on 23 November 2006 with error highlighted (underlined and starred)**
- 2. Corrected version published in the Express and Star on 24 November 2006**

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Express and Star 23/11/06

SELL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposal of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Discontinuation of Cradley High School Homer Hill Halesowen B63 2UP

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 29 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 that the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council intends to discontinue Cradley High School, Homer Hill, Halesowen B63 2UP with effect from 31 August 2008.

It is proposed that the pupils at Cradley High School will be eligible to attend a number of secondary schools located within the area closest to Cradley High School.

These include:

- Earls High School
- Hillcrest School and Community College
- Leasowes Community College
- Redhill School
- Thorns Community College
- Pedmore Technology College and Community School
- Windsor High School

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There are sufficient places in these schools to accommodate these pupils in September 2007. The Authority will continue to work closely with parents and potential recipient schools and others to manage the transfer to pupils to these alternative schools in a sympathetic and practical way.

It is proposed that current Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils will transfer to other secondary schools in September 2007. Current Year 10 pupils will remain at Cradley High School and leave in 2008 as normal.

Transport arrangements will be in accordance with existing Council policy.

Within six weeks after the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their representation by no later than 4 January to:

Vicky Cook, Executive Support Team, Directorate of Children's Services Westox House, 1 Trinity Road, Dudley DY1 1JQ.

Within one month after the end of the representation period, the Local Authority will send to the School Organisation Committee for the area copies of all representations made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the representation period, together with the Authority's observations on them.

Signed: John Freeman

Dated: 23 November 2006

Explanatory Notes

The proposal to discontinue Cradley High School is being made following consultation with governors, staff and parents and because:

- a) The live birth rate in Dudley has fallen by almost 20% since 1997; this has produced a reduction of the number in secondary age pupils in the Borough.
- b) Pupil numbers at the school have declined over the last decade. There are just over 500 pupils attending Cradley High School and over 30% of places are unfilled. It is expected that there will be around 350 pupils attending in September 2007 with over 50% of places unfilled.
- c) There are only 34 first preference applicants in September 2006 and even less for September 2007. The impact of falling pupil numbers and less money will have an adverse effect on the quality of education and standards. There is no prospect of the demand for places at Cradley High School increasing significantly and the school is no longer sustainable.
- d) Around 33% of secondary age pupils living in the local area attend Cradley High School. Most attend other Dudley secondary schools. Many of the pupils attending Cradley High School expressed first preference for schools other than Cradley High School.

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