



Nottingham
City Council

Proposed closure of Snape Wood Primary & Nursery School

Stage 1 Consultation Report 24 July 2025

Purpose of this report

To share findings of the Stage 1 pre-publication consultation on the proposal to close Snape Wood Primary & Nursery School on 31 August 2026.

Why did we consult?

Nottingham City Council recently held a public consultation on the proposal to close Snape Wood Primary & Nursery school.

We know that our schools have close ties to the local area and communities, sometimes over many generations. This makes this proposal very difficult, and not something we would choose if we felt there was a better option. This proposal is made with the interests of the children in mind, with the aim of creating stronger and more sustainable school provision. We need to collectively ensure all of our schools are fit for the future, and to protect the high-quality education they deliver to their communities.

We welcomed views from all those potentially affected by the proposal. This engagement and feedback is important in helping us to further understand the views of the children, parents/carers, staff, governors and local community. Meetings were held for families, staff and governors during the consultation period. It was the opportunity for all to engage in a consultation meeting to hear further information, share views and raise any questions. Meetings were led by council officers and school leaders.

The consultation presented details of the proposal and the reasons for it. It set out what this means for the children and staff and what support is available. It also set out the statutory process and expected timeline for consultation meetings and decision making, should a closure proceed.

This paper provides a summary of the findings and key themes from the consultation. Appendix B includes the online survey outcomes.

When did we consult?

The Stage 1 pre-publication consultation period was run from 3 June to 6 July 2025.

The Council committed to consider all the views put forward during this consultation period before making a decision on whether to publish proposals required by law. Consultees were informed that if proposals are published to close the school, **there will be a further Stage 2 period for comments, called the representation period. This would run for 4 weeks in September.** A final decision on the proposal will be considered by the Council's Executive Board and is expected to be made in November 2025, although this timeline may be subject to change.

If the decision is made in November to proceed with closure of Snape Wood Primary and Nursery School, arrangements to implement the decision will begin. Admissions Officers will work with parents/carers to ensure that every child is offered a place to begin at an alternative local school in September 2026.

Methodology

All stakeholders were invited to respond to questions on the Council's Engage Hub consultations website. Details of the proposal and the ways to respond to the consultation were communicated by letter or email to all stakeholders and directed to the consultation website: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/engage-nottingham-hub/open-consultations/snape-wood-primary/

A 'frequently asked questions and answers' for affected families was produced and shared on the Engage Hub website.

The following stakeholders were consulted directly by letter or email and invited to respond to the online consultation and attend the relevant engagement / consultation meetings. Consultees were also provided with the option to email comments and questions directly to a dedicated email address.

We offered documents in a different format on request if required:

- All current parents/carers including those who have a place for their child to commence in Reception in Sept 2025
- Pupils – via school assembly
- Staff
- Governors
- All city primary, secondary and special school Head Teachers
- All city school trusts
- NCC Education teams and Children's Integrated Services teams
- Rainbows Parent and Carer Forum
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- All City Councillors including Bulwell Ward Councillors
- MP Alex Norris

Online consultation survey - participation, survey responses and analysis

There was a total of 14 responses to the online consultation survey, **the detail of which is attached at Appendix B.**

The breakdown of respondents is as follows:

Respondent	Percentage	Number
Parent/carer of a pupil at Snape Wood	29%	4
Pupil attending Snape Wood	14%	2
Member of staff	14%	2
Other	43%	6

Key outcomes

93% (equating to 13 out of 14 respondents) said that they understand the reasons for the proposal to close Snape Wood Primary & Nursery School in August 2026.

43% agree with the proposal, 43% disagree and 14% neither agree nor disagree.

Consultation meetings

Consultation meetings were held in the Snape Wood Primary School hall on the dates below. The meetings were led by the LA's Director of Education Services, and a presentation was delivered setting out the proposal, rationale, consultation process, proposed decision-making timeline and the support available for families and staff.

The meetings were delivered and supported by the following LA officers and school leaders:

- Nick Lee, Director of Education Services
- Lucy Juby, School Organisation and Place Planning Manager
- Danny Hall, Service Delivery Lead – Education and School Admissions (supported the parent/carers meetings)
- Carol McCrone – HR Business Partner – Schools (supported the staff meetings)
- Nicky Bridges – Nottingham Schools Trust (NST) Managing Director
- Ben Waldrum and Lynne Orme – Interim Executive Head Teachers

Feedback from the consultation meetings was gathered and a summary of key themes, questions and answers is set out below

Parents/carers meeting: Tuesday 10 June, 6.00-7.30 p.m.

Parents/carers meeting: Thursday 12 June, 2-3 p.m.

Staff meeting: Monday 16 June, 3.30 p.m.

Approximately 40 people attended one of the two consultation meetings arranged for parent/carers. Attendees were very engaged and many questions were asked and responded to. The staff meeting was well attended and supported by Trade Union representatives. The key themes discussed during all three meetings are set out in this report below.

Parent/carers were reminded that the FAQ documents were available on the Council's Engage Hub and the web link had been provided in their letter. The questions raised during the meetings have also now been added to the FAQs, which is a live and developing document. A separate FAQ document has also been produced for staff.

Key themes and questions raised with responses provided:

1. Could the school close earlier than August 2026?

No. Irrespective of the number of children remaining at Snape Wood during the 2025/26 academic year, it will not close earlier than this. The consultation and decision-making process is governed by a statutory legal framework that we are committed to.

During the 2025/26 academic year, the leadership team at Snape Wood will continue to put the education of children attending this school at the centre of all decisions they make. A robust school improvement plan will continue to be developed and delivered. Standards of teaching will continue to be developed and monitored by senior leaders and school improvement advisors. All subjects will be monitored to ensure that children continue to receive a good standard of education across the curriculum.

Plans are already happening to ensure that children at Snape Wood will benefit extra-curricular activities and opportunities such as clubs, trips and residential. Joint plans are in place with other school/s to collaborate on Arts events / sports projects to ensure that the children attending Snape Wood have the opportunities which they are entitled to so that the school's vision of 'Excellence For All' is maintained between now and any potential closure.

2. Concerns raised about losing the school which is part of the community – what are the plans for the building?

If the decision is made to close Snape Wood as a mainstream primary school, the LA will explore all options for retaining and repurposing the building.

A current preferred option would be to retain the site for an alternative specialist education provision such as for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), with potential for wider community use. Although there is insufficient demand for mainstream places, there is a significant SEND need in Bulwell, as there is across the city. The site and facilities at Snape Wood could be ideal for this, with it offering generous internal and external space.

Any decision on the future use of this site will be taken in the context of strategic priorities, particularly in relation to education and value to the local community and best use of the school estate.

The LA is currently updating and developing Phase 2 of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy to increase the provision of specialist education provision. All potentially available sites will be reviewed and considered as part of this work.

3. Should we apply for a school place now or later? Particularly those who have Year 6 SATS in the 2026/27 academic year?

Parents/carers can apply for an alternative school place at any time. Although the LA and Snape Wood's school leaders encourage families to keep their children at Snape Wood Primary until a decision is made and implemented in July 2026, if the closure proposal proceeds.

However, this is very much a personal decision, and the LA cannot advise individual families what to choose to do for their children. However, we encourage families to keep their children at Snape Wood Primary while it remains open. This will enable better coordination and planning in managing the applications for children displaced from Snape Wood. Also, by September 2026 there will be more places available at alternative schools as another larger Key Stage cohort will have left. Coordinated planning would also support effective transition to the new school. School leaders at Snape Wood will work with the Head Teachers at the local schools to ensure that transition is as seamless as possible.

Snape Wood school leaders are very much committed to ensuring that the education of children continuing to attend this school is at the centre of all decisions made. A robust school improvement plan will continue to be developed which will focus on supporting children at Snape Wood attaining a good quality of education in Maths, Reading and Writing. Standards of teaching will continue to be developed and monitored by senior leaders and school improvement advisors. Other subjects will also be monitored to ensure that children continue to receive a good standard of education across the curriculum.

4. Will I receive help to apply for another school for my child?

If the decision is made to close the school, all children attending Snape Wood Primary & Nursery School would be guaranteed a place at one of the other local primary schools from September 2026. The closest schools are Crabtree Farm Primary, Hempshill Hall Primary and Rufford Primary. From September 2026, there will be sufficient capacity across these three local schools to accommodate pupils who currently attend Snape Wood Primary & Nursery School. Affected pupils, parents and carers will be supported to apply for a place at their local school of choice and the normal admissions criteria will apply for allocating available spaces.

Dedicated admissions officers from the council will work closely with families to guide and support parents/carers in applying for a new school, ensuring that every child applies and is offered an alternative place to commence in September 2026.

School Admissions Team contact by phone: 0115 841 5568. Lines are open Mon-Weds: 9.30-12.30. Or you can make a new application online via the Citizens Portal at: https://ems.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en or visit www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/schooladmissions for guidance and FAQs.

LA Admissions Officers will also be running a drop-in session in school for parents to attend and have the opportunity to raise questions / seek support, in school on 18 September.

5. What if I live in a different area and want to move my child to a school further afield?

Parents and carers can apply for a place at any school and the normal admissions criteria will apply for allocating available spaces.

6. How will my child be transitioned into a new school?

Our primary schools are very experienced in supporting children who transfer from one school to another during the school year, or at any time. The Council is working closely with the other local schools to provide information and assistance for families during the process, including advice and guidance on how to apply to change schools. We will collectively ensure that transition is well planned and supported, with additional support for those who are most vulnerable.

If a closure is agreed, local schools will work together to ensure that children moving to a new school community have all the information they need to get to know a new school quickly. Parents will be offered an induction and tour of the new school with their child(ren). A new school will gather admission information for your child prior to them joining which will include pastoral information / SEND information / academic information etc. It is likely that local schools will have an existing "Induction Policy" for children who start with the school mid-year and so arrangements will be made on an individual pupil basis to ensure a child settles quickly. This may include support from a Nurture team within a new school community e.g. ELSA trained staff member / a peer buddy system to support a new child make friends and feel welcomed. It is also likely that school Family Support Workers will support new families get to know a new school community quickly and offer them support and guidance throughout any programme of transition. Where larger groups of children are being inducted into a new school community at one time - there will be a well-considered induction plan which will make every effort to be proactive and reflective so that the experience felt by all children is inclusive and promotes community cohesion.

7. What if more primary places are needed again in future?

The situation regarding the demand and supply of school places is kept under continual review. In forecasting demand the LA considers a number of factors including birth rate, the pupil roll census, new applications for Reception places at the start of a new school year, the number of in-year moves, migration in and out of the city, current and future new housing development and other changes that could impact the number of families with young children in the local area. We are always considering the best options when proposing changes that impact our schools.

Our projections continue to show that the demand for school places will remain low in this immediate area. However, should future demand for primary places increase, we will make provision for growth. The council has a statutory duty to provide enough high-quality school places for all children in the city.

8. How many other schools have closed?

In Nottingham City, this is the first for many years. There have been school closures in other LA areas in other parts of the country, also due to falling birth rates and outward migration for some large cities such as London.

9. Crabtree Farm, Hempshill Hall and Rufford primary schools also have a surplus of places and have had to make staff redundancies?

The falling numbers are also impacting some of the surrounding schools, although to a lesser extent. Rufford Primary School have healthy pupil numbers in most year groups and although Crabtree Farm Primary has a surplus of places, it is less significant and the number of children living in their catchment area support their viability. Although a couple of the local schools have still had to make some staff redundancies to address budget issues resulting from falling numbers.

The three closest schools named above all have two classes per year group and therefore have more pupils, larger budgets and more flexibility when pupil numbers fluctuate.

The vision of the LA and schools is to provide a high quality equitable educational experience for all children and young people in the city, which includes working in partnership with our primary schools to seek viable solutions to the ongoing challenge of falling pupil rolls.

10. Is it just a pupil numbers problem?

The fall in primary pupil numbers has been apparent in recent years in many areas of the city, primarily as a result of a lower birth rate, which has been declining more significantly since 2015. Recent whole City births and Bulwell area births, impacting the 2028/29 admission year, have now reduced again after a lengthy period of decline, which is consistent with the national births decline, other than a slight brief increase last year:

In addressing the ongoing challenge of falling pupil rolls, there is a need to reduce the number of surplus primary school places to ensure that schools can continue to maintain high quality education for all pupils.

The Department for Education (DfE) also expects LAs to manage the school estate efficiently and to reduce or find alternative uses for surplus capacity to avoid detriment to schools' educational offer or financial position. LAs are encouraged to consider all options for the reutilisation of space, including amalgamations, or closure when this would be the best course of action and where all other options have been considered

Snape Wood Primary & Nursery School has been significantly affected by falling rolls and it has by far the highest surplus of all the schools in the Bulwell area. The school currently has 42% unfilled places across the school, expected to increase to 60% by 2028/29. There are not enough children in the local area seeking places in this school.

This is expected to remain a problem in the coming years. The falling numbers are also impacting some of the surrounding schools, although to a lesser extent.

11. I am concerned about my child moving from a school with small class sizes (which are not full) to larger classes of 30 children.

30 pupils per class is the standard size across all community schools and state funded primaries, it is governed by Infant Class Size legislation when places are allocated, and it is also the optimum size financially in terms of schools maximising their resources effectively for the overall benefit of pupils.

It is important that education is provided as cost-effectively as possible. Empty places can represent a poor use of resources - resources that can be used more effectively to support schools in raising standards.

12. Is the nursery closing this year in July 2025?

Parents/carers of children currently attending the nursery provision at Snape Wood Primary were contacted by letter on 4 June, to inform them that due to very low numbers in the school's nursery from September 2025, which was projected to be less than 5 children, the LA had come to the regrettable decision that the nursery provision would be discontinued from September 2025. Families were also advised that the LA would work with them on an individual basis to identify a suitable place for their child(ren) at another local school nursery where there are places available.

We recognised this may present difficulties for families and therefore we sought their views on the proposal. Views or concerns relating to the nursery proposal were requested by 20th June 2025. A member of the Snape Wood Primary School office team contacted each family during that week to discuss this on an individual basis.

The LA and the school listened to the views shared and it was subsequently decided that the nursery provision would remain open for the new 2025/26 academic year. On 27 June 2025, the LA sent a letter to all current Snape Wood nursery 'N1' parents/carers to advise that the nursery 'N2' provision for these children will continue for another year, if they require it. This provision will be conditional upon children staying for a full school day and will be fully funded by the school.

Reception children due to join in September 2025

Parents/carers of the children who have been offered a place to start in Snape Wood Reception year of entry this September 2025, were also sent a letter and contacted by phone to ensure the letter had been received and to discuss the options available. A Senior School Admissions Officer has been available throughout the Stage 1 consultation, to advise and support these parents and carers. The option was offered to request a change of school for September 2025 if they felt this would be the best option. However, it was emphasised at every opportunity that the LA and the school – whatever the outcome of the consultation – will continue to promote a positive educational experience for the children who continue to attend Snape Wood Primary.