

REPONSES FROM STAGE 1 CONSULTATION										APPENDIX 1
Ref	Date response received	Relationship to school	Do you Agree to school closing	Commentary	Do you agree that the site should remain as a school	Commentary	Do you agree to change of use to a special school	Commentary	Further Comments	
001	06/10/2023	Staff	Yes	Can't continue without sufficient pupils; pupil increase unlikely; parents moved children as reassurance on future of school unknown	Yes	Building good condition; outdoor/fields/wooded area brilliant for children	Yes	See response document, positive comments thanking staff and parents		
002	05/10/2023	Staff	Yes	Limited numbers of children for social aspect	Yes	Wonderful grounds and space	Yes	None		
003	05/10/2023	Councillor	Yes	Numbers too low to provide an effective education	Yes	None	Yes	Good use of an existing school building		
004	04/10/2023	Parent	No	Unfair to students who have resumed there; start someone else find new friends; disrupt established routine for parent	Yes	None	No	School should remain as it is; if close school, please give parents option of placing our kids into a school of our choice		
005	03/10/2023	Councillor	Yes	Combination of the overhang of a large debt, the very few parents choosing the school for their children and the rejection of support by local academy trusts means closure is an inevitable reality	Yes	School site and buildings belong jointly to Cheshire East Council and the Shrewsbury Catholic Diocese. They represent a very important public asset capable of being repurchased for a new educational service.	Yes	Informed by local teachers and I know as a local Councillor there is a need to expand our local provision for Special Educational Needs. St Gregory's Primary School educational facilities could be adapted to meet those needs. I know that would have strong support from the local community and meet wider public requirements. I would hope and expect this alternative use to be thoroughly explored and implemented if at all possible.		
006	09/10/2023	Diocese	Yes	A lack of pupil numbers and the financial viability of the school	No response	Subject to a detailed proposal and business plan being received from the Local Authority which the Trustees can then consider	No response	Subject to a detailed proposal and business plan being received from the Local Authority which the Trustees can then consider		
007	09/10/2023	School Governor	No	Very short-sighted to be de-creasing the number of schools locally while the number of houses and families is ever increasing. Additionally, St Gregory's is a wonderful school, in fantastic grounds, that has the potential to be an exceptional school.	Yes	In the event that the school cannot keep mainstream pupils, this is an excellent alternative. It is disruptive and illogical to have to send children with special educational needs to schools so far afield.	Yes	I do agree, although it would be preferable to keep the school more inclusive but perhaps with additional SEN provision over and above what the other schools can offer, if this is not viable, then a dedicated special educational needs school would certainly fulfil a desperately needed requirement. I am deeply saddened that this has come to this point. St Gregory's has been/ is a fantastic child-led village school, with dedicated staff taking an holistic approach to learning and education. I sincerely hope that that ethos can remain and be carried on. Had Ofsted returned in a timely manner last year, this would have been reported on and a much more convincing case for the school would have been made in time.		
008	09/10/2023	Parent of pupil no longer at the school	No	School at the heart of Bollington Community and has served the community well for many years. It is known for its warm, family feel and the care it has provided for the children who have attended there.	Yes	It is a lovely building, surrounded by lovely grounds which could be put to good use for the right educational purpose. I believe it would be a huge loss to the community to loose St. Gregory's as an educational facility.	Yes	It is a shame to bus children out of their local community for them to get the educational needs met when we have the opportunity to provide this locally. My children have been very happy at St. Gregory's and as a family we are sad to see what has happened to the school.		
009	15/10/2023	Councillor	Yes	Pupil numbers very low; better served in other schools; school building could be better utilised	Yes	But only if changes to SEN provision; absolutely perfect to change to specialist provision	Yes	Desperately needed. We MUST ensure that the current pupils are moved to appropriate schools that pupils and parents are happy with.		
010	16/10/2023	Former Governor	No	Families feel that they have been forced to move schools due to the uncertainty in the school's future – despite loving the school and their children not wanting to move. The way this has been managed since before the Ofsted ruling is appalling. We need a catholic school in Bollington (despite lack of support from the Diocese). Year group's at the other schools in Bollington are at capacity.	Yes	It's an excellent premises with great facilities it would be a shame to lose this.	Yes	If the school can not remain as St Gregory's then this is the next best alternative and I understand that SEN spaces are desperately needed (rather than CEC paying for children to attend Beech Hall). Additional comments - Not that hasn't already been said about the failure of CEC and the Diocese to support St Gregory's and it's families.		
011	17/10/2023	Parent of pupil no longer at the school	No	No comments	Yes	No comments	Yes	No comments		

012	16/10/2023	Parent of pupil no longer at the school	No	Families feel that they have been forced to move schools due to the uncertainty in the school's future – despite loving the school and their children not wanting to move. The way this has been managed since before the Ofsted ruling is appalling. We need a catholic school in Bollington (despite lack of support from the Diocese). Year group's at the other schools in Bollington are at capacity. St Gregory's has been a significant part of the community for many years and as such has been well supported. Any lack of cohesion in the direction of the school is not the result of a lack of commitment by the community or the parents involved with its success.	Yes	It's an excellent premises with great facilities it would be a shame to lose this.	Yes	If the school can not remain as St Gregory's then this is the next best alternative and I understand that SEN spaces are desperately needed (rather than CEC paying for children to attend Beech Hall). Additional comments - Not that hasn't already been said about the failure of CEC and the Diocese to support St Gregory's and it's families.	
013	17/10/2023	Parent of pupil no longer at the school	No	It is a lovely school and much needed in the community especially for the Catholic families that value Catholic ethos and St Gregory's provides this.	Yes	I agree it would be a much needed essential provision and would also benefit the families that still want to attend St Gregory's if it is inclusive to all. It would also be more cost effective for our LA.	Yes	Keeping the school is more beneficial for the future of the growing community.	
014	13/10/2023	Relative of pupil no longer at the school	Yes	The small number of pupils presents a financial challenge which is unsustainable.	Yes	As the building already exists, it would be in the best interests of children within East Cheshire that have Special Educational Needs to utilise the facility.	Yes	If the use of the school be changed into an SEN school, it would be hugely beneficial to the community who have SEN children to reduce traveling outside the area. It would be a truly Christian action if the Diocese of Shrewsbury allowed this to happen.	
015	13/10/2023	Governor	Yes	It is heart breaking to see St Gregory's move towards closure from the thriving nurturing school we all know and many families including my own have benefited across the generations. The process and journey we have been on seems to have brought us to the inevitable. I believe that the hard work and dedication of the Interim head, Interim trust (Aspire), teachers, Governor's, and school community have addressed many of the Ofsted recommendations and would welcome an Ofsted monitoring inspection, however given the conditions of becoming a multi voluntary trust and no options for this, along with low pupil numbers, the schools future does not appear viable.	Yes	The school has excellent facilities and is well maintained, I would like to support the site to remain as a school. The grounds are suited for providing children with open space and excellent sports facilities including a Forrest school. There are also excellent facilities for vehicles to safely enter the ground to transport children i.e. taxi, mini bus or parent drop off. It would not increase traffic to the site from previous/present use.	Yes	I personally would like to support CE LA taking over the school to provide a SEND provision for children with Additional Needs. I am aware of the need for Specialist provision schools in the area resulting in many children travelling either across CE or out of area for education. St Gregory's has always been an inclusive community with a commitment to supporting children with SEND. I feel it would be an opportunity to continue the ethos and aims of the school and support the wider community of children and families, enabling children to access a specialist setting in their local community, fostering community links, and supporting families to access local education provision.	
016	18/10/2023	Parent of pupil no longer at the school	Yes		Yes	N/A	Yes	Comments A specialist school would be an amazing thing to have in the village, there are not enough spaces to accommodate all children who need specialist provision. Some children are often not in a school due to not being able to find a space in a school	
017	18/10/2023	Governor	Yes	Unfortunately, the school is no longer viable, due to a series of issues over the last 6 years, meaning that parent chose not to send their children to the school. In Cheshire East we have a need for specialist school places for children with Special Education Needs and at present many children have to go to schools outside of the Cheshire East borough to access their education provision. The local authority would like to open urgent discussions with the Diocese of Shrewsbury to discuss the use of the building if a decision is made to close St Gregory's Catholic Primary School.	Yes	The building has a long history of being a loving and inclusive school, it would be such a shame for the community to lose this important resource. If it can no longer be St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, then it would make a very good SEN provision, serving the wider Cheshire East community.	yes	This is a perfect for provision for any type of school, plenty of space and lots of outside areas for children to learn and grow in. If it can no longer be a mainstream primary school then it will make an excellent SEN provision	If the diocese had supported the school over the last few years, we may not be in the position we find ourselves in. However, there is no point dwelling on this, we need to look to the future and the transfer of use of the school to a dedicated SEN provision would be the best use of the site. I know of children in the local area who have been unable to start school this year, as there are no places for them in SEN schools. The least we could do for the local community is to open an SEN school in the village to provide much needed school places for those children who cannot attend mainstream school, this site provides the perfect setting for that.
018	19/10/2023	Parent of pupil no longer at the school	No	The school will close due to a probably previous reasons decisions and the Diocese's inaction and what appears to be a 'Don't care' outlook. It's possible they only see this as a way to raise cash from a potential housing scheme, they should take a peppercorn rent for the benefit of the Cheshire children. We needed a school, its too late now and I want to see and SEN school here.	Yes	The school is the perfect setting for this need, sending children outside Cheshire East is ludicrous and probably against the ESG policy for the councils targets. Kill 2 birds with one stone and make it an SEN school! The church should take the positive kudos from supporting this rather than the negative press if they don't The Diocese of Shrewsbury have been negligent on their communications and actions to date so I wont hold my breath!	Yes	ABSOLUTELY! The move to SEN status is the best news I have heard in this sorry saga	St Gregory's school was fantastic school that hit an iceberg and the holes were papered over until OFSTED took off the plasters... My son had x excellent years there and in the last x, the Head Mr Perry and his staff were exemplary and must be commended for their efforts and belief in all the children. The educational provision was not in question, such a sad day to see a school close - lets turn this into a positive and celebrate it with a new SEN school! I want to say that Bollington is a caring community and if you canvassed the residents, they would also support this change. <i>(dates/years removed to anonymise the response)</i>

19	19/10/2023	Parent of pupil no longer at the school	No	Bollington needs school places.The site should remain as a school, it is well located and has good facilities. It used to be a real asset to the community and could continue to be with support and investment.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	
20	19/10/2023	Parent of pupil no longer at the school	No	Bollington is an ever growing town, with more new family homes being built every year. Following St Gregory's ofsted report last year the majority of pupils have left to attend other local schools. This means class sizes are now at capacity or over capacity in Bollington and Bollington children will be less likely to secure places in the town where they live and be forced to travel to Macclesfield for school. St Gregprys is also a catholic school and as such it provides a catholic education that other local schools do not offer.	Yes	St Gregorys was a small local school which was thriving a few years ago and both my children attended and had a very happy primary school life. I strongly believe that the school has been let down by poor leadership within and support from the diocese and Cheshire east following their poor ofsted. They were left to fail and as a result a wonderful, small family school has been destroyed. There is definitely demand for another school in Bollington and I believe efforts should be made to ensure it is supported to succeed.	No	Whilst the site remaining as a school is preferable to it being sold to developers and I understand the need for more provision for SEND children, I strongly believe that the needs of the town's children should be of paramount importance. We need to ensure that every child in Bollington can be offered a place in a Bollington school. If this can be ensured and a SEND school is viable, the parking and infrastructure for this must be given proper consideration as it sounds as though many people will be travelling into Bollington at rush hour, increasing pressure on already busy roads.	With Dean Valley school situated only a few metres down the road, one option may be to merge St Gregorys and Dean Valley allowing the both sites to be used as junior and middle schools. School pupil numbers could be increased and SEND provision included in this to ensure SEND children continue to receive mainstream schooling as appropriate.
21		Parent of pupil no longer at the school	No	because it provided a good standard of education for both of our children and because we chose it for its nurturing, friendly environment. We still feel that the Ofsted report, while it highlighted some areas for improvement which we were in agreement with, went entirely too far in its assessment of the school as failing. As a result, Bollington has lost a valuable and much-needed education provider.	yes	It is purpose-built and is in an ideal location.	yes	there is an increasing need for specialised teaching as more children are entering the education system with learning difficulties.	Only that we feel that St Gregorys was let down by a variety of agencies and that many of the staff were wonderful, committed and caring individuals who helped our children to develop into well-rounded, happy learners throughout their primary years. It would be a great shame to lose the site as an education provider and so we endorse the change of use to a specialist teaching school for children with learning difficulties.
22		Staff	N/A	I cannot answer this question YES or NO. Under the current circumstances, I acknowledge and accept that it is not financially viable for the school to remain open. However, the situation should not have been allowed to get to this stage. Saint Gregory's could have turned things around at a much earlier stage had the situation been managed differently. Families did not want to leave – falling numbers had nothing to do with the inadequate OfSTED, they were as a result of the uncertainty re: the future of the school – especially as the diocese made clear that they had no intention of appointing a substantive headteacher after John Daley's departure in January 2022. Parents have moved their children out of fear and panic. They have told us their children 'are not being challenged in their learning like they were at Saint Gregory's'. Our children did achieve well. We have not been supported and suitable leadership has not been sought in a timely manner.		It would obviously be better for the site to remain as a school. It is a well-loved home for learning and it would be devastating for the grounds and the wildlife to be disturbed. However, it begs the question whether this has been the intention for some time. It feels as though we have been earmarked, targeted and left to die a slow and painful death instead of somebody having the gumption to be honest and direct from the outset.		If this is the only option for the school to remain 'intact' then yes. However, surely there could've been some compromise or joined up thinking here ... keeping the Catholic Mainstream School open whilst sharing the site with Specialist Provision?	<i>Comments removed to anonymise this respondent</i>