

**Consultation on a proposal to close
Manners Sutton Primary School
04 January 2021 to 31 January 2021**



Introduction

Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient primary and secondary school places across the county and is committed to working in close partnership with schools, academy trusts, the dioceses and key partners to ensure that the education offered to all children is of good quality.

On 30 November 2020 Nottinghamshire County Council's Children and Young People's Committee gave approval for a consultation to take place on a proposal to close Manners Sutton Primary School, Newark Road, Averham, Newark, NG23 5QZ with effect from 31 August 2021.

This consultation document is for all interested parties. We welcome your views on the proposal. The local authority will consider all the views put forward during the consultation period before a decision is taken on whether to proceed with the statutory process to close the school.

Background to the proposal

Manners Sutton Primary School is a small school with a published admission number (PAN) of eight serving the village of Averham in the Newark and Sherwood District. The school is maintained by Nottinghamshire County Council. The last Ofsted inspection of the school (January 2018) rated the school as 'good'.

In February 2020 Nottinghamshire County Council were approached by the Headteacher and Governing Body of Manners Sutton Primary School, who expressed their concerns over the future viability of the school due to the low and falling numbers on roll and asked that Nottinghamshire County Council consider closing the school.

In September 2020 Nottinghamshire County Council were informed by the Headteacher of Manners Sutton Primary School that the school had opened for the 2020/21 academic year with zero pupils on roll.

Throughout this consultative process Nottinghamshire County Council is following the prescribed process described in '**Opening and closing maintained schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers**' published by the Department for Education in November 2019. See: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/851585/Opening_and_closing_maintained_schools1012.pdf

Rural Schools and the presumption against closure

The local authority acknowledges that there is a presumption against the closure of rural schools. Nottinghamshire County Council understands that in order to close a rural school the case must be strong and in the best interests of educational provision in the area.

Nottinghamshire County Council have considered other options which could result in Manners Sutton Primary School continuing to operate (see stage one consultation). These options included:

- Academisation
- Federation
- Amalgamation

However after consideration none of the options were deemed viable by Nottinghamshire County Council's Children and Young People's committee.

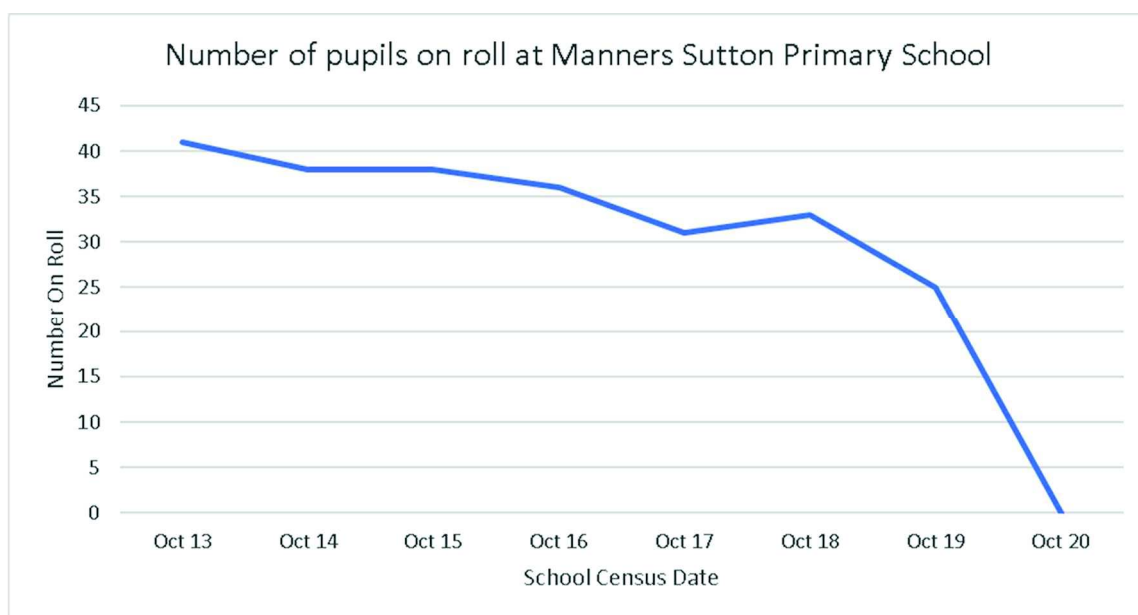
Declining Numbers on Roll of Manners Sutton Primary School

Manners Sutton Primary School has a published admission number (PAN) of eight and an overall Net capacity of 56.

Between October 2013 and October 2019 the number of pupils on roll at Manners Sutton Primary School reduced gradually from 41 to 25. Since October 2019 all pupils have left the school, either transferring to secondary schools or other primary schools in the area.

Table one -Number of primary school aged children on the roll of Manners Sutton Primary School - October 2013 to October 2020

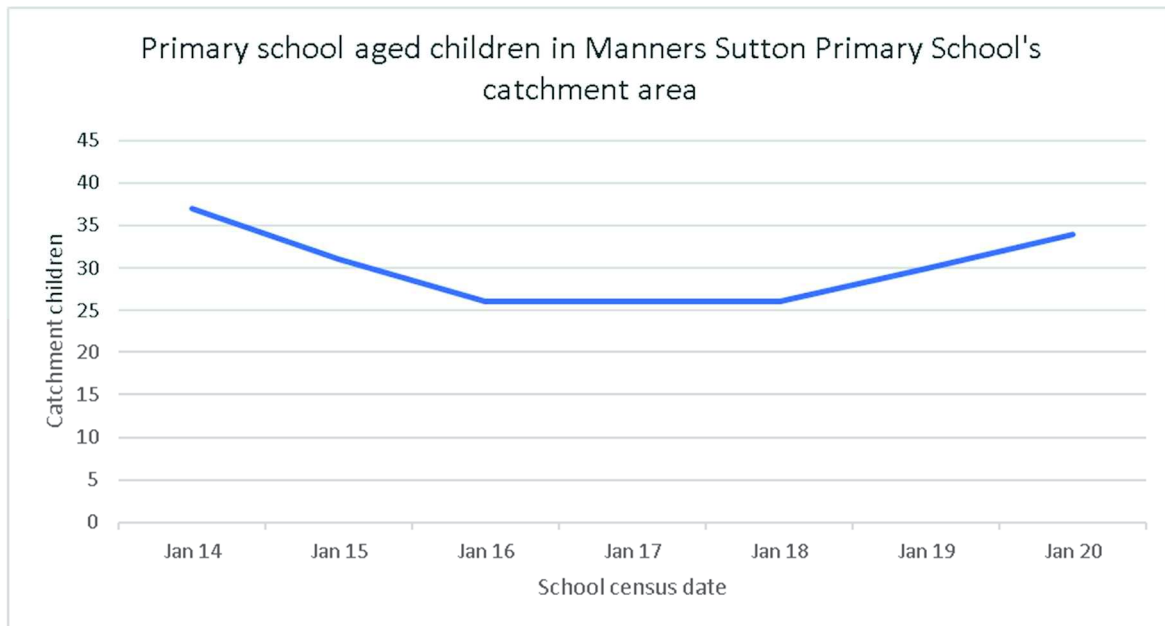
Census date	Oct 13	Oct 14	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20
Number of pupils on roll	41	38	38	36	31	33	25	0



During the period since January 2014, the number of primary school aged children in Manners Sutton Primary School’s catchment area has decreased slightly from 37 to 34.

Table two – Number of primary school aged children living in the catchment area of Manners Sutton Primary School – January 2014 to January 2020

Census date	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20
Primary aged children in catchment	37	31	26	26	26	30	34
Catchment children attending MSPS	25	22	15	9	6	8	9



All primary school aged pupils living within the catchment area of Manners Sutton Primary School are now, through parental choice, on the roll of other schools, most of which are within 5 miles of Averham.

There is little housing development planned in the catchment area of Manners Sutton Primary School. It is therefore not expected that the number of pupils in the school catchment area will increase in the short to medium term.

Other Nearby Primary Schools

There are 13 schools and academies for primary school aged children within 5 miles (by road) of Manners Sutton Primary School. Eight of these schools are separated from Averham by the River Trent which can be crossed via Kelham bridge.

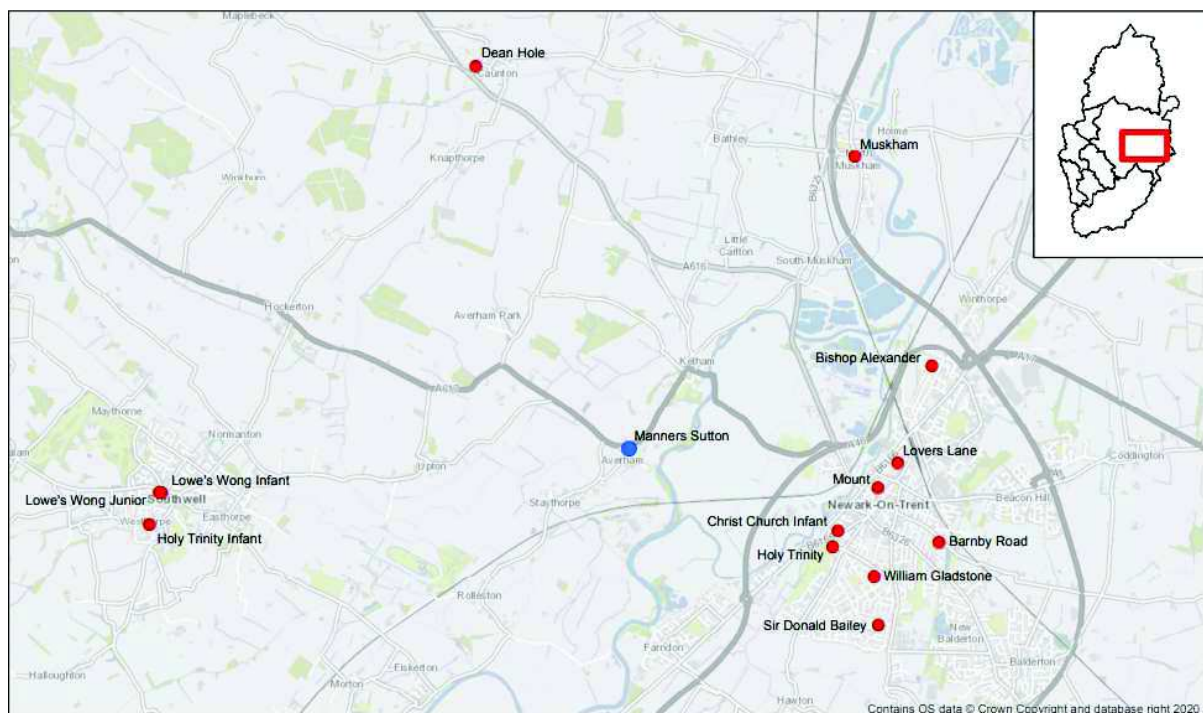


Table three – Primary schools within 5 miles of Manners Sutton Primary School

School Name	Distance by road from MSPS	Projected surplus school places September 2021
Mount CofE Primary School	3.4	-3
Lovers Lane Primary and Nursery School	3.7	41
Christ Church CofE Infant School	3.7	52
Muskham Primary School	3.8	20
Holy Trinity Catholic Voluntary Academy	4.0	46
William Gladstone CofE Primary Academy	4.2	182
Barnby Road Academy	4.2	-10
Caunton Dean Hole CofE Academy	4.5	10
Bishop Alexander LEAD Academy	4.5	77
Sir Donald Bailey Academy	4.7	130
Lowe's Wong Infant School	5.0	35
Lowe's Wong Junior School	5.0	61
Holy Trinity CofE Infant School	5.0	24

Transport

As there are currently no pupils on roll at Manners Sutton Primary School, Nottinghamshire County Council will not be required to assist in arranging transport to alternative schools for pupils who would be displaced should the school be discontinued.

In the future, children reaching primary school age in the current Manners Sutton Primary School catchment area may be eligible to receive travel assistance in line with Nottinghamshire County Council's home to school transport policy.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/travel-to-schools/under-16-mainstream-travel-assistance>.

Other factors supporting Nottinghamshire County Council's proposal to close Manners Sutton Primary School

School Financial Position

Due to the reduction in the number of pupils on roll, Manners Sutton Primary School has seen a reduction in the funding they receive to run the school in recent years. This has resulted in significant financial challenges.

Measures have already been taken to improve the school's financial position. These include closing the school's nursery provision; reducing two primary classes to one; and the employment of an executive Headteacher (shared with another School).

Difficulty in Offering A Broad and Balanced Curriculum

Schools are required to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. The Governing Body of Manners Sutton Primary School is of the view that the projected numbers on roll will render this objective very difficult to achieve in the future.

Safeguarding against future risk

Due to the low number of teaching staff employed by the school, it has become very difficult to cover absences that occur due to unforeseen circumstances.

Impact on Averham Village

Nottinghamshire County Council has considered the impact that closing Manners Sutton Primary School will have on the local community.

Nottinghamshire County Council acknowledges that the loss of primary school provision may be detrimental to families wishing to send their children to Manners Sutton Primary School in the future, however the trend illustrated in table 2 (above) suggests that future admissions would not be sufficient to allow the school to be viable.

There are currently no community activities being hosted by Manners Sutton Primary School, therefore no other groups will be displaced should a decision to close the school be taken.

Nottinghamshire County Council has not decided on how the school building would be used if Manners Sutton Primary School was to close. It is therefore not possible to comment at this time on how an alternative use would affect the local community.

Stage one consultation

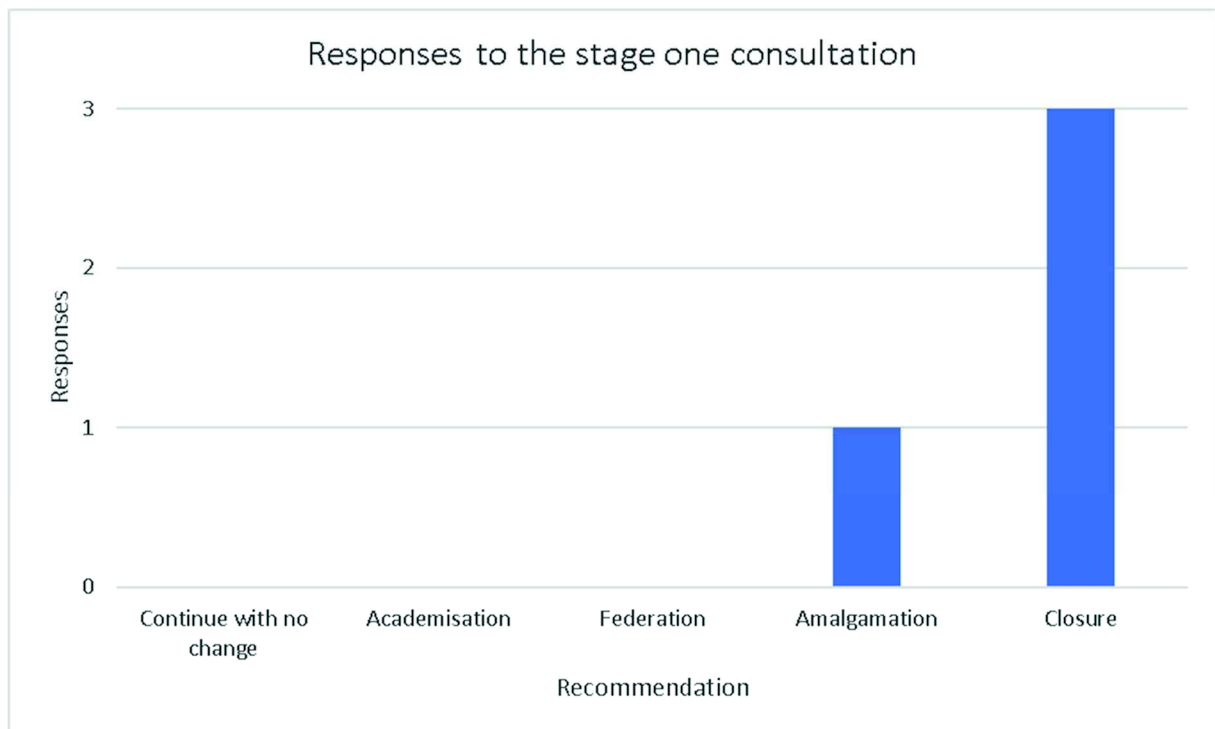
In accordance with the DfE’s guidance and their presumption against closing rural schools, Nottinghamshire County Council held a stage one consultation between 5 October 2020 and 15 November 2020. The consultation aimed to gather the views of interested parties on the future of Manners Sutton Primary School to help Nottinghamshire County Council to develop a proposal.

The consultation document outlined options for the continuation of Manners Sutton Primary School and asked interested parties to state their preference for which of the options should be adopted.

- Continue with no change
- Academisation
- Federation
- Amalgamation
- Closure

The consultation was hosted on Nottinghamshire County Council’s consultation hub and notification of the consultation dates and details of how to respond were sent to the stakeholders prescribed by the DfE and listed at **appendix two**.

Four responses were received to the stage one consultation. A summary of the responses is illustrated below:



Equality Impact Assessment

The local authority is required to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty in determining these proposals. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the consultation process to identify the equality implications of this proposal and any appropriate mitigation.

The consultation and decision making process

As per the timetable published at **appendix one**, the representation period in which Nottinghamshire County Council will accept responses to the consultation will open on 4 January 2021 and close on 31 January 2021.

Following the consultation, Nottinghamshire County Council will consider responses before deciding whether to close Manners Sutton Primary School. The decision will be made in Spring 2021 and a statutory notice will be published on Nottinghamshire County Council's website within one week.

If you wish to respond to the consultation you can share your views by:

- Completing the online survey on Nottinghamshire County Council's consultation hub (<https://consult.nottinghamshire.gov.uk>)
- Emailing Nottinghamshire County Council at Place.planning@nottscc.gov.uk
- Paper copies of the consultation can be requested from and returned to: Pupil Place Planning, Education Learning and Skills, Children and Families Services, Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, NG2 7QP.

Thank you

Consultation Response Form

Question 1. Do you agree with Nottinghamshire County Council's proposal for the closure of Manners Sutton Primary School?

Yes

No

Neither agree or disagree

Question 2 If Manners Sutton Primary School was to close, how would this directly impact on you and your family?

Question 3. If you are a local resident of Averham, how do you feel that the closure of Manners Sutton Primary School will affect you and the local community?

Question 4. Do you have any further comments or suggestions that you would like Nottinghamshire County Council to consider on this matter?

Question 5. In what role are you responding to this questionnaire eg parent/carer, employee, governor, resident?

Appendix one – Prescribed Stages and proposed timeline for the consultation process to consider the future of Manners Sutton Primary School.

Stage one: Pre-publication consultation	5th October 2020 - 15 November 2020	This is the start of the process when the Local Authority provides information about what is being proposed and gathers the views of interested parties to help them develop the proposals.
Stage two: Publication	4th January 2021	A legal notice is published in the local paper (usually the Newark Advertiser) and on the Council website which sets out brief details of the proposal and where more information can be found. It also gives details of where objections and comments can be sent and the closing date for these. It marks the start of the representation period or formal consultation.
Stage three: Representation	4th January 2021 - 31 January 2021	This is the formal consultation stage. During this period, any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal to the LA, to be taken into account by the decision-maker.
Stage four: Decision	Spring 2021	All the objections and comments gathered during the representation period are provided to the decision maker (Local Authority Elected Members) to enable them to make the final decision. A statutory notice outlining the decision will be published.
Stage five: Implementation	Summer 2021	The decision made in stage four is implemented.

Appendix two – DfE prescribed list of consultees for consultation on closing schools

In the case of the proposed closure of a rural primary school or a community or foundation special school, prior to publishing a statutory notice and proposal, proposers must, under section 16(1) of EIA 2006 consult:

- The LA (as appropriate);
- The parents of registered pupils at the school;
- where the LA is a county council the local district or parish council where the school that is the subject to the proposal is situated; and
- in the case of a special school – any LA which maintains an EHC plan or statement of special educational needs in respect of a registered pupil at the school.

The Secretary of State considers that these bodies, along with those listed below should be consulted in the case of the proposed closure of all schools:

- the governing body (as appropriate);
- pupils at the school;
- (if a proposal involves, or is likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character) the appropriate diocese or relevant faith group;
- the trustees of the school (if any);
- teachers and other staff at the school;
- any LA likely to be affected by the proposal, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils;
- the governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected;
- parents of any pupils at other schools who may be affected by the proposal including where appropriate families of pupils at feeder primary schools;
- any trade unions who represent staff at the school; and representatives of any trade union of staff at other schools who may be affected by the proposal;
- MPs whose constituencies include the school that is the subject of the proposal or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposal
- any other interested organisation / person that the proposer thinks are appropriate.