

22. 2. 16

Mr B Porter
Head of Resources
Care + Learning
Highland Council

Dear Mr Porter,

Sadly I have to agree with the closure of Dalwhinnie Primary school. I have lived in the village for 8 years and as far as I know only one other family with children have moved here which would make a school roll of 4 or 5. My son [redacted] attended Dalwhinnie PS for 4 years and the level of education and nearly one to one tuition from Mrs Webster and a few others was of a very high standard and for this period of time [redacted] and myself were happy with the situation. Unfortunately when the roll fell down to just two pupils I felt [redacted] would benefit from being at a larger school.

With larger classes and more pupils [redacted] has a lot more social interaction with other children and staff members which obviously helps him for future schooling. He gets to participate in school committees such as pupil council and Charities committee where as a small

school roll cannot cover these groups
[REDACTED] is also learning French at
Newtonmoore so having a larger group
to share conversations is a definite
help to him. Having a small school
roll restricts team sports and other
activities, such as drama + gym which
[REDACTED] really enjoys being involved in
[REDACTED] has definitely benefited from
moving to Newtonmoore school and my
daughter [REDACTED] is currently at N Moore
nursery and is looking forward to moving
up to P1 in August.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

29 FEB 2016

HIGHLAND COUNCIL
CARE & LEARNING SERVICE



24 February 2016,

Dear Sir/Madam,

Dalwhinnie Primary School.

I was educated at Glentruim Primary before it closed in 1958 because of lack of numbers. Our four children went to Gergask as well as our four grandchildren.

So I speak from experience when I say that small schools give an excellent education and Gergask historically has been recognized as producing pupils who were well ahead of their classmates when they got to Kingussie.

Laggan and Dalwhinnie are 'rural' communities compared with 'suburban' Newtonmore and the children therefore are more likely to have shared interests like farming and gamekeeping.

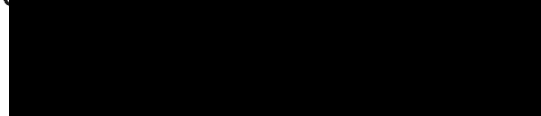
The distance to Laggan is shorter which for small children is of great importance at the end of the day.

There are stronger outside links between the two communities from the 'post' to the Church, so the parents and therefore children, tend to know and socialise with each other.

For events such as sport and music festival, an extra pupil or two can make the difference between entering a competition or not, whereas it will be of no consequence to Newtonmore.

For all these reasons we think it is only right that the Dalwhinnie residents should be given the option of sending their children to Gergask Primary and Nursery.

Yours sincerely



S.D.

Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Dalwhinnie to go to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary, instead of Dalkwhinnie Primary.

Now we have to decide what to do for the future. We have 3 choices:

- 1. Close Dalwhinnie Primary for good, with the pupils going to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary instead.**
- 2. Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary, so pupils from there would go to that school and not to Newtonmore or Gergask.**
- 3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.**

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

because they could
make new Friends

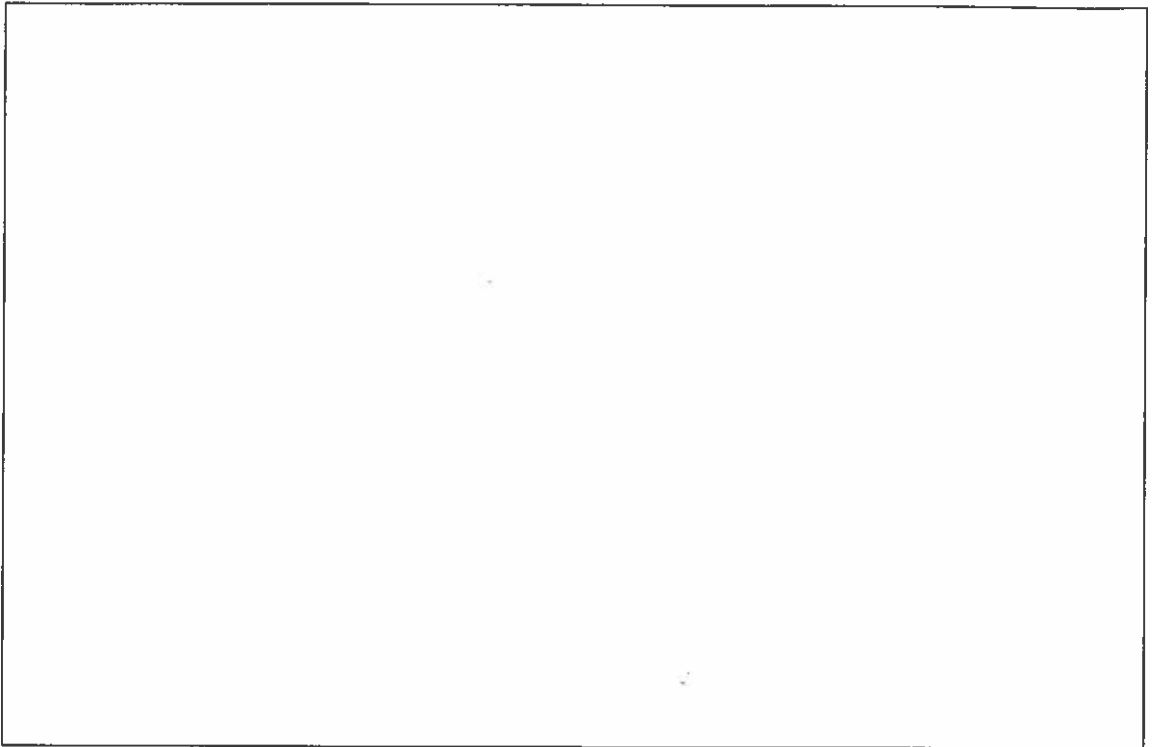
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because in a class
They could lots of
friends.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	✓
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

it is so they still
have a school

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

So we make
new freinds

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

no



JJ

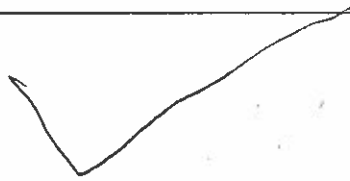
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2. Why did you give the answer above?

because every other
School has to keep on working

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	X
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because its ^a way better
School!!!!

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

NO THANK YOU!!!

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

It would be a huge waste of money.

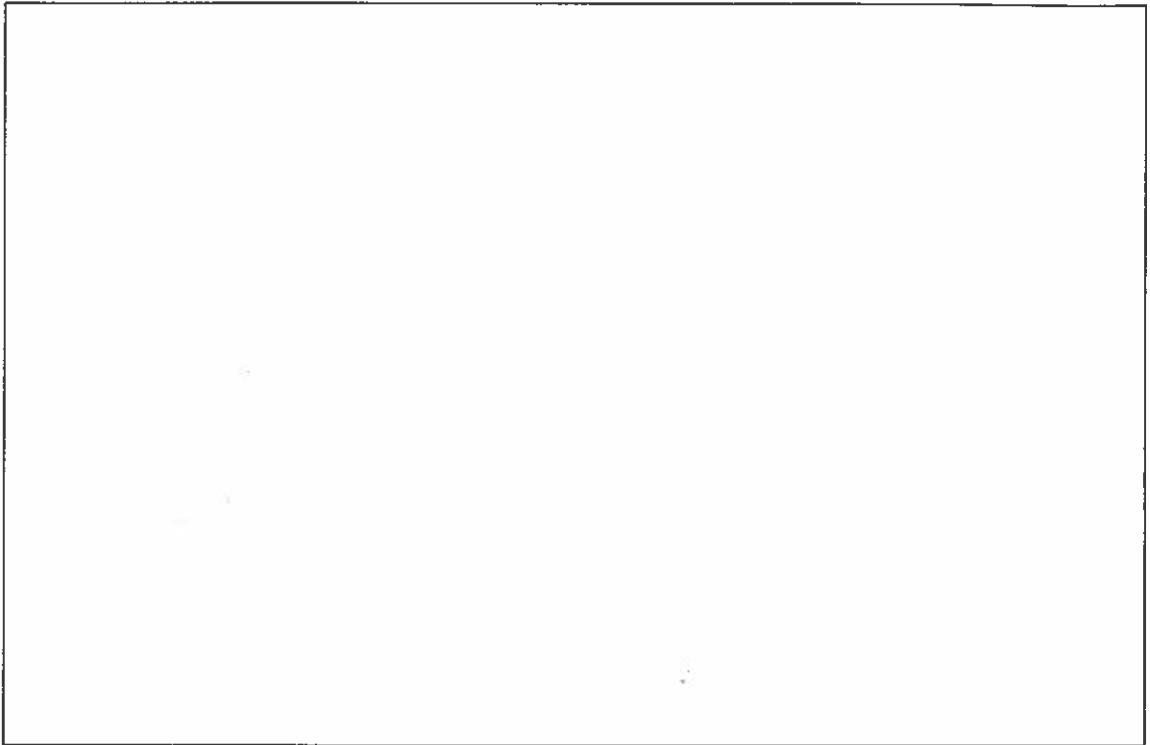
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Gergask Primary X	
Newtonmore Primary ✓	

4. Why did you give the answer above?

I chose Newtonmore school because we could make some new friends

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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KW

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

"Because it is a waste of money."

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	X
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

"Because it is better here"

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

no


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2. Why did you give the answer above?

"I thought that people in Dalwhinnie would not like that."

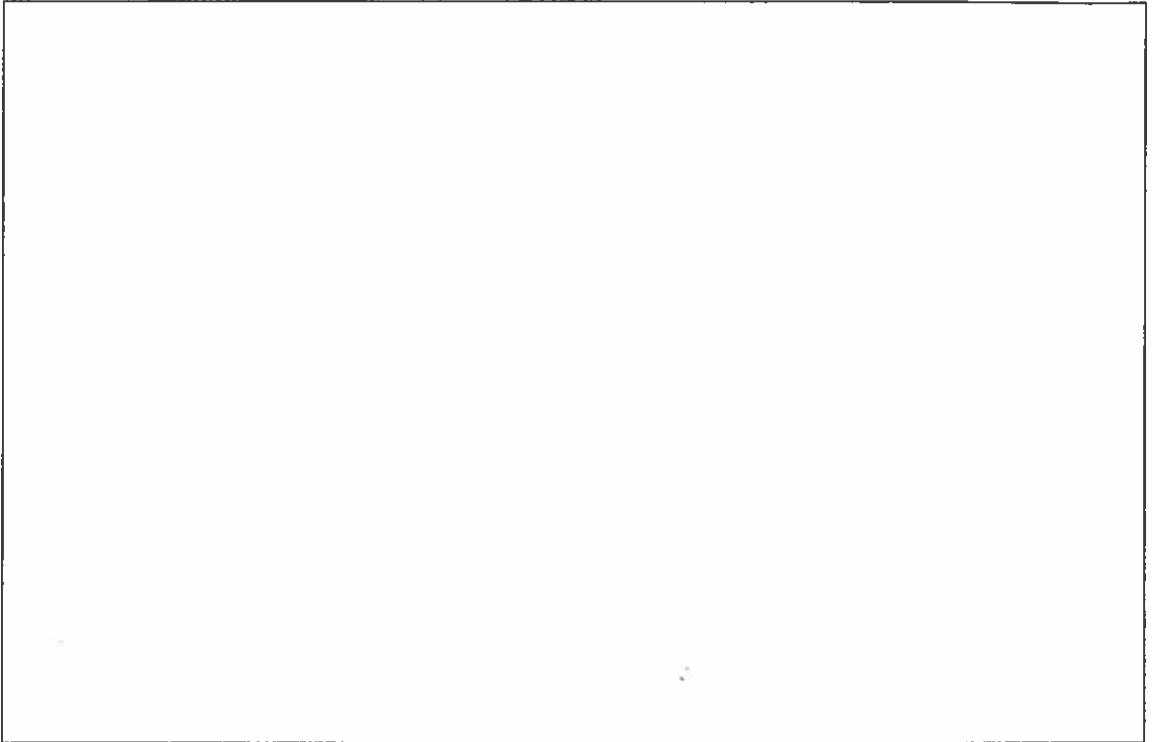
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary ✓	

4. Why did you give the answer above?

"So people could make friends with me."

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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CM

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Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	✓
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

"Because they might miss friends at their school."

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

"Because you can make new friends."

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

"Why did you close it in the first place?"

F B

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because it would mean paying more munny.

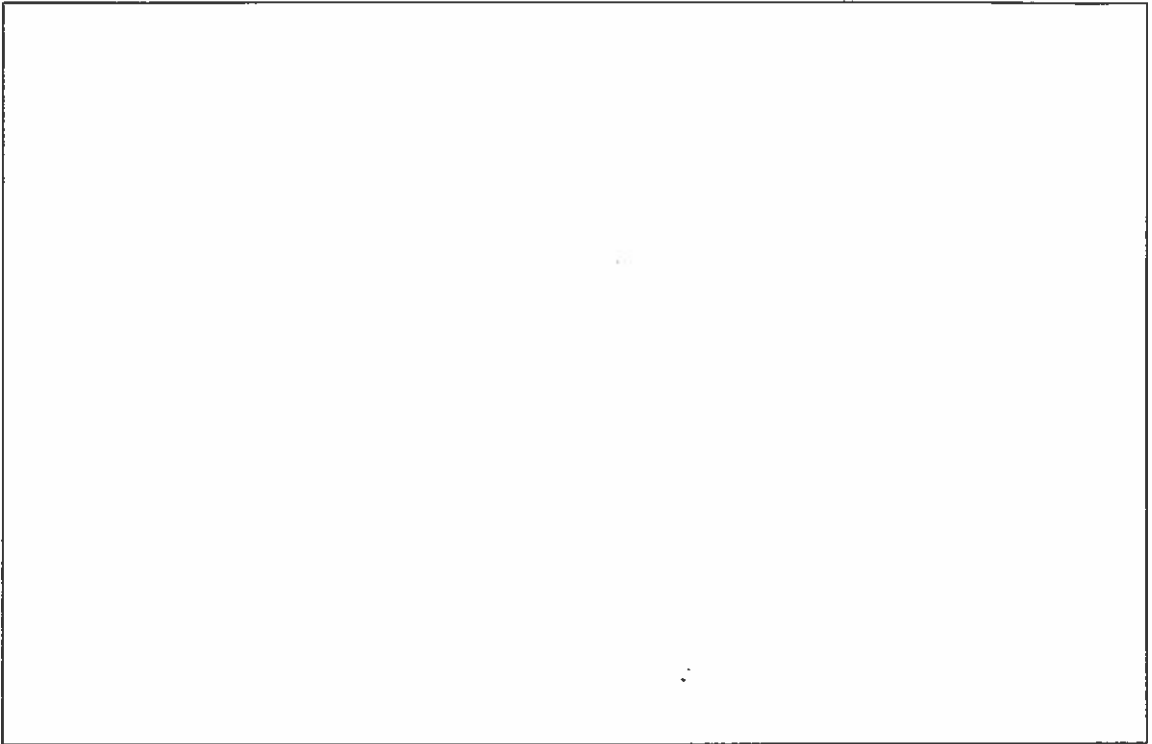
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Gergask Primary	X
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

To make the school bigger.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because more people have
more friends

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because Gergask doesn't
have many pupils

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

Nope ü


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2. Why did you give the answer above?

Beacuse there is not
any Pupils

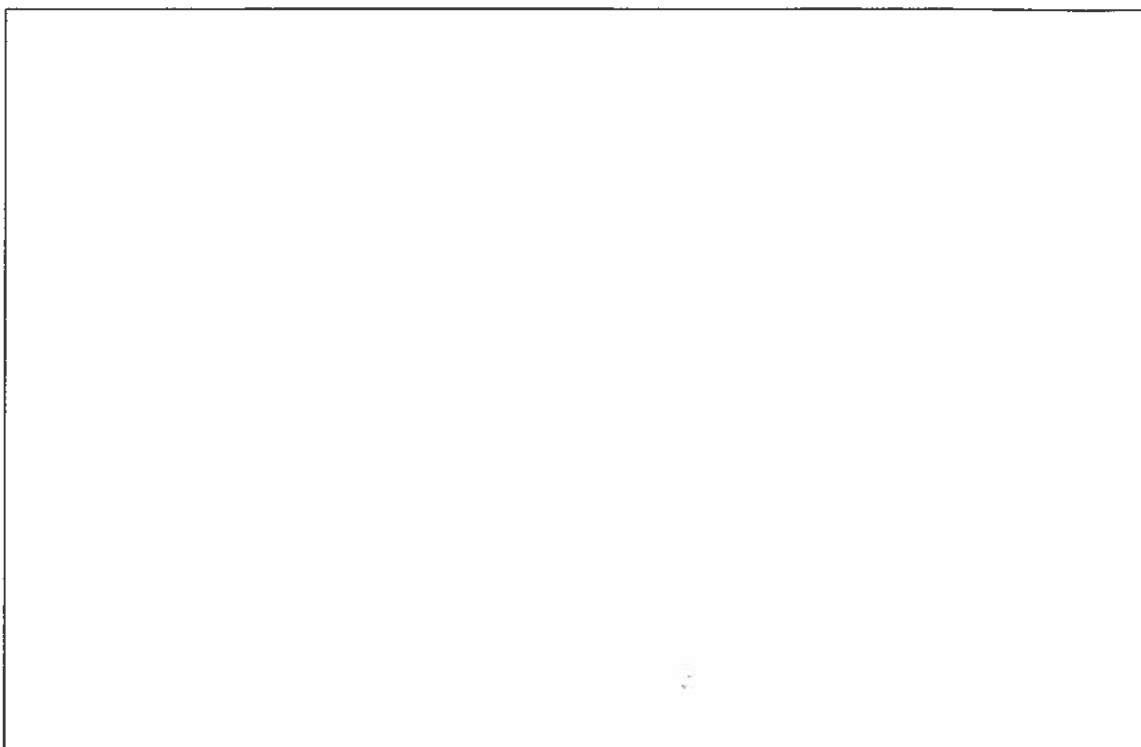
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

there is more Pupils

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

because so math people come.

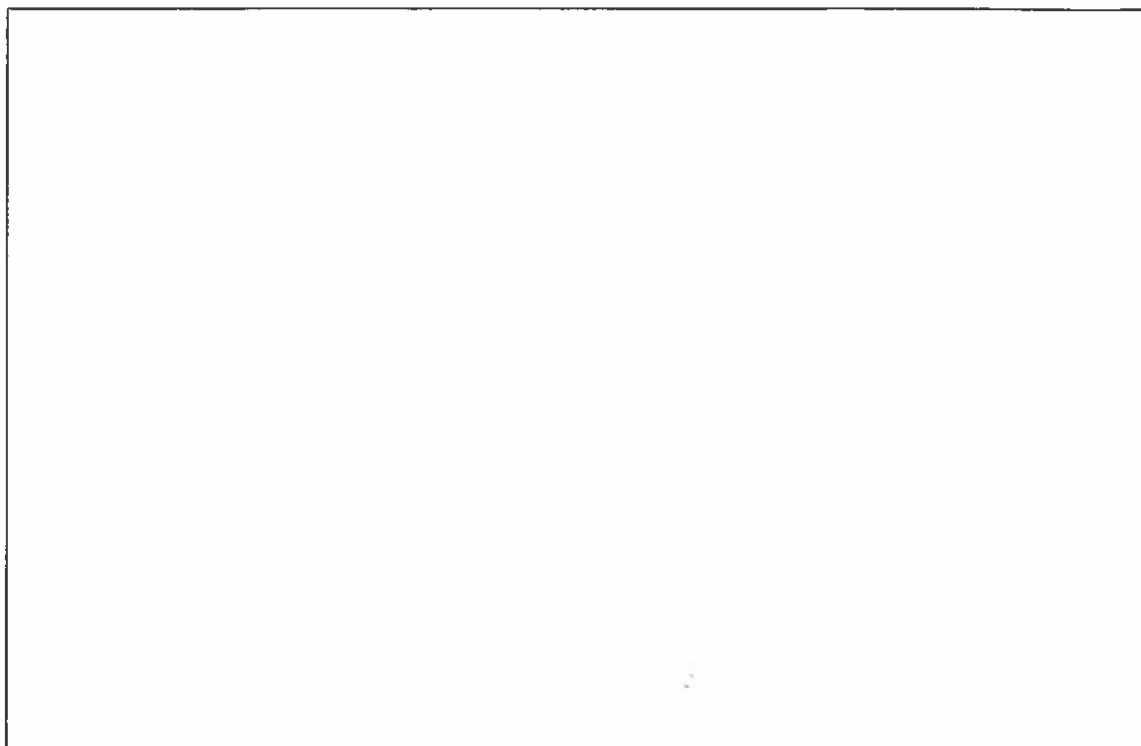
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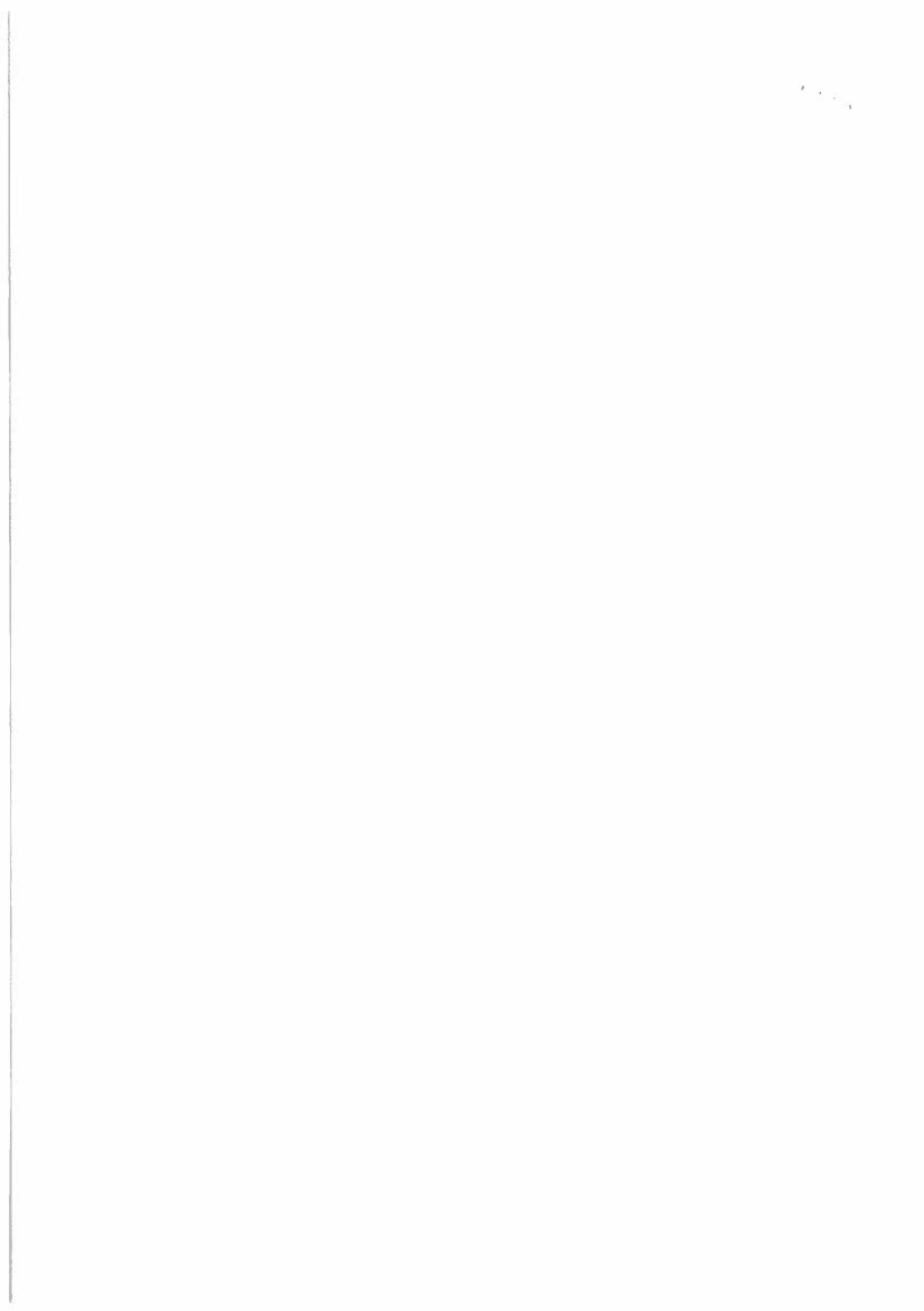
Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

they would have more friends.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

Beccause I think it's a good idet.

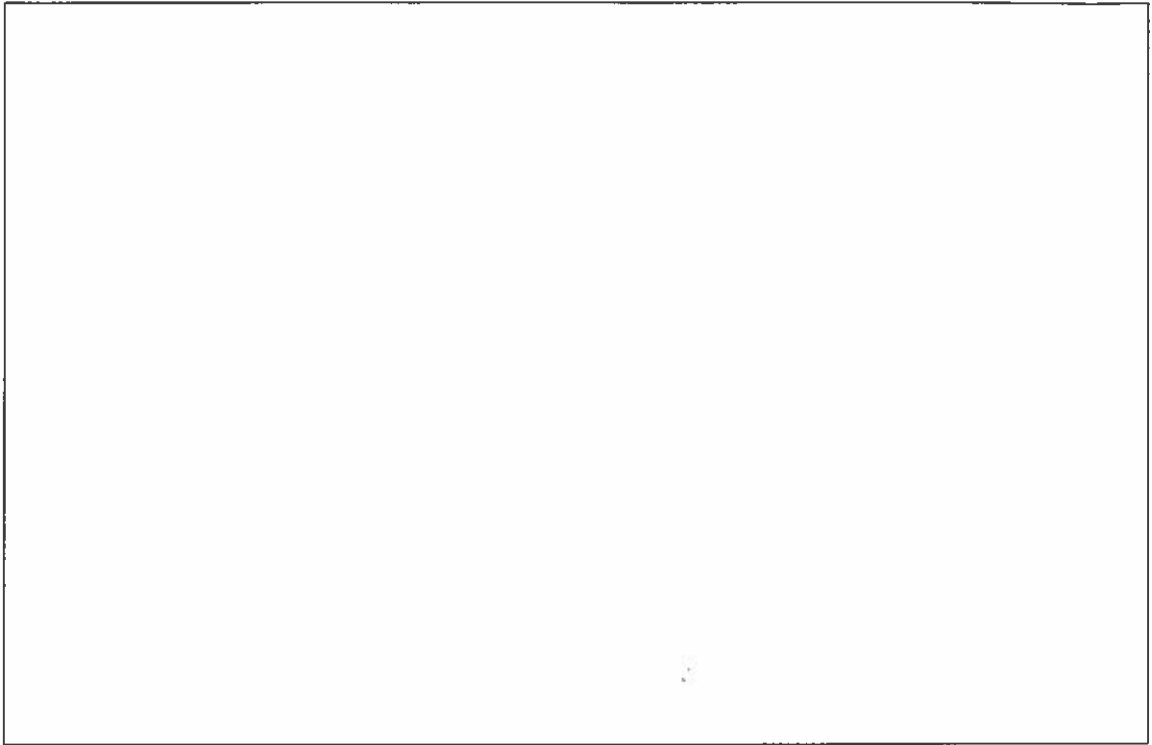
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Beccause we will get more friends.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because if the school
the teachers would have
to find a new job.

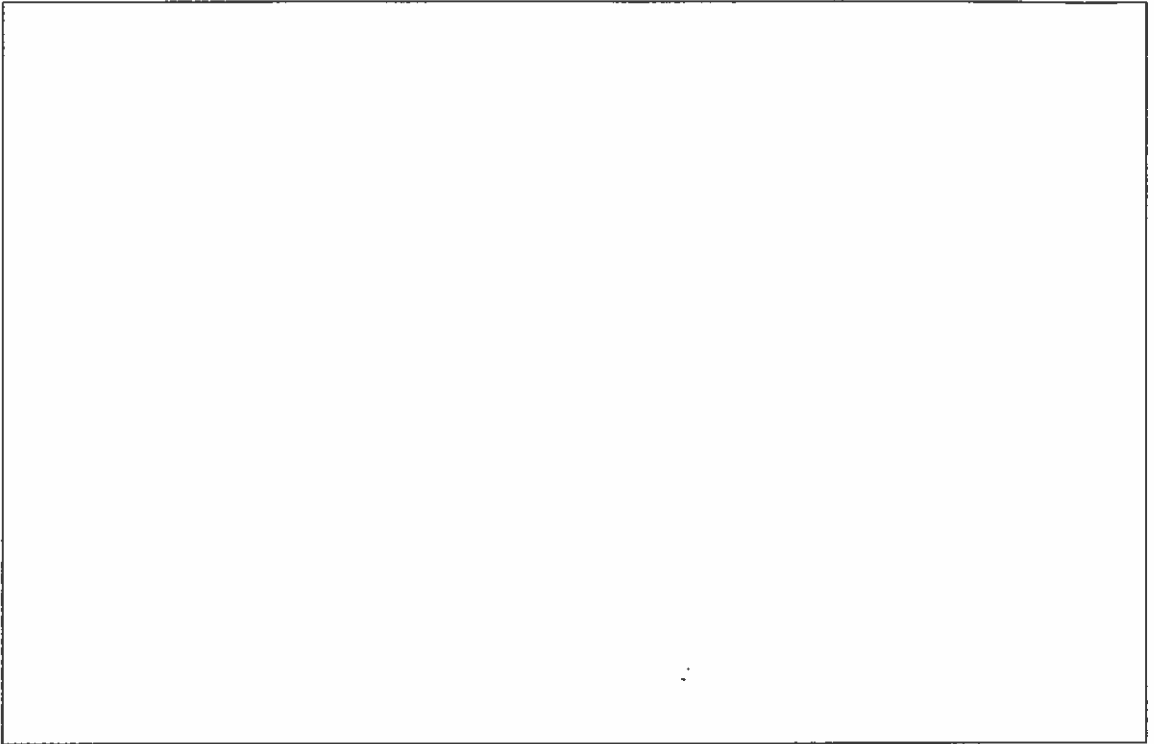
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because Newtonmore
School rarely closes
for bad weather.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because I think They could choose what school to go to

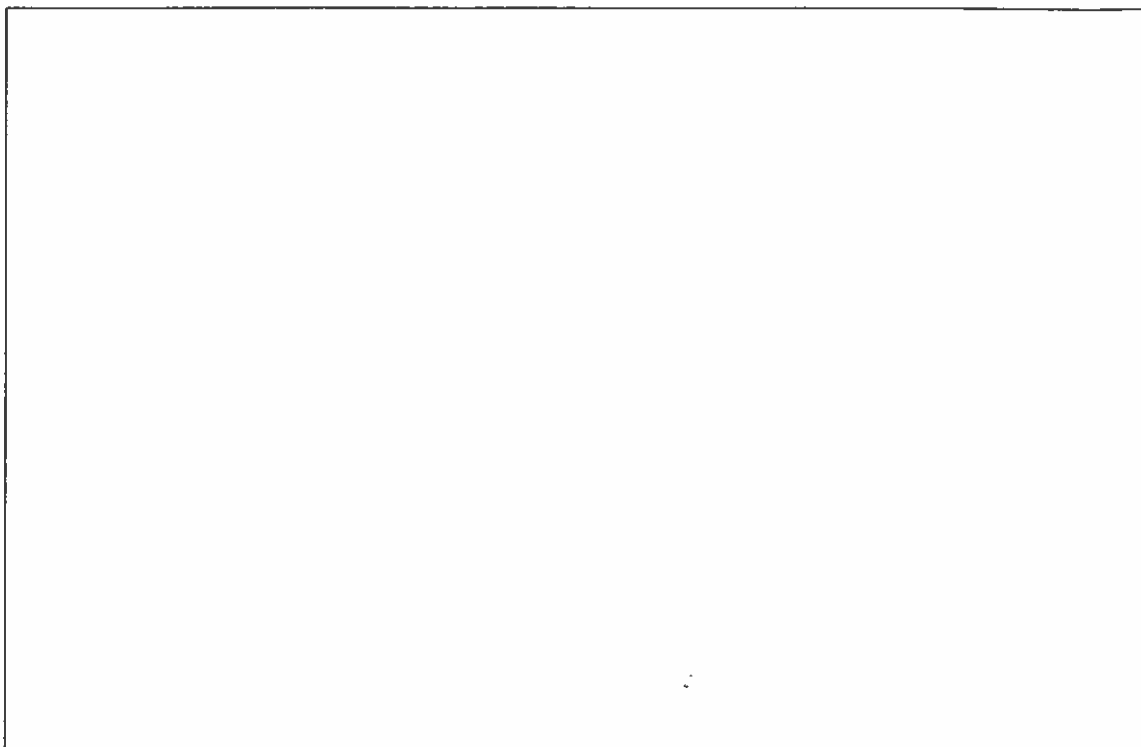
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because where kind could to give them more friend

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

So pupils could have more fun
with

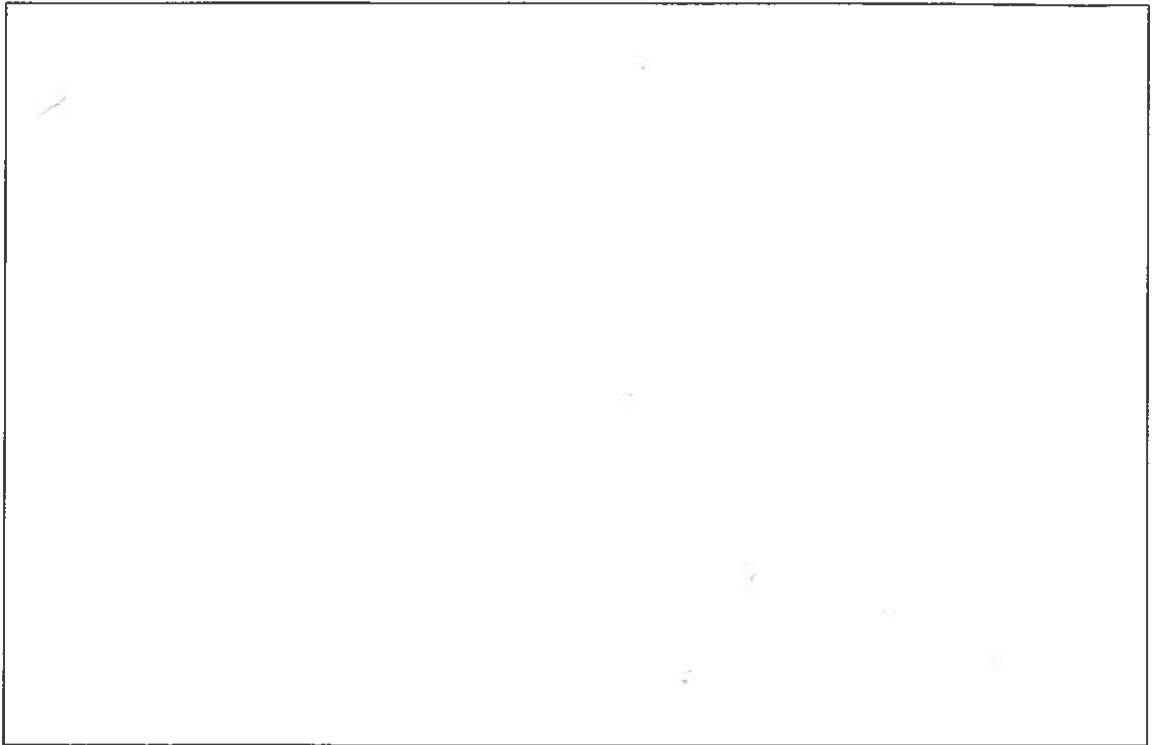
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

theres loads of pupils in newtonmore
and not as many pupils in gergask

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

So theres more time to
tinge about it.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	✓
Newtonmore Primary	

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Gergask is a small school
so it duseht close

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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- 3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.**

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

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Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

So that the children are in a bigger class.
--

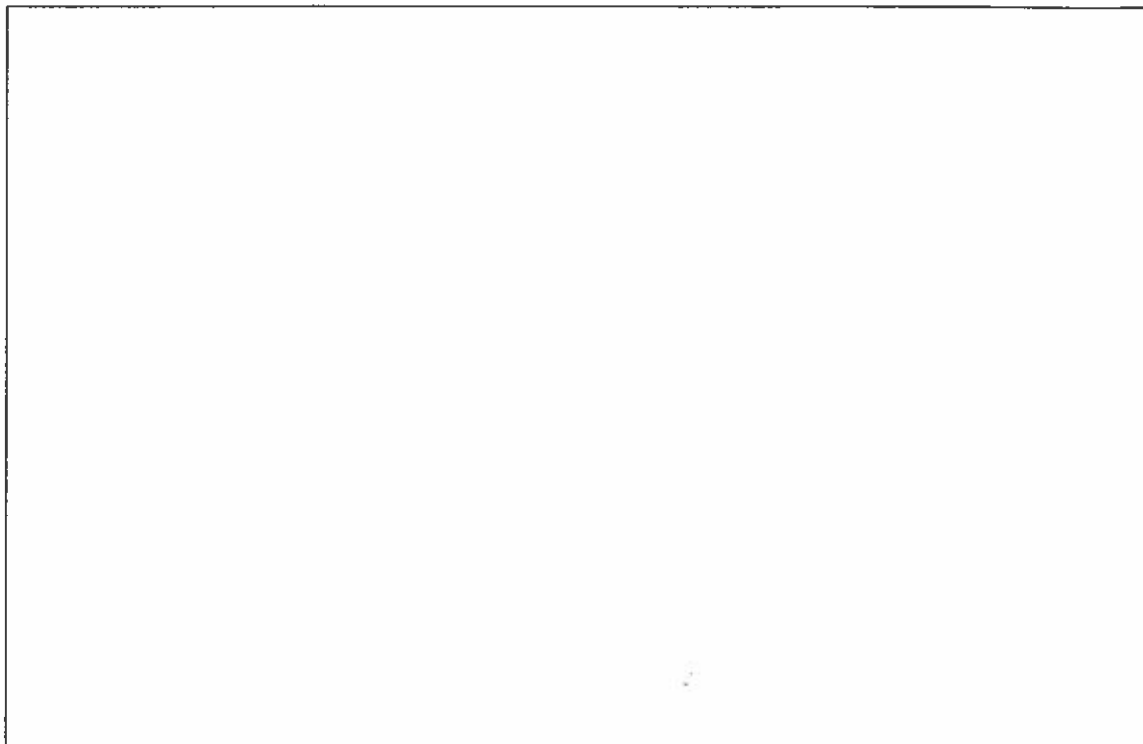
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

--

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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W. W. W.

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

So they can play with

the children

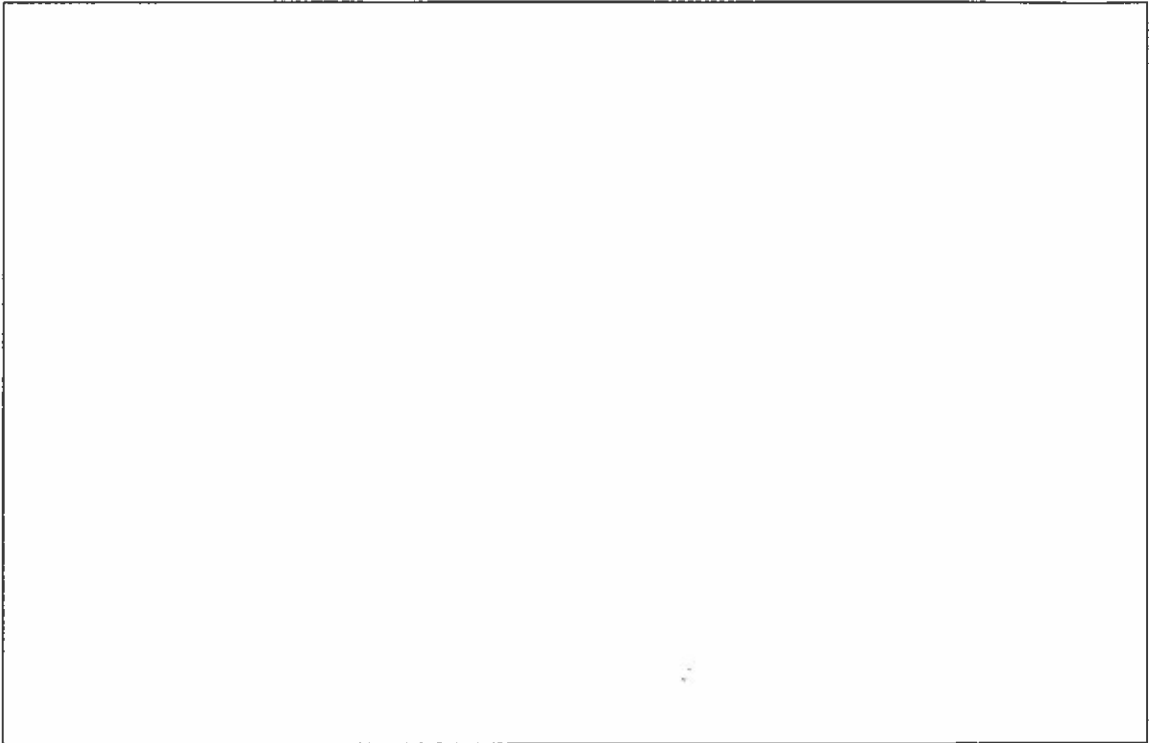
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

its closure

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

So that more PEOPLe go there

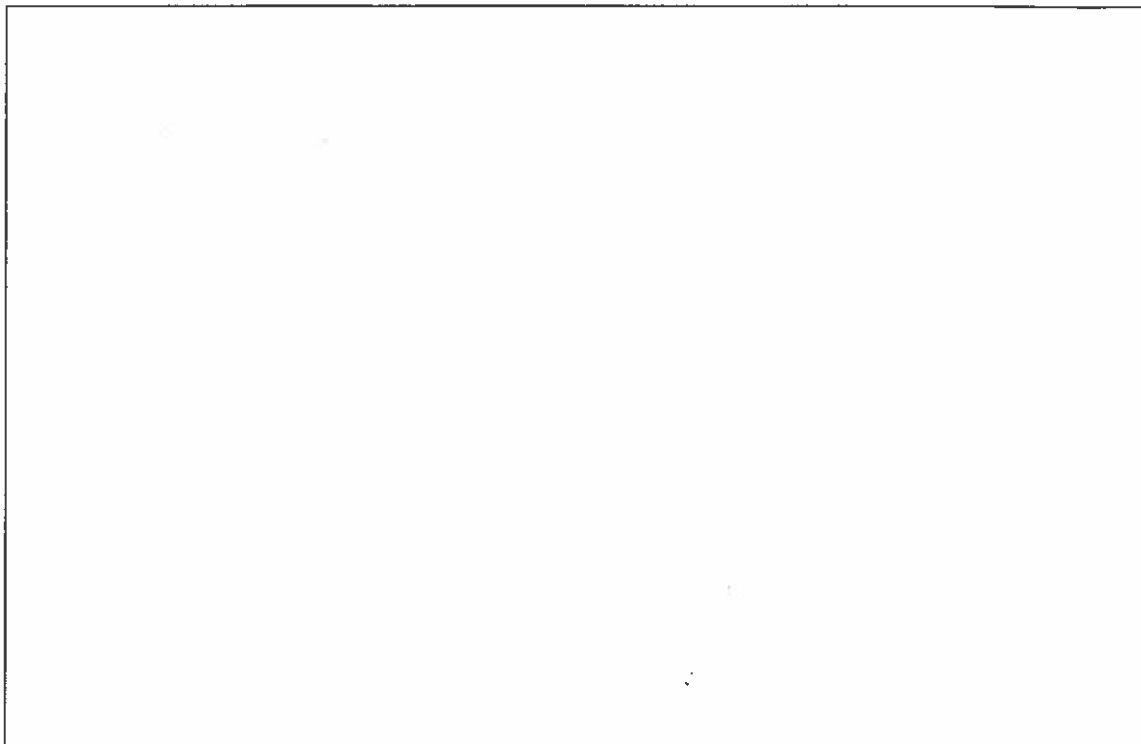
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

there's a lot of PEOPLe
in Newtonmore primary

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

So that the kids in Dalwhinnie primary
have a big class.

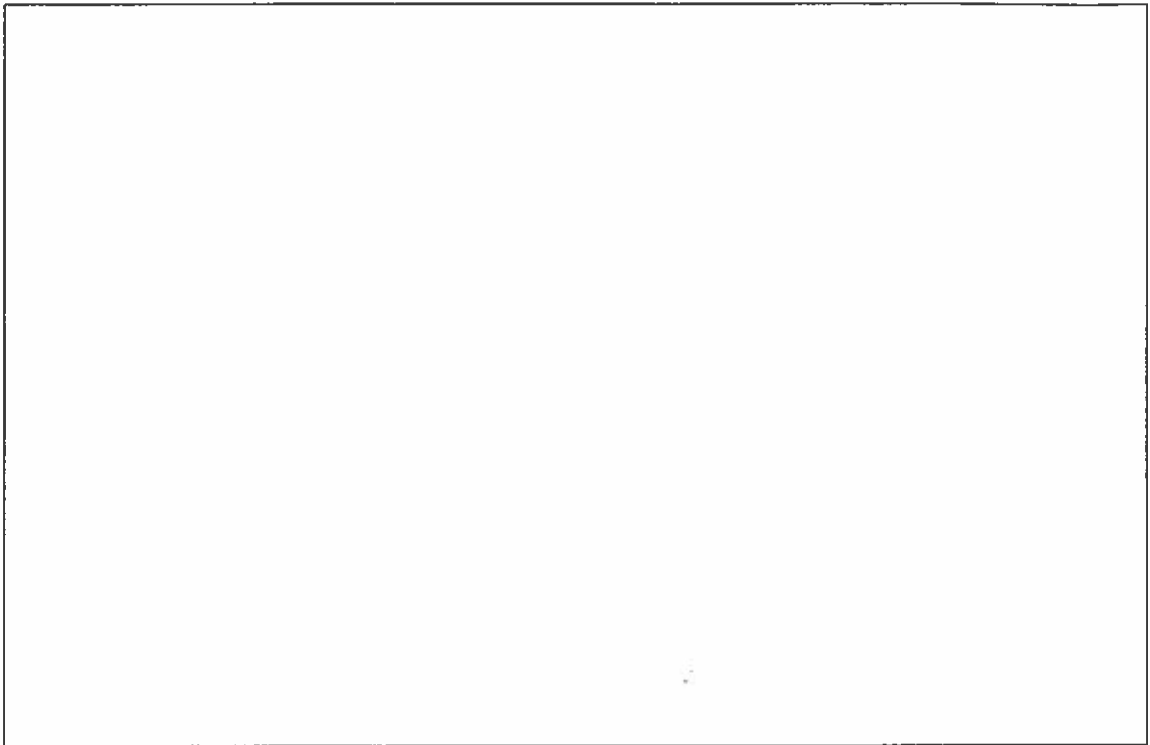
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because Newtonmore is a happy school.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because I dont want to close Dalwhinnie,

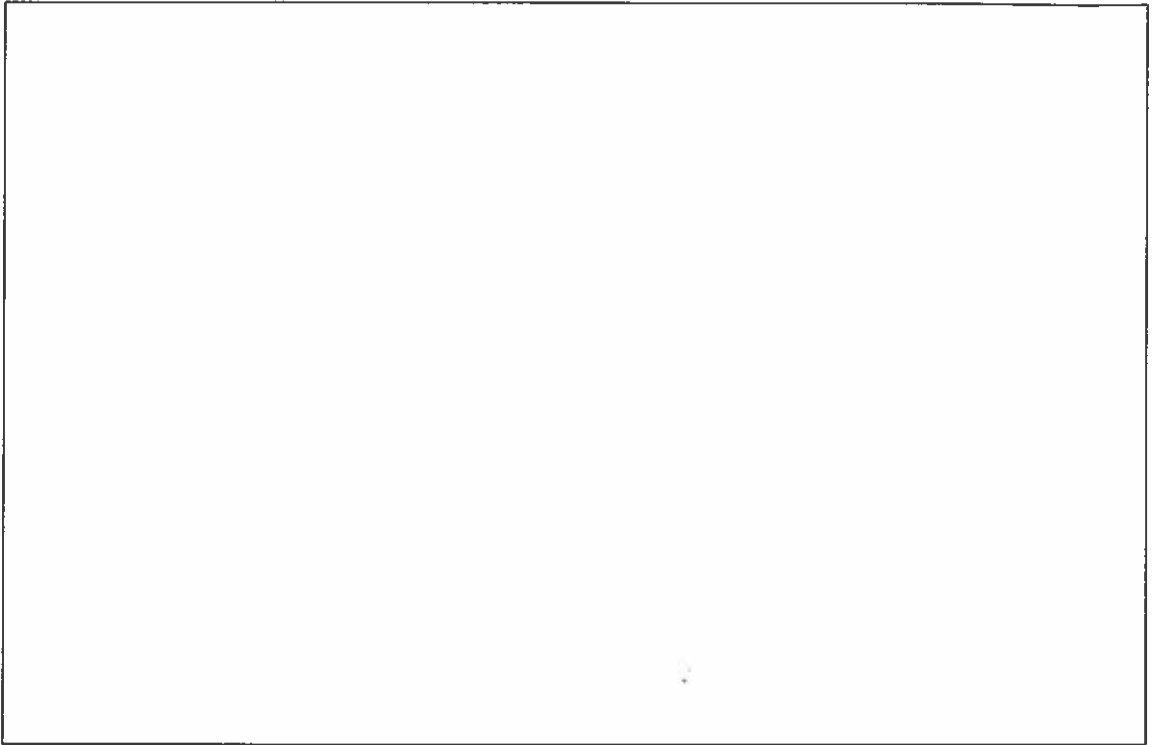
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because I would like some more friends

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

give little more space.

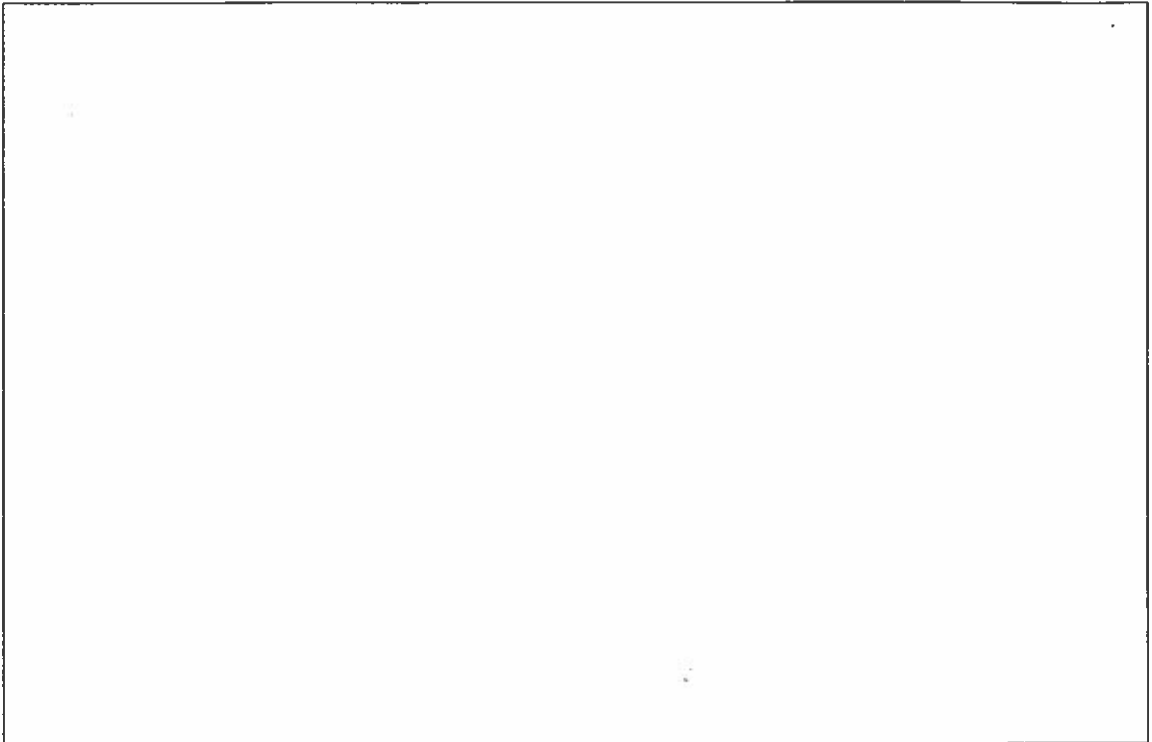
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

get new friends

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

because I want to go to
the school

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary ✓	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because I think
newtonmore

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

30 minutes 1-1-11

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

because I want to keep
Dalwhinnie open

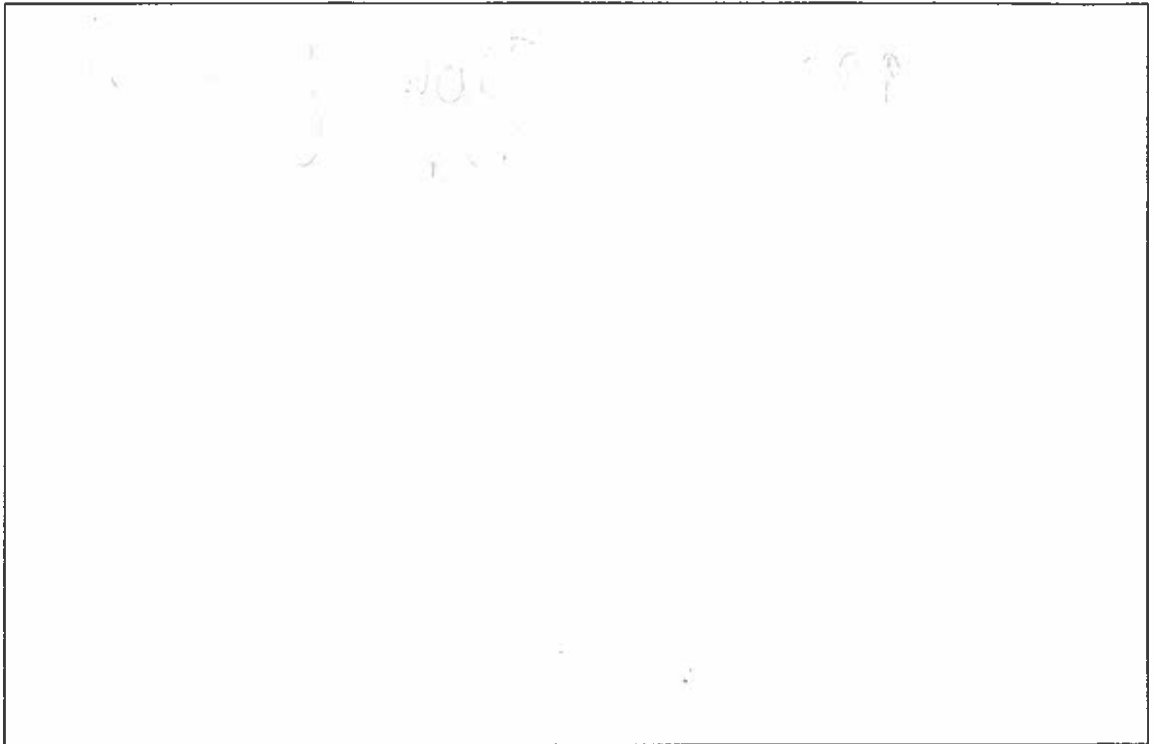
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary ✓	

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because it is a good
school

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

because the dalwhinnie Pupils
Might MISS there old school

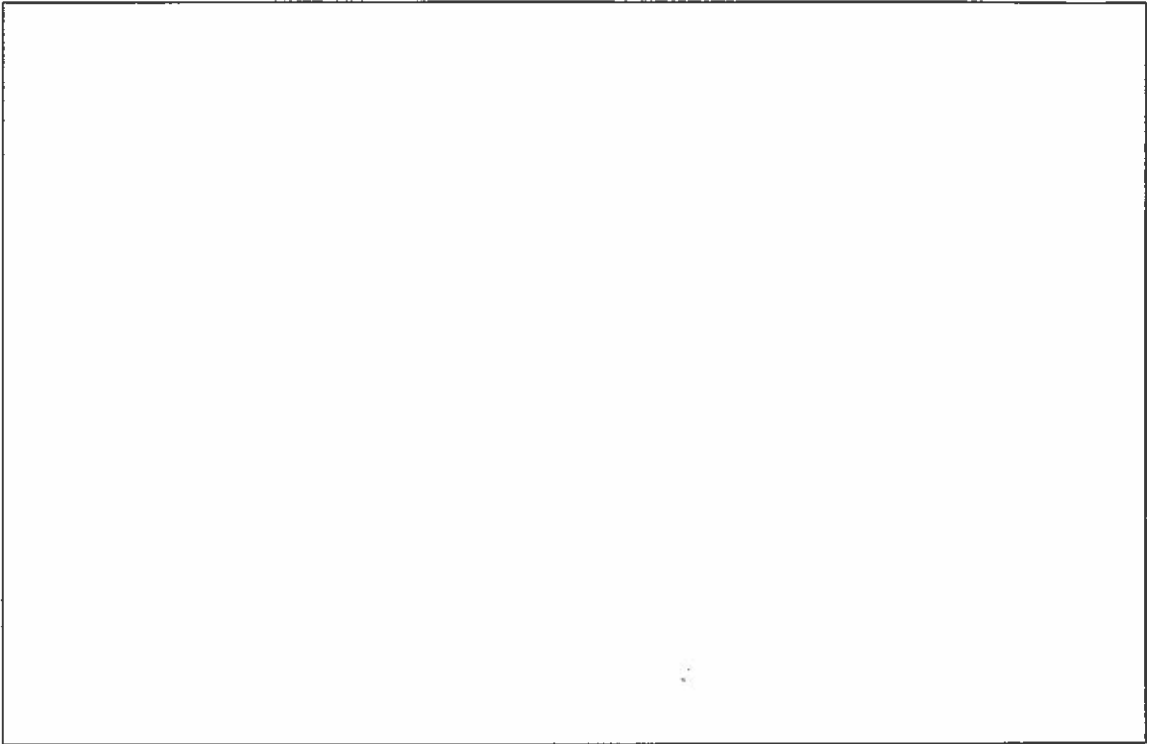
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Gergask Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because Newtonmore Pupils
will then have New friends

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

So people that live in Dalwhinnie
don't have to travel far to get
to school

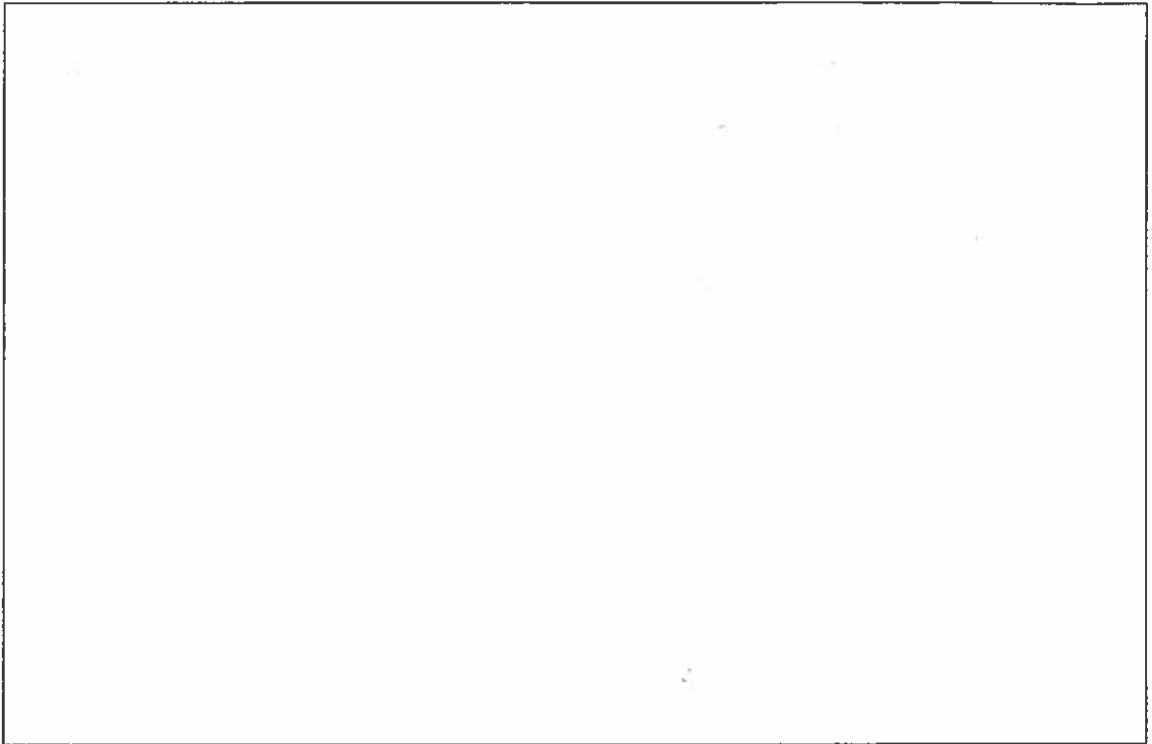
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because so they can
be with their friends

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because it

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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because their are nice teachers

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

so the pupils in Dalwhinnie can play
with other pupils.

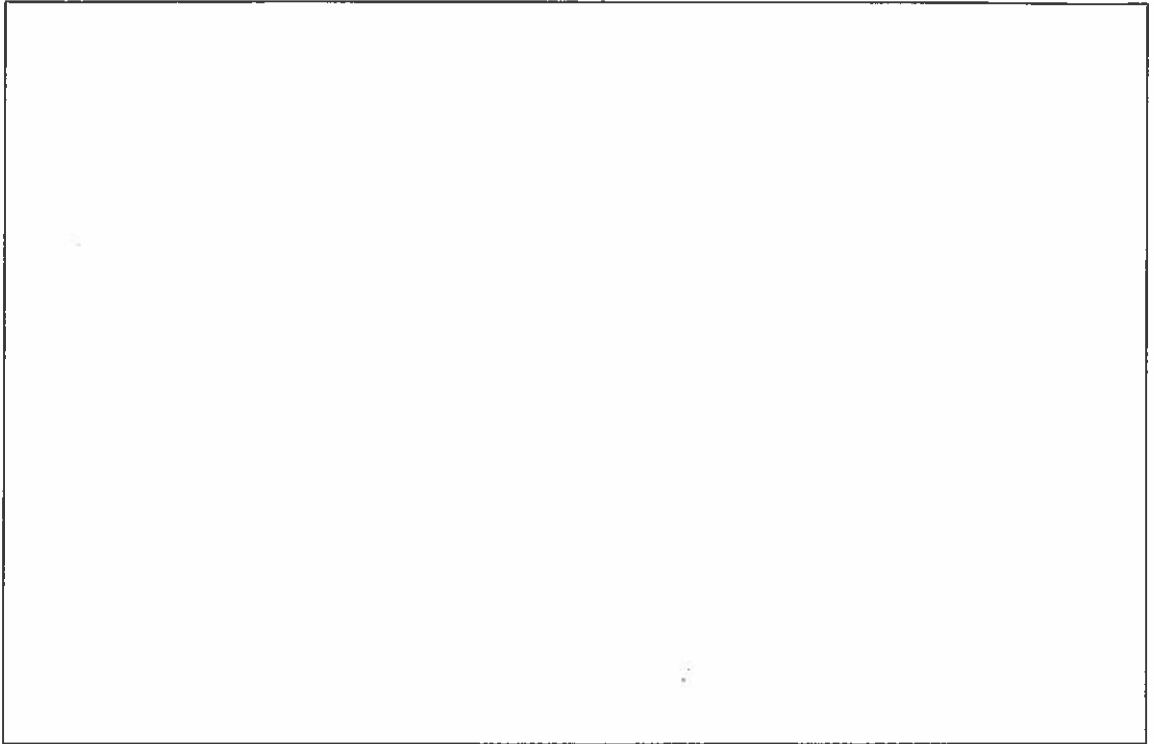
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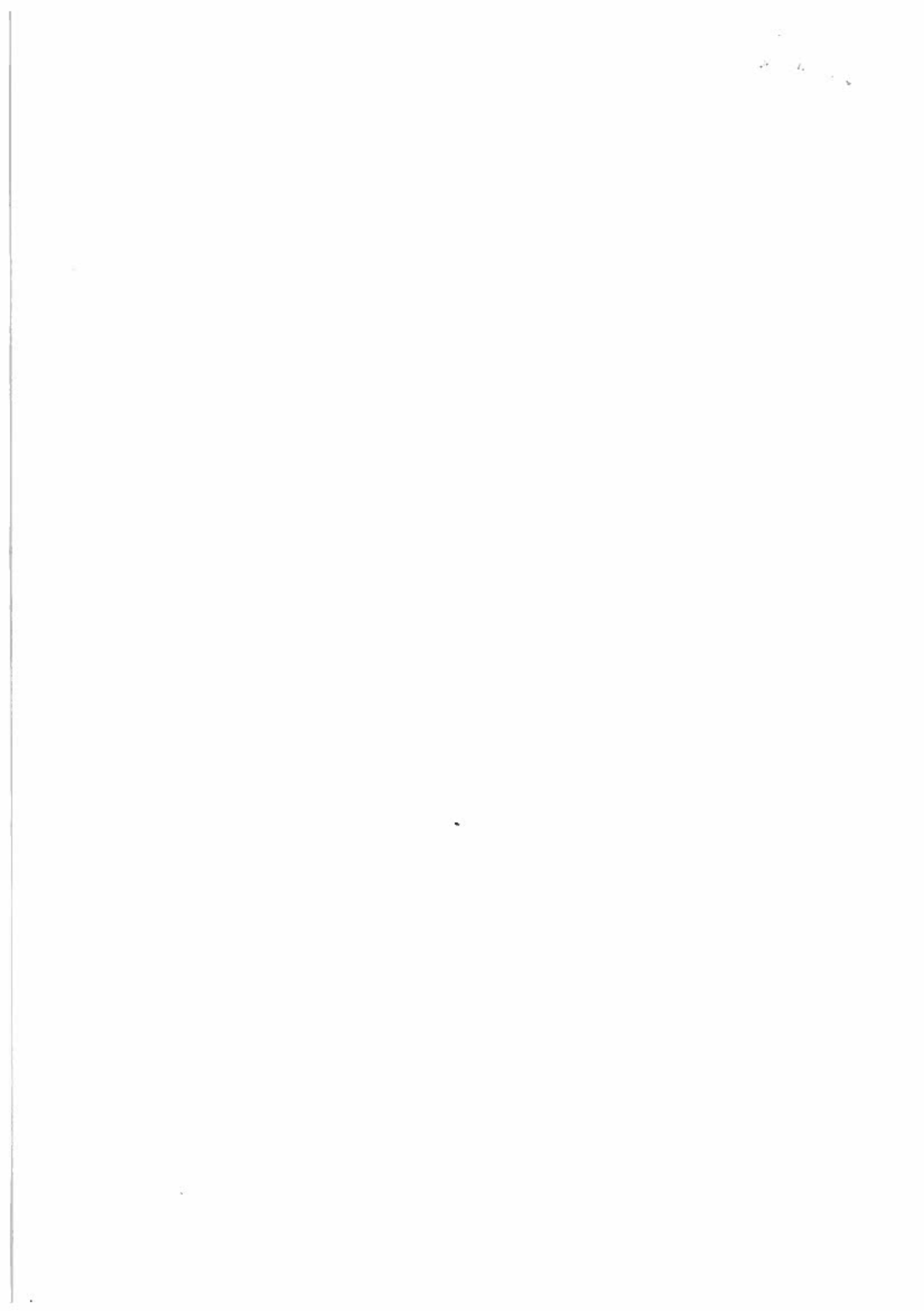
Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because it is closer

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

• Because the paint is coming off the walls.
• The teacher.

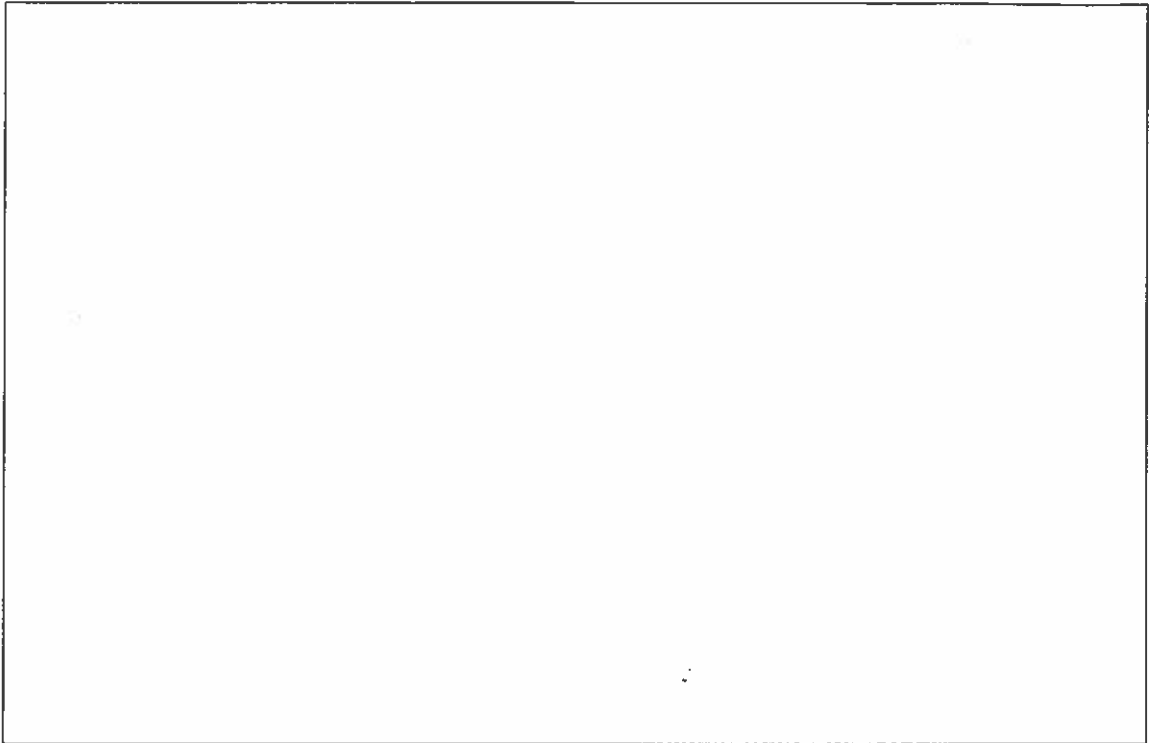
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

• There would be more people to play with.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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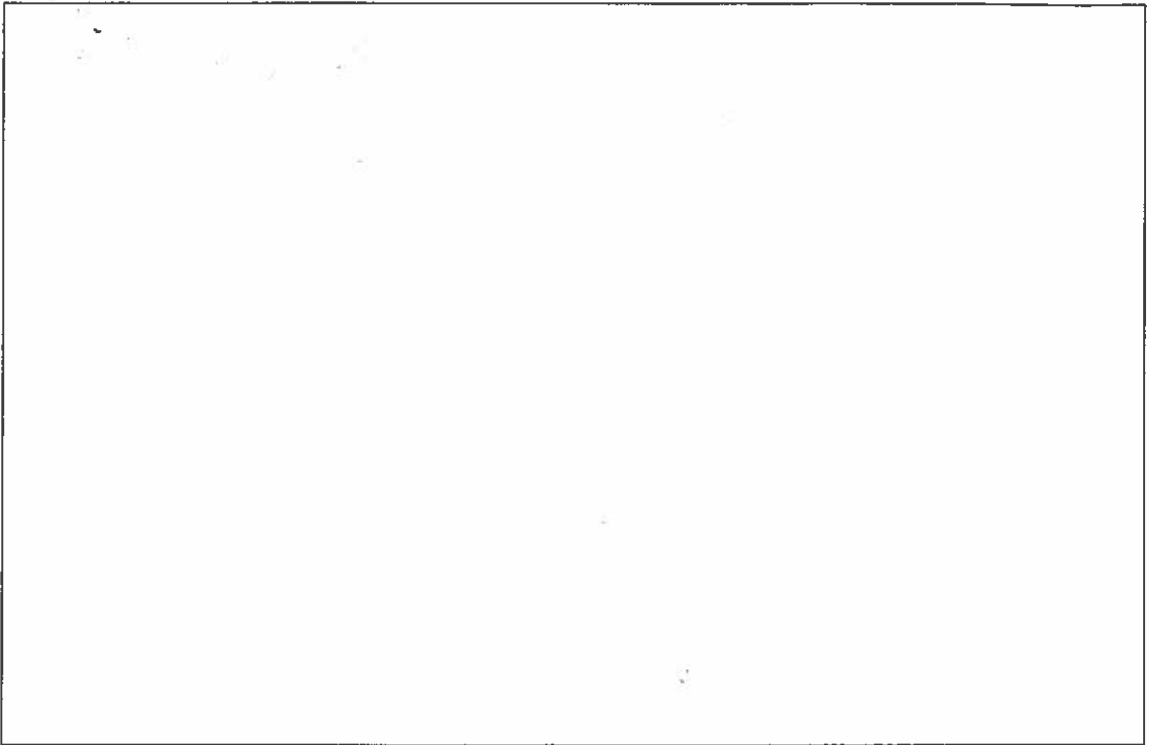
I find that after opening
the sheds all people would
come to the other school
and the employees are going
to be less people than
guilt in more.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

pipell ari Meibi still
highcigh abarvt it

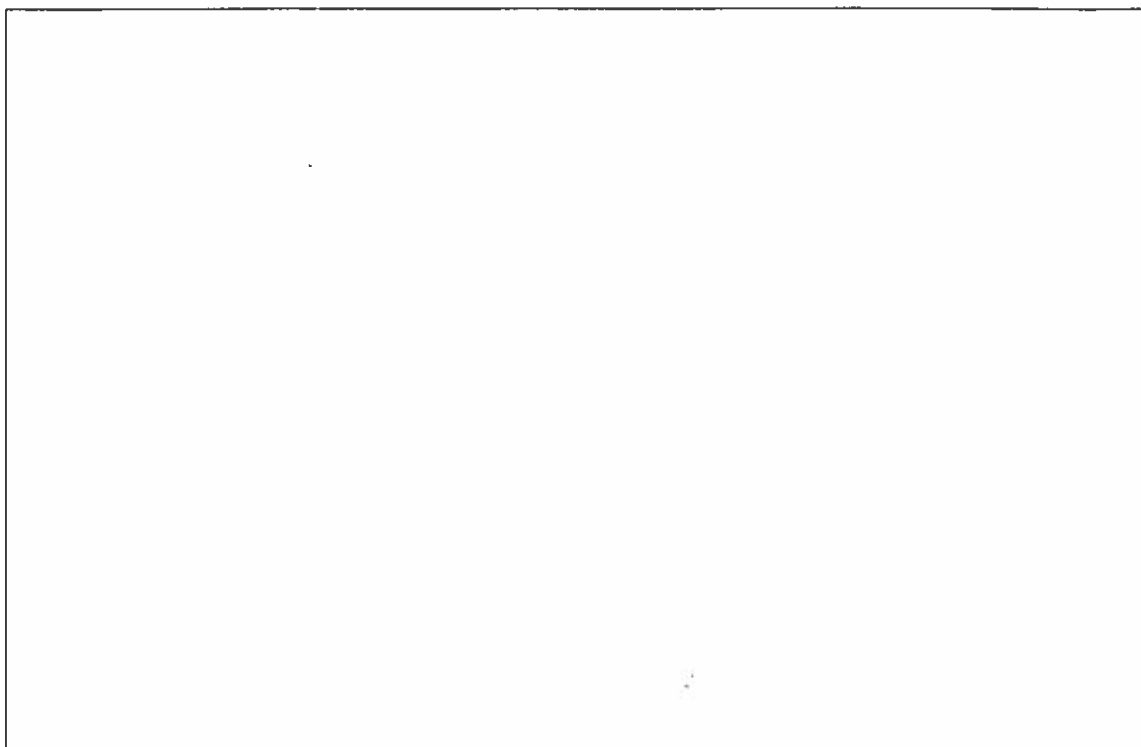
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

thees school is good

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

BECAUSE IF DALWHINNE SCHOOL
MOVED TO HER OR GERGASK
THEY WOULDN'T HAVE THERE
SAME FRIENDS

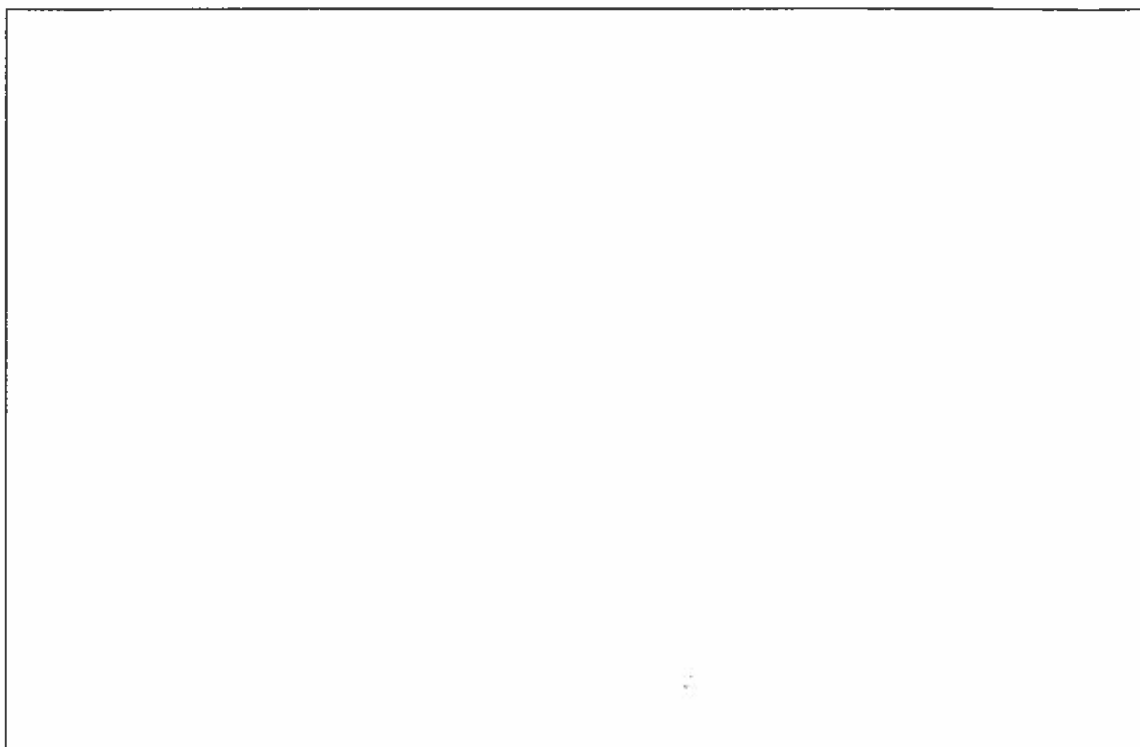
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because they have less
pupils.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

In case we come up with a better idea

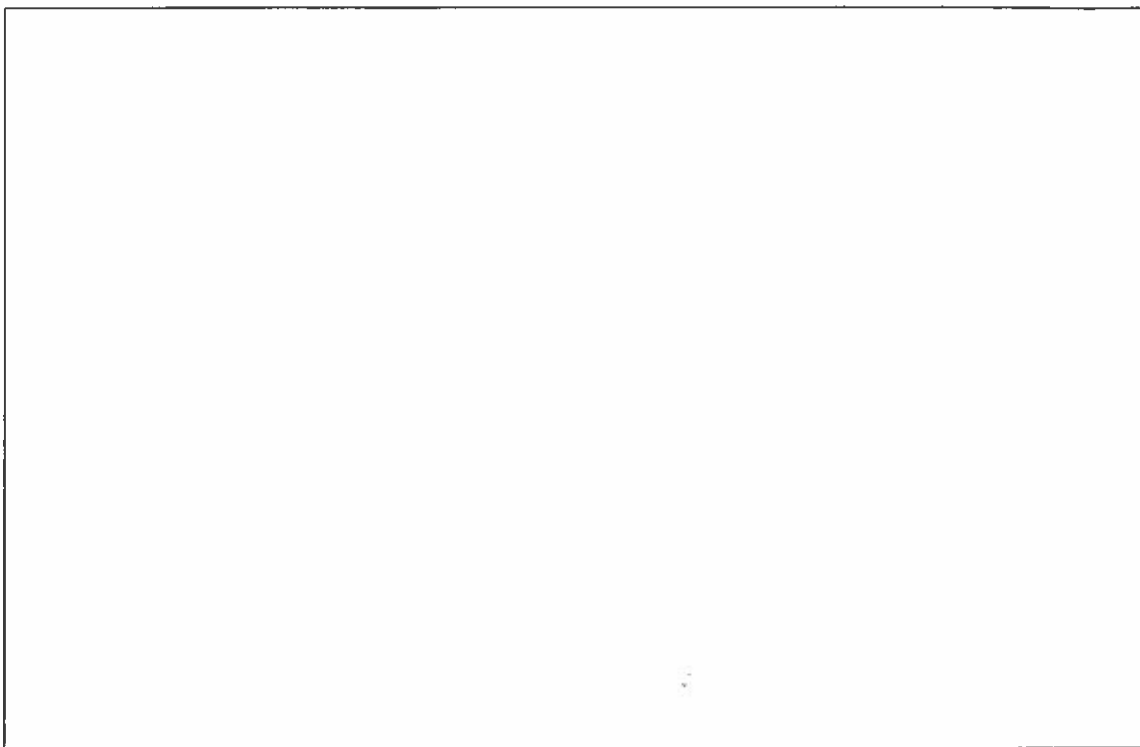
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

I think the pupils choice

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide additional information or comments to the Highland Council.


Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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Now we have to decide what to do for the future. We have 3 choices:

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- 2. Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary, so pupils from there would go to that school and not to Newtonmore or Gergask.**
- 3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.**

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

• because there is no one in it

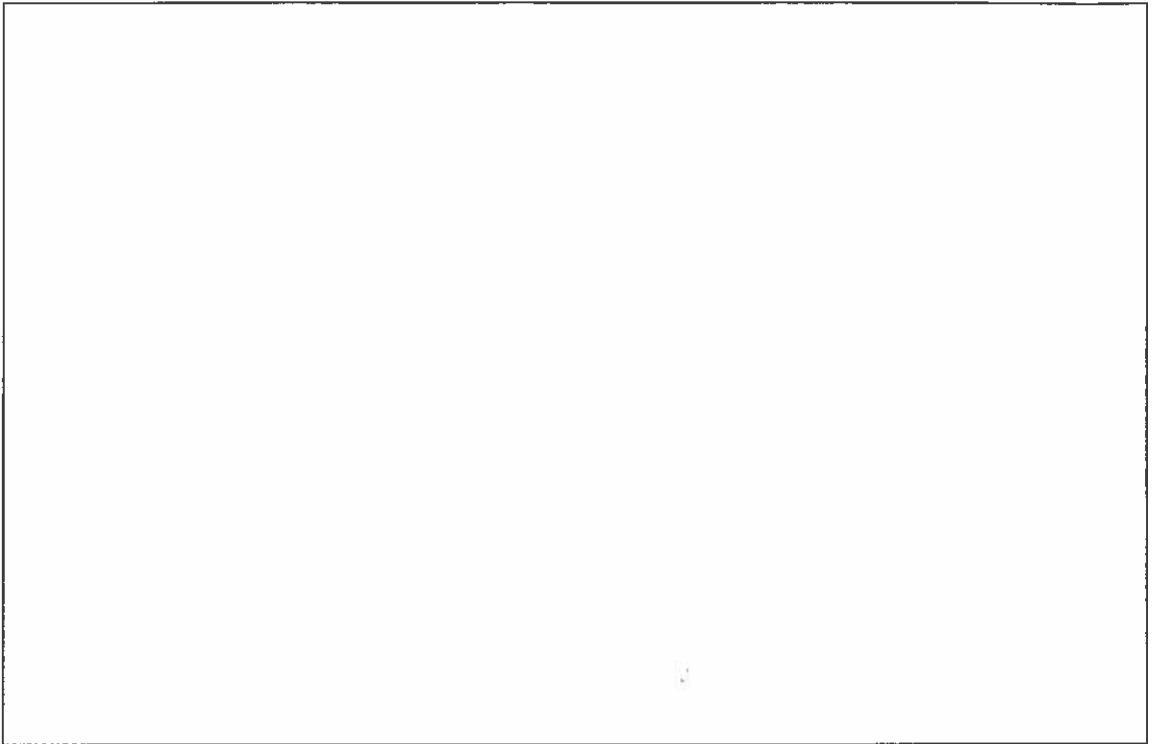
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

• because there is 14 kids!

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

• because they would be alone.

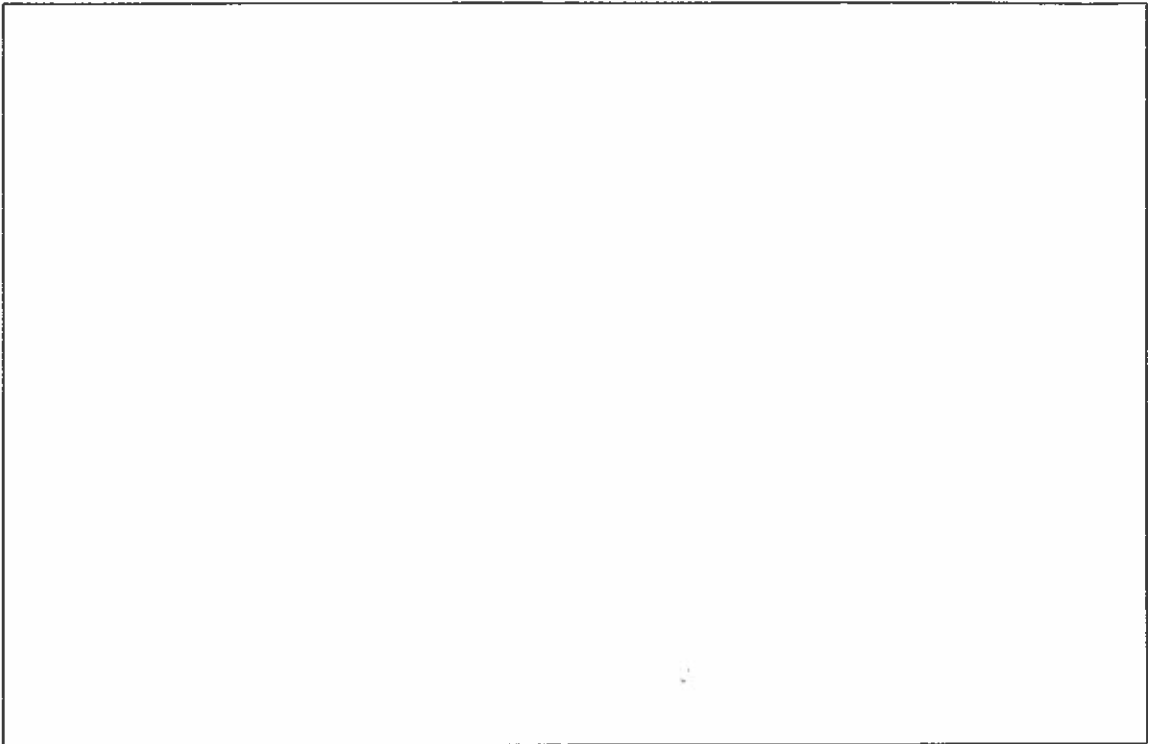
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

• because there aren't that many pupils in Gergask.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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- 3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.**

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	✓
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

because every school should have a chance

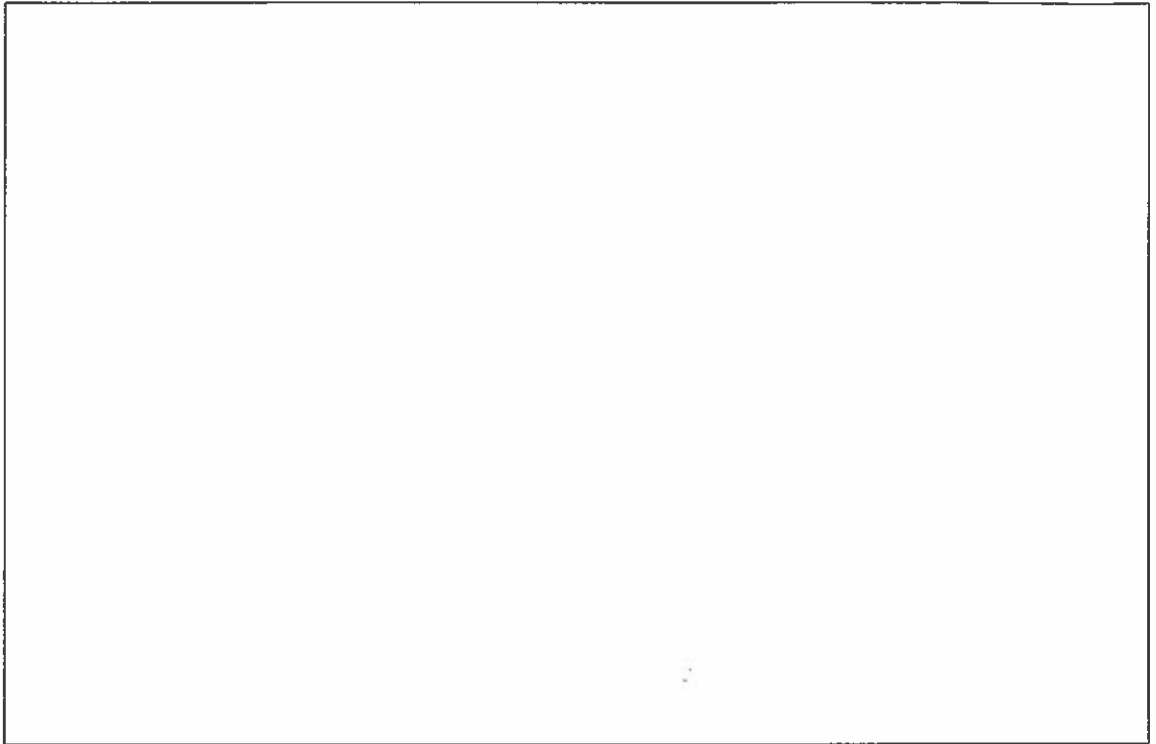
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because they need more pupils

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

• There's not enough pupils

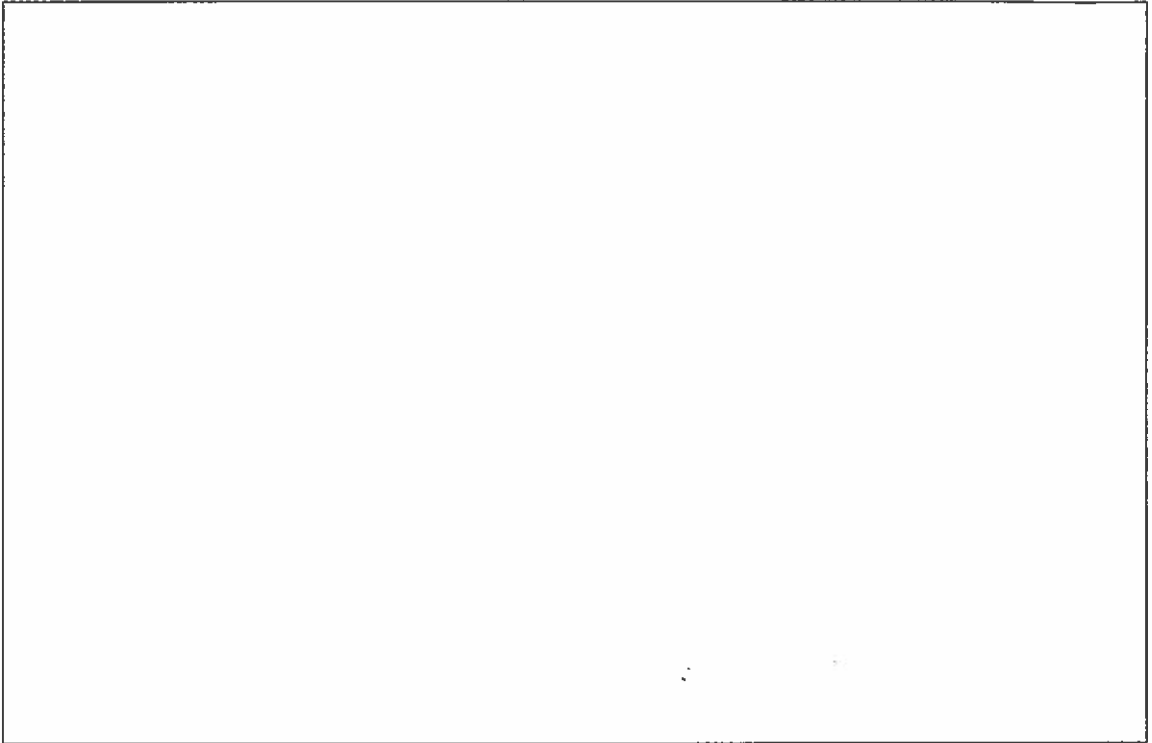
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

• There are not much pupils in Gergask

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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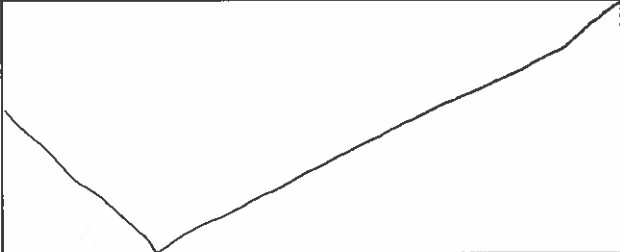
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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

• Because there are no pupils there
• Because if someone moves there they wouldn't have anyone to play with

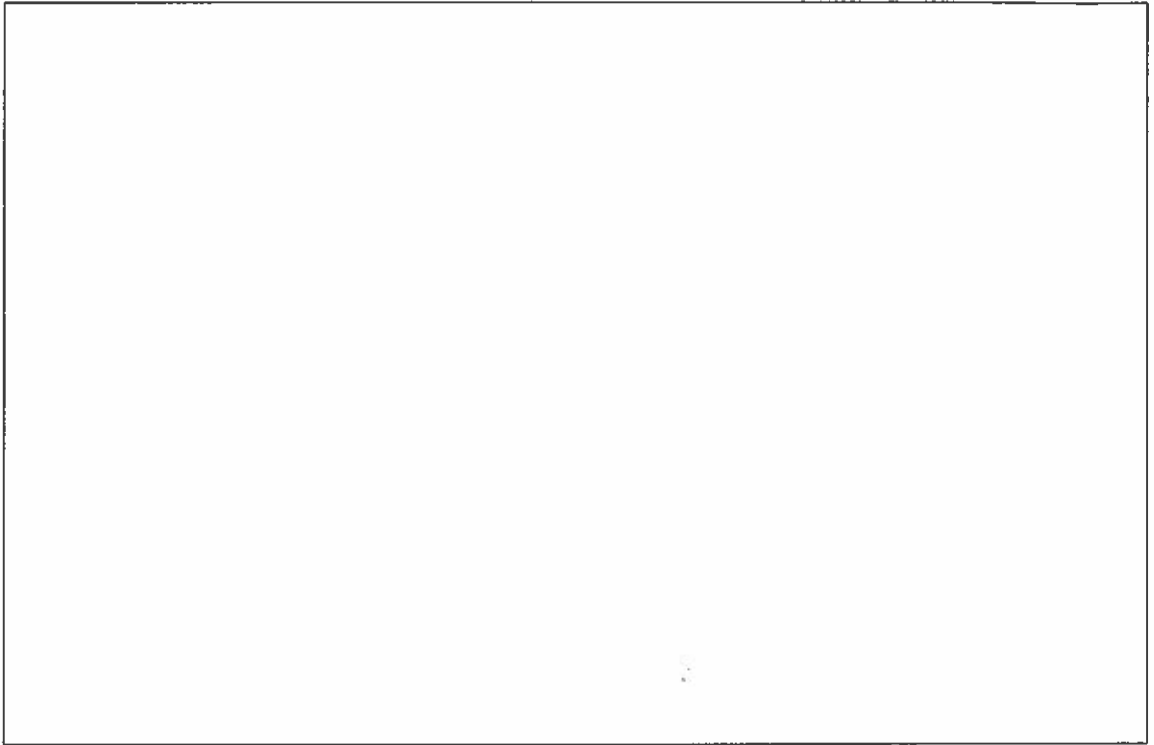
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because Gergask is closer

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	✓
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

because peopl
might want to
live there.

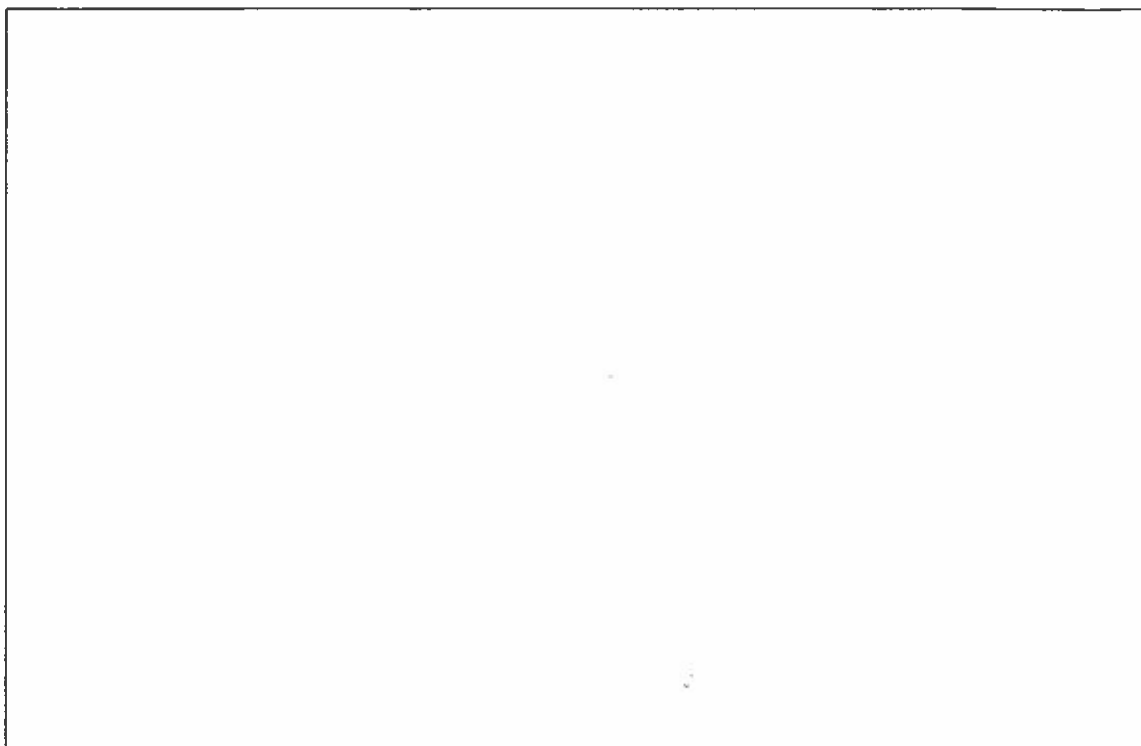
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because I would
like peopl to
be in are clas

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

<p>- Their is no pupils in Dalwhinnie,</p> <p>- You could make a new house</p>
--

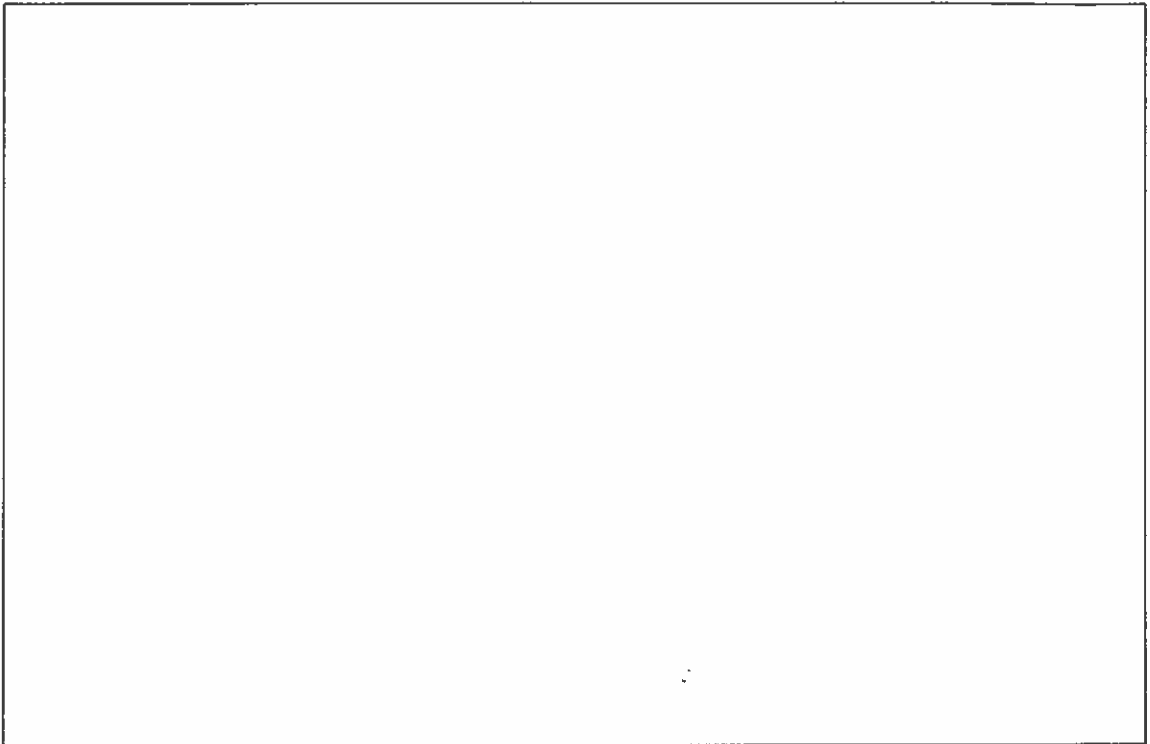
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

<p>if all the school gets more pupils</p> <p>- less driving</p>

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

There won't be anyone for them to play/work
with

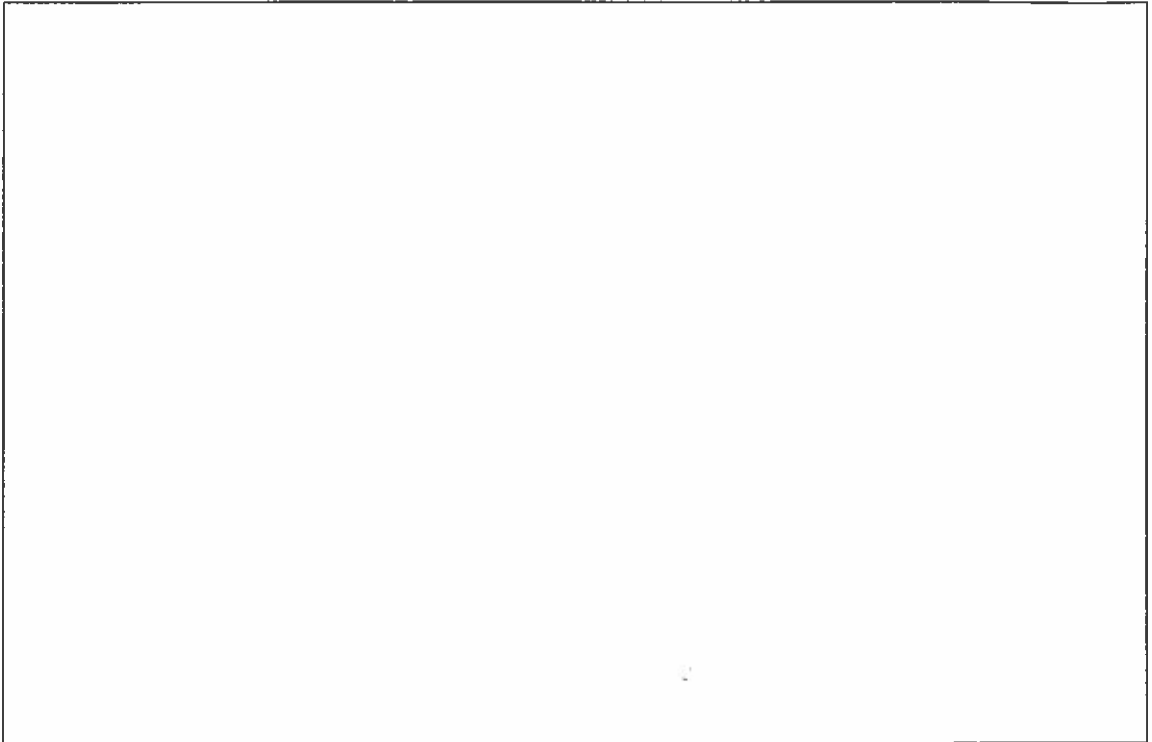
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because Gergask primary school is
closer to Dalwhinnie

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

because if someone moves there then
there would be nobody to play
with

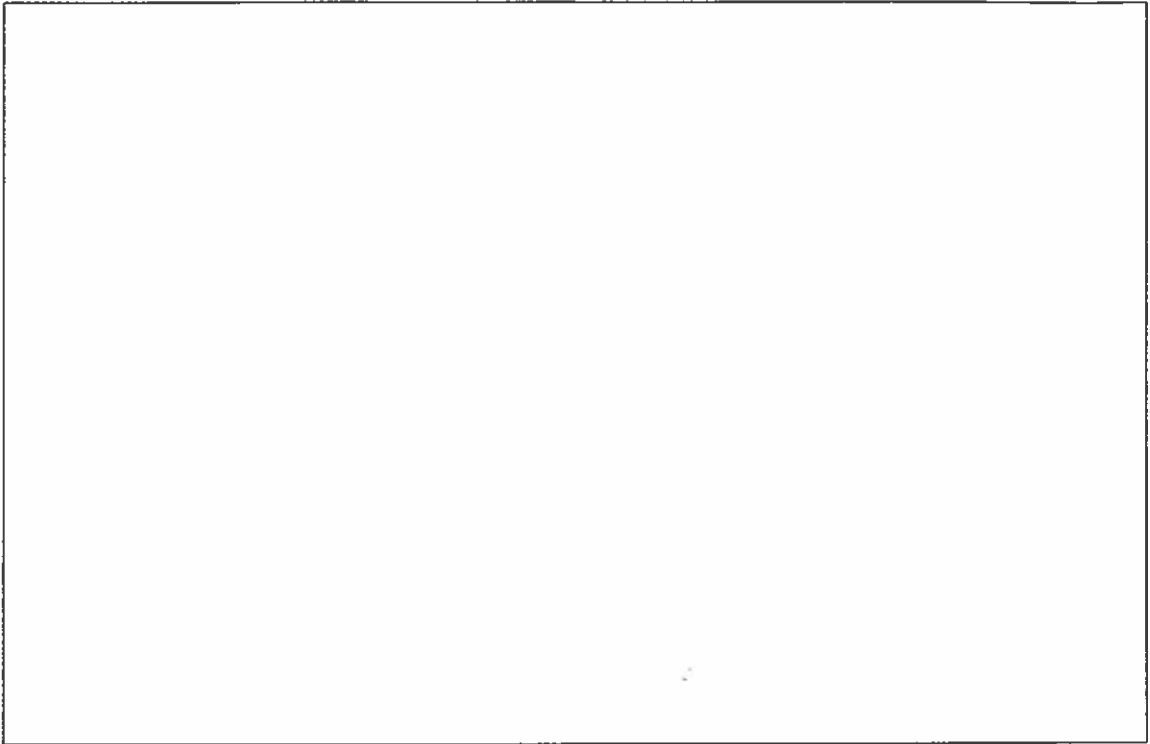
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because there are not as
much pupils to play

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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- 2. Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary, so pupils from there would go to that school and not to Newtonmore or Gergask.**
- 3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.**

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	X
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	✓
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	X

2. Why did you give the answer above?

BeCuase I want
them to make
them happy

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

t o mit them

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

No

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because Newtonmore is a bigger school than Dalwhinnie and it is better to get used to a bigger school and you also get to work together a lot more than at Dalwhinnie

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because Newtonmore has more pupils than Gergask and it is a safer journey to Newtonmore from Dalwhinnie than from Gergask

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

No thanks.

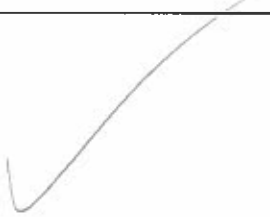
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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because I don't ever think that they
will ever get match pupils.

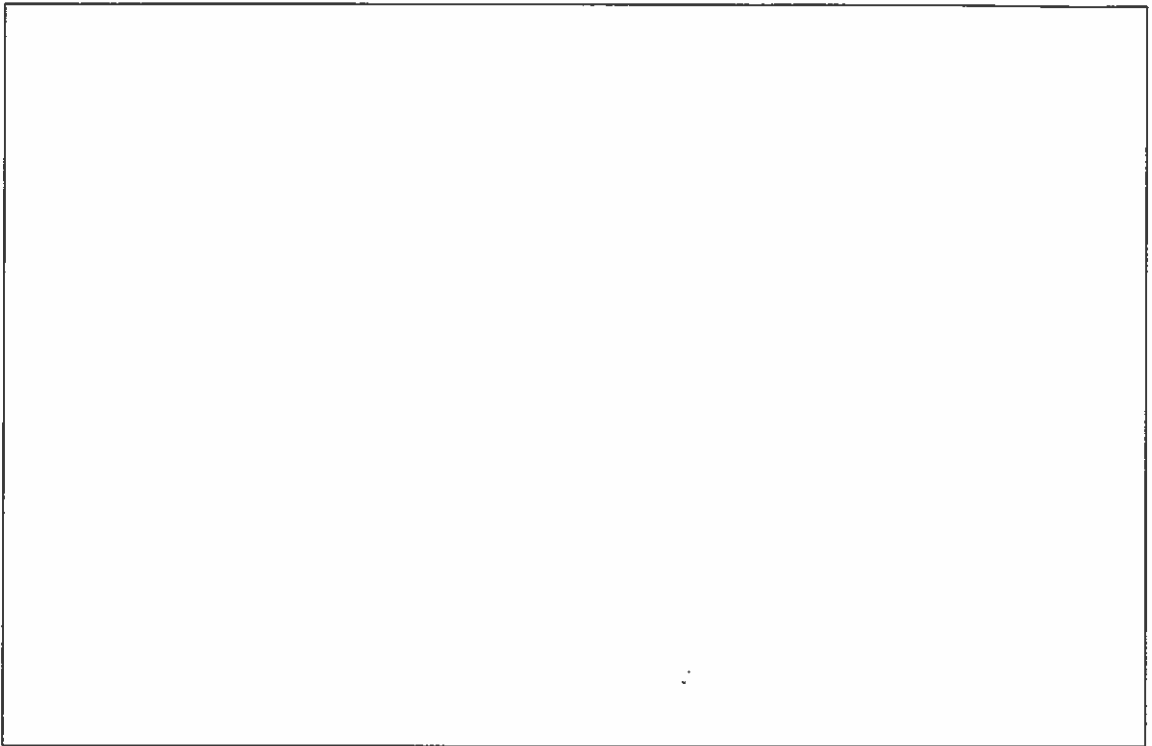
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because Gergask primary is also low in
numbers and still going down

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I would keep on trying the idea because more familys might move to Dalwhinnie.

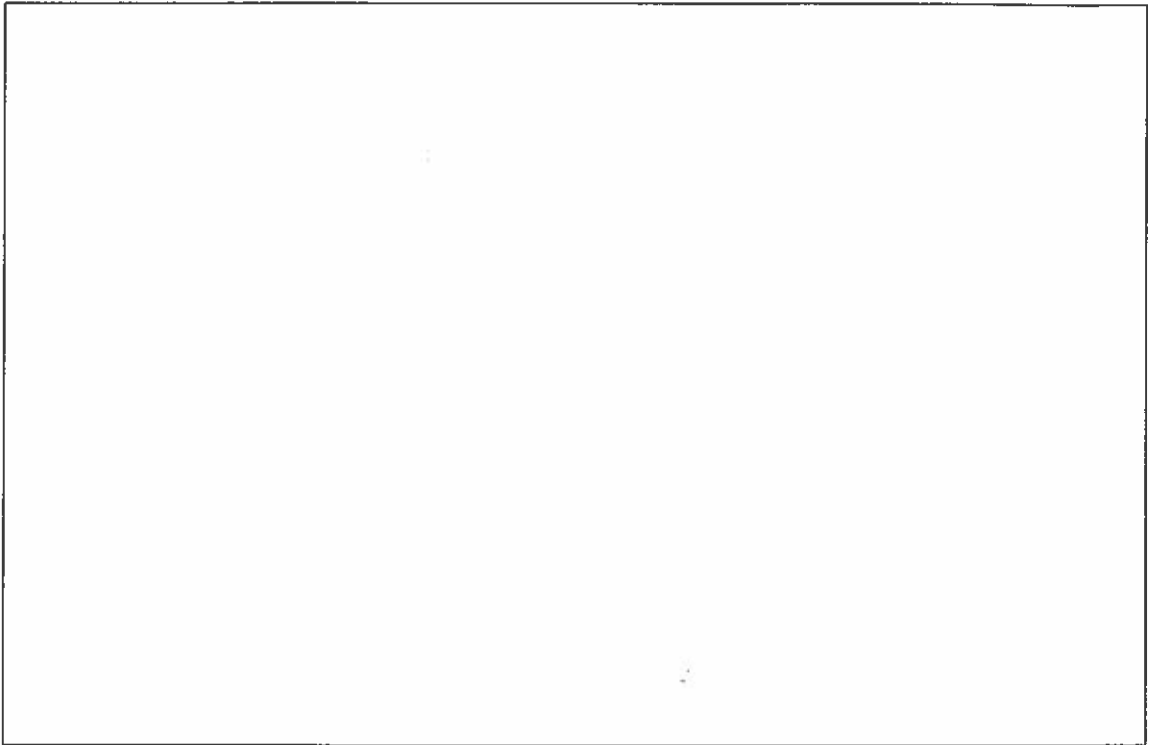
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

I would say Gergask Primary because is quite small and Newtonmore has already got a lot of pupils.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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- 3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.**

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary. 	I think you should close it because more people to play with funer to get educate with friend.
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

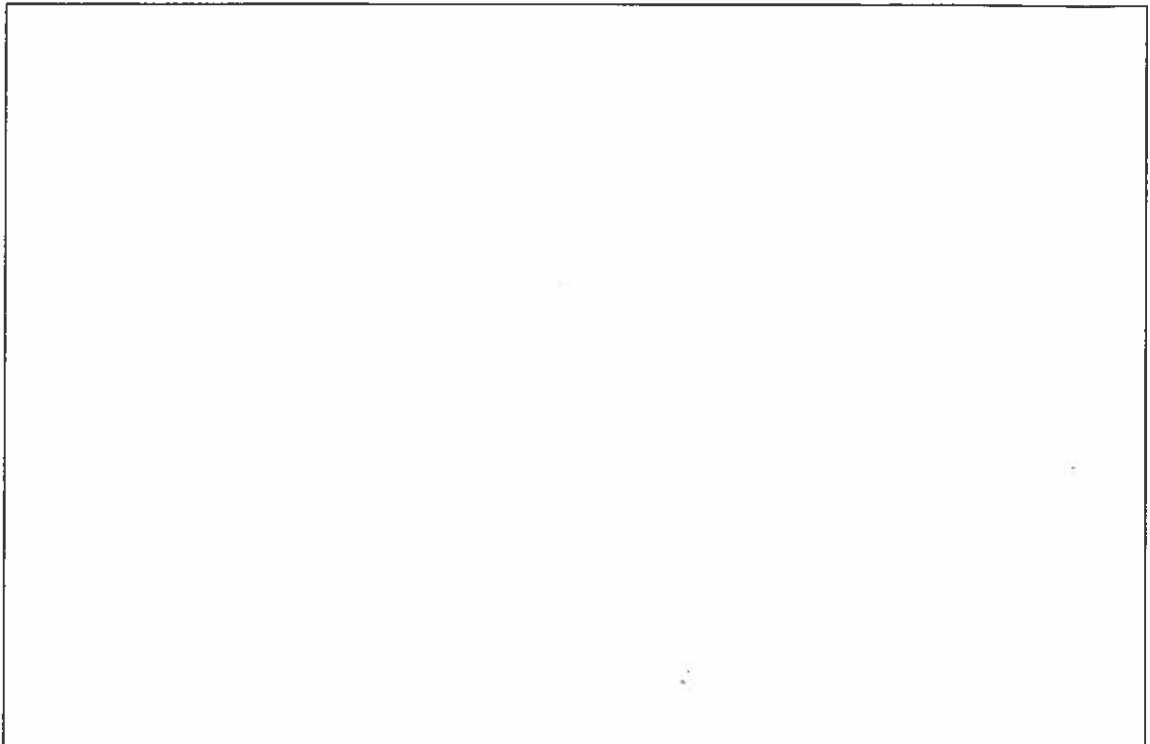
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because to more children in Gergask

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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- 3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.**

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer. ✓	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because the village might get more crowded so closing the Primary won't be a good idea, but it could stay the same so sticking with the same idea will be best.

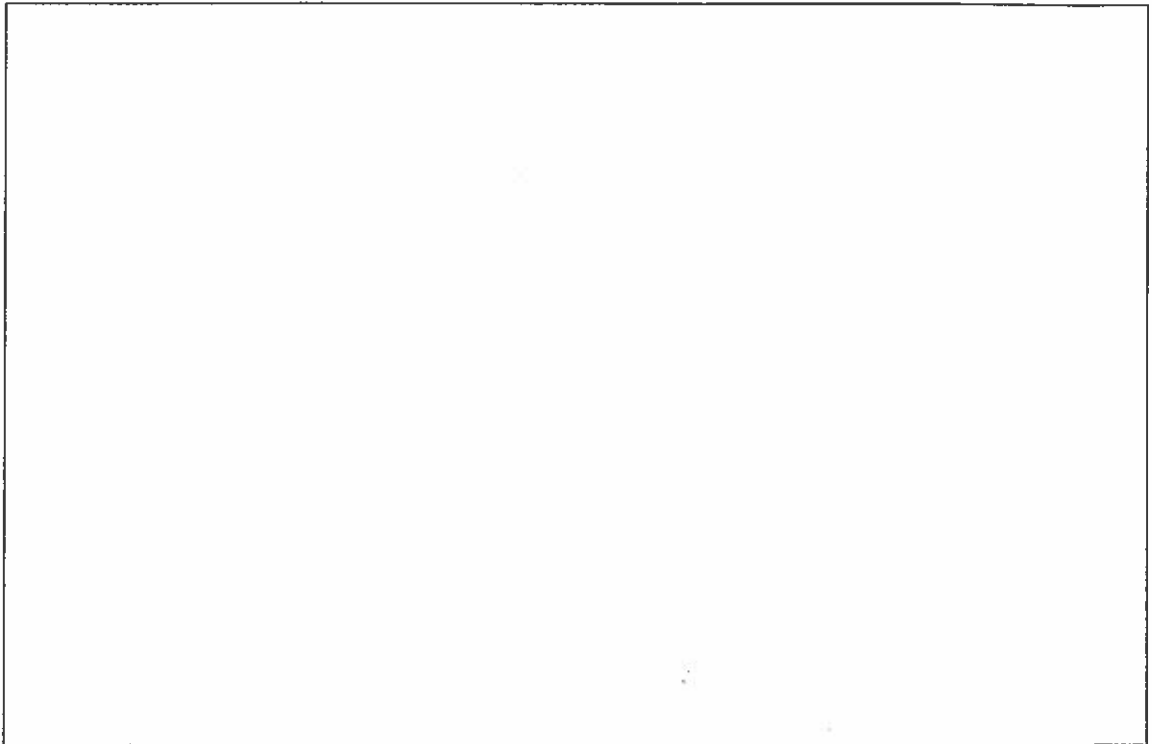
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary ✓	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Even though Gergask is closer it has more dangerous roads to drive. Even though Newtonmore is a longer drive it is safer and has more shelter.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

So that People don't have Walk or
Drive as far and they can get to School
in winter more easily.

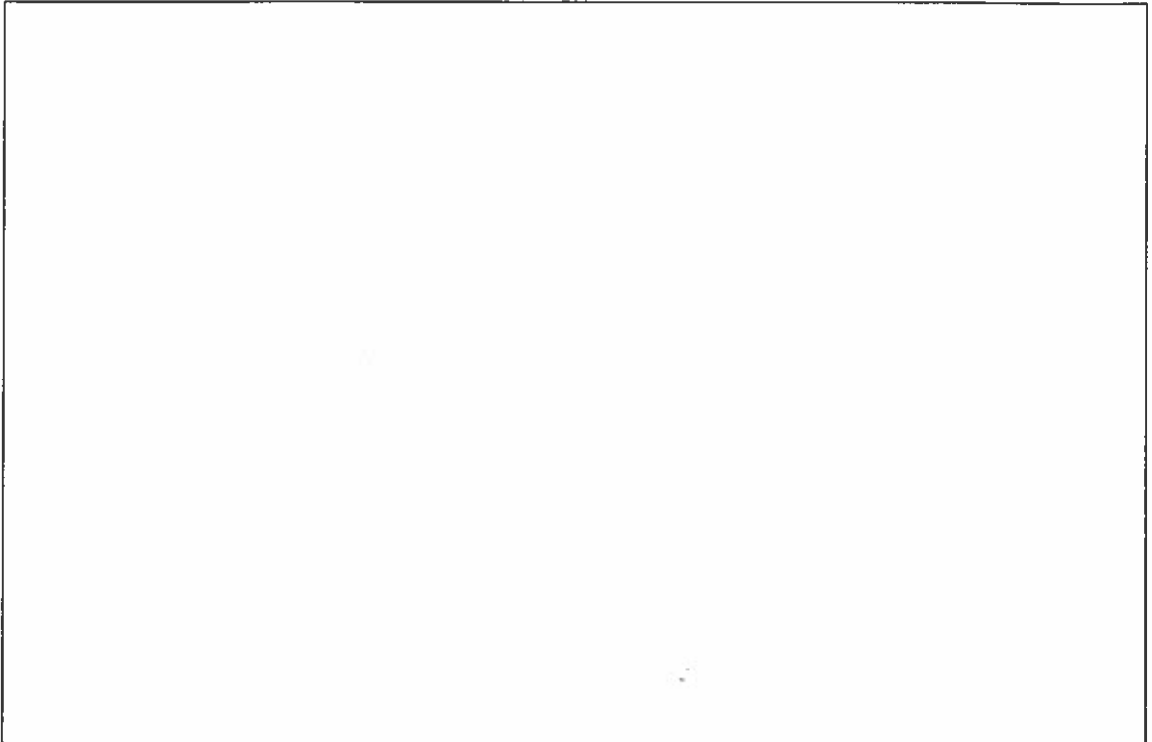
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because the road from Dalwhinnie to
Newtonmore is safer.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide additional information or comments to Highland Council.



Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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Now we have to decide what to do for the future. We have 3 choices:

- 1. Close Dalwhinnie Primary for good, with the pupils going to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary instead.**
- 2. Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary, so pupils from there would go to that school and not to Newtonmore or Gergask.**
- 3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.**

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	✓
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I think if Dalwhinnie primary closes for good that some familys wont move to Dalwhinnie because Gergask and Newtonmore primary are maybe to far for them. like what is they have no car.

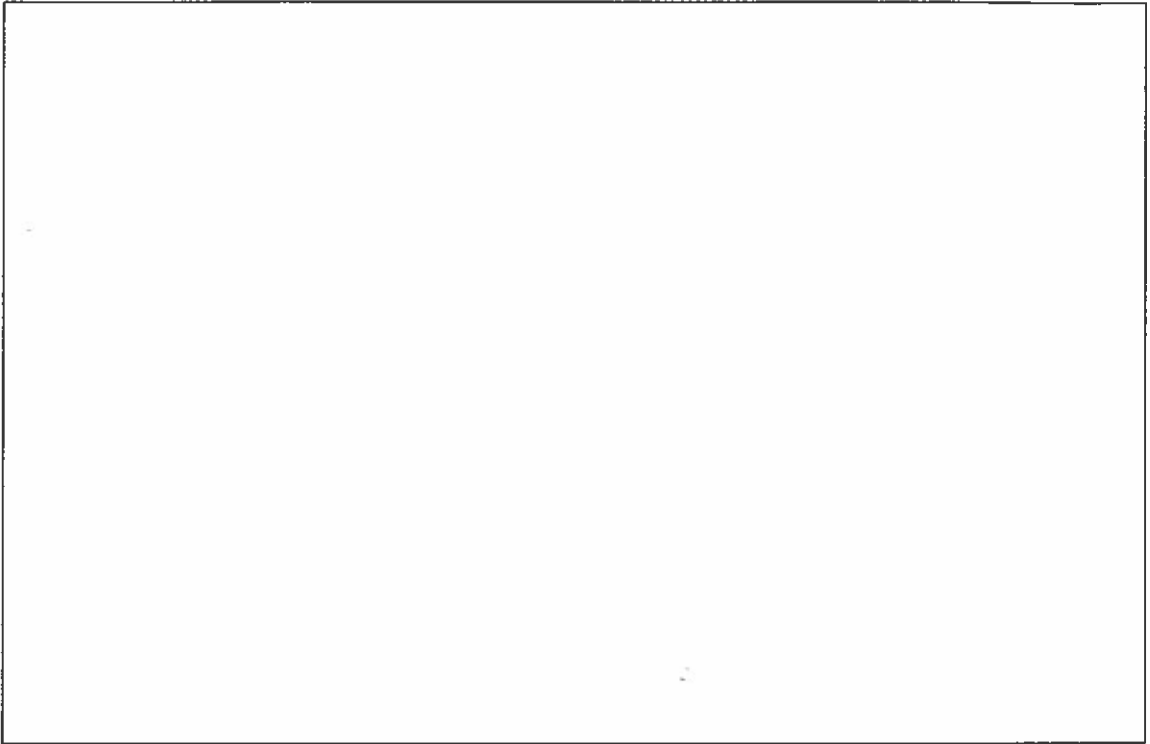
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

I think Dalwhinnie primarys pupils should go to Gergask primary because Gergask primary is quicker to get to and needs more pupils.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	✓
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because people have to travel in the winter to newtonmore or gergask and thats really dangeres.

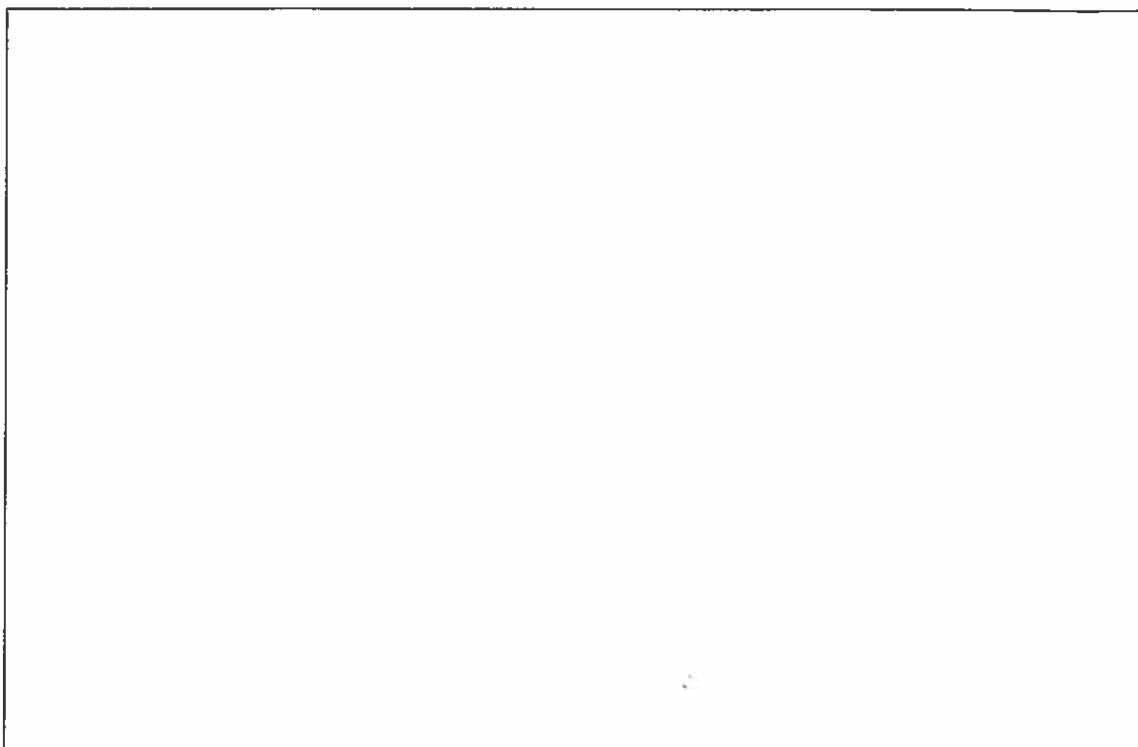
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because then gergask get more pupils to.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

because if you were the only person in school you would have no one else to play with and the same if there was only two because you might get bored.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

The road is safer in the winter.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

?

No

Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

more
more people might go to Dalwhinnie

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because the A9 is safer.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

No

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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because you never know, children might be still
going to Dalwhinnie Primary.

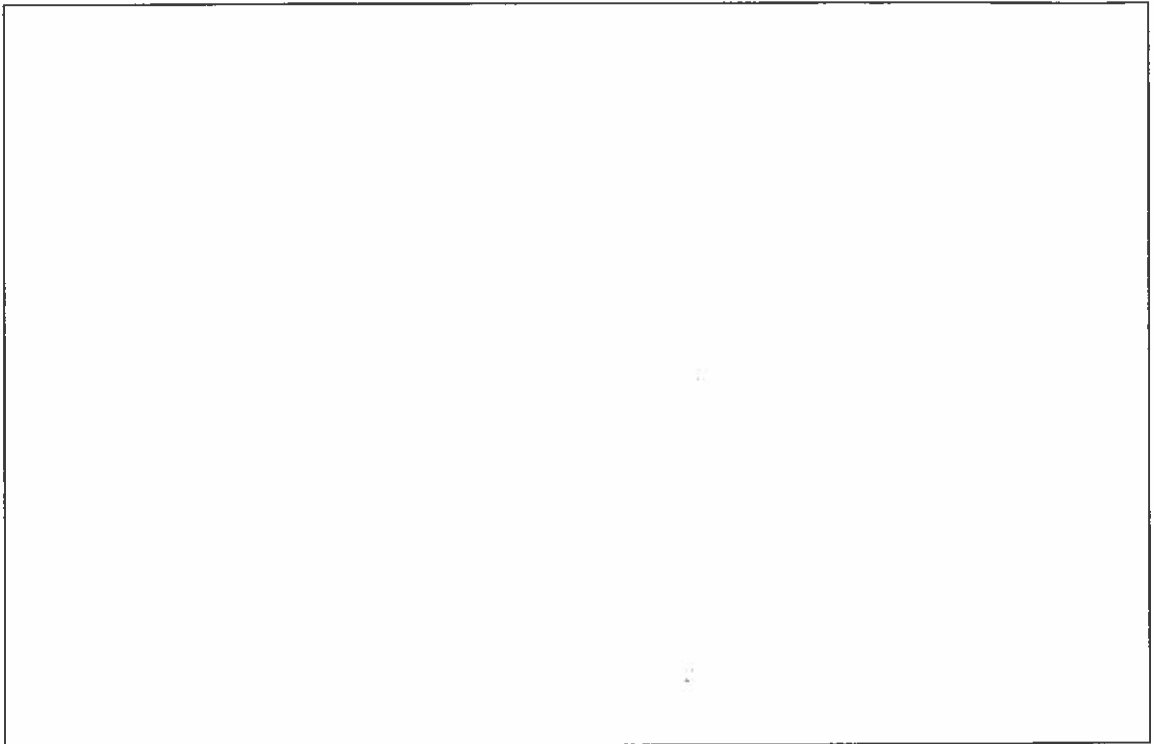
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because there is already a lot of children
in Newtonmore Primary.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I thought the answer would be to choose the middle one because what if people want to move to Dalwhinnie if the school closes they will have to move again.

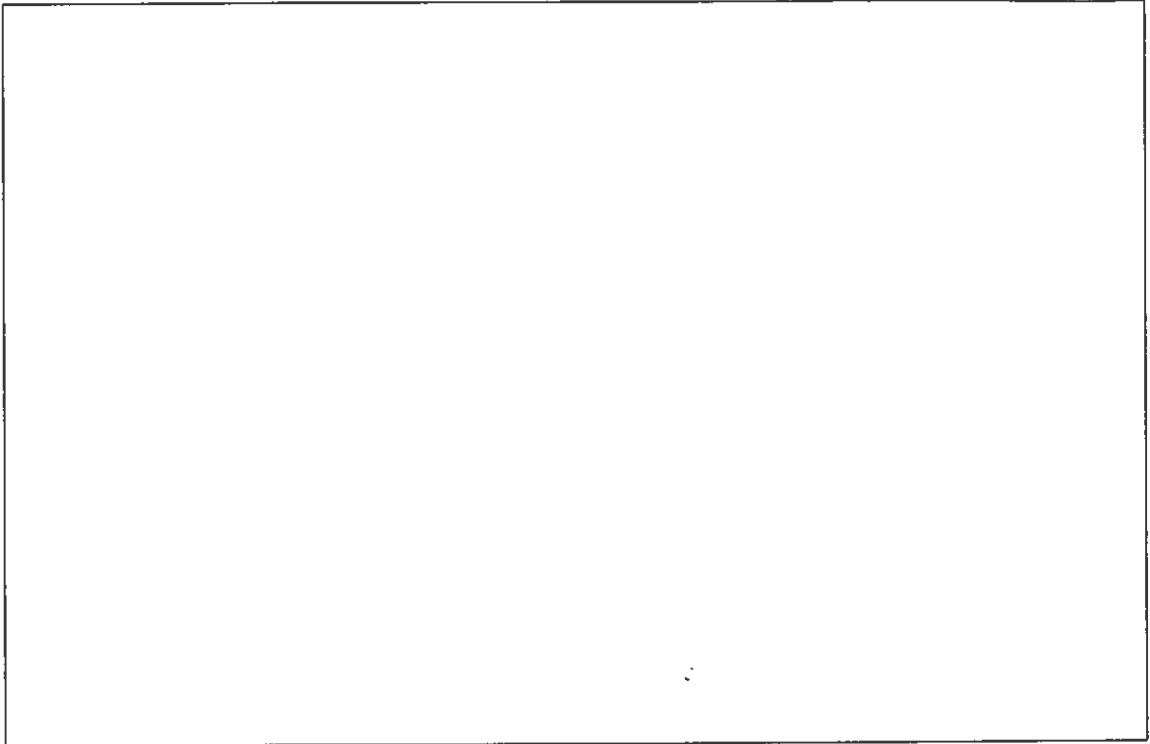
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Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Then Gergask Primary will have more pupils in the school.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

So pupils can have more friends for high school
but if lots of people move to Dalwhinnie they can
go to a closer school.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because they could have more friends

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

If there is more people that move to Dalwhinnie
open the school again.

Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

because thier might not be
alot of people go to the school
because they would have none
to play with.

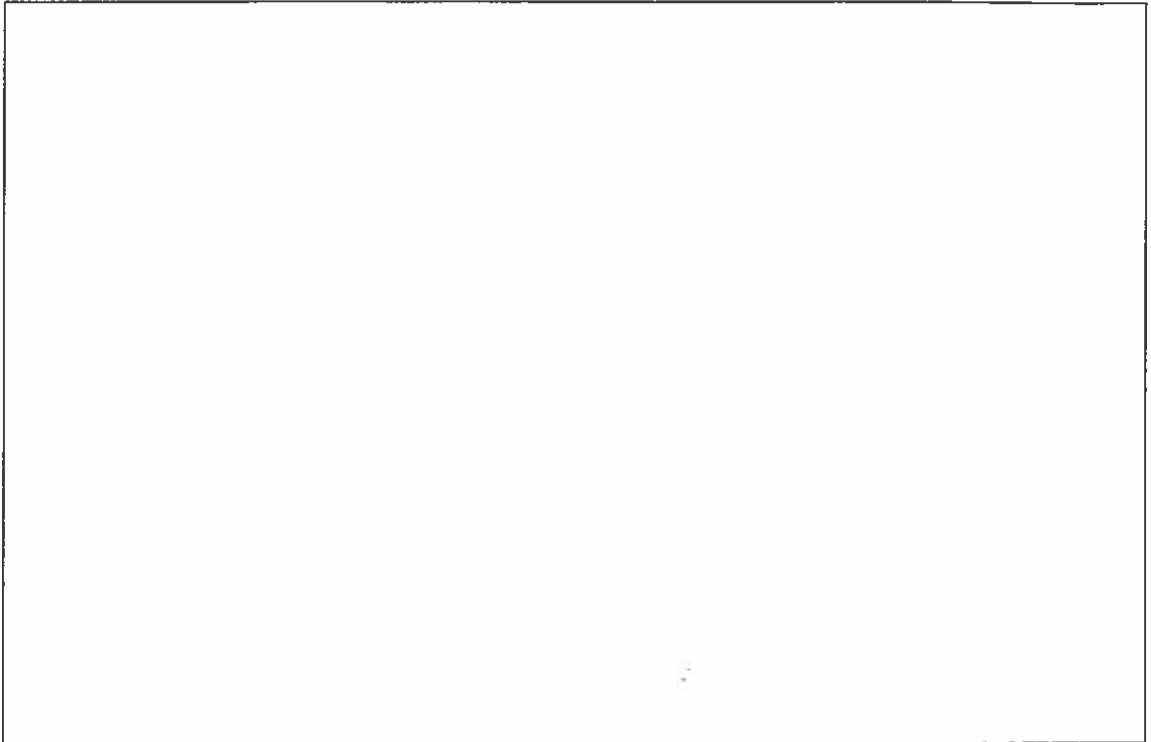
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because it would be fun
for them and they will make
alot of friends

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because I think it has been so small for so long and I think that if you went to Dalwhinnie you would not get a chance to mix and meet with new people because it so small.

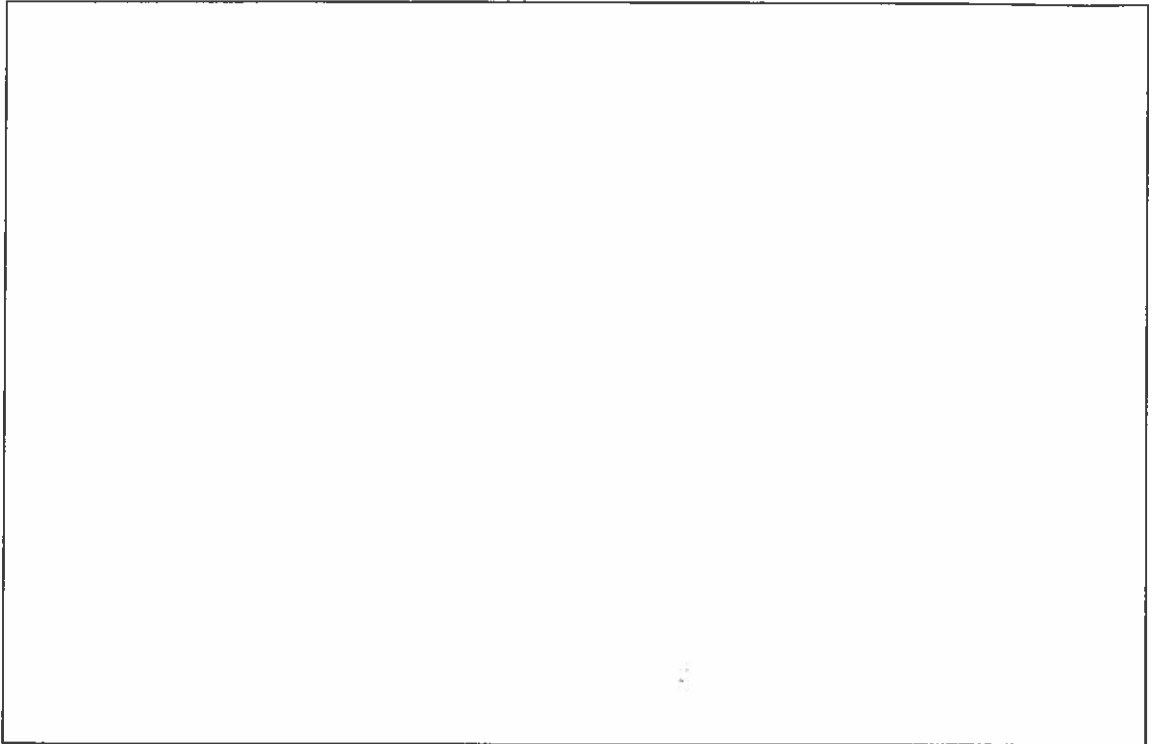
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because Laggan is quite small and from going such a small school to high school would be quite a shock

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because I think it would be the best thing for Dalwhinnie.

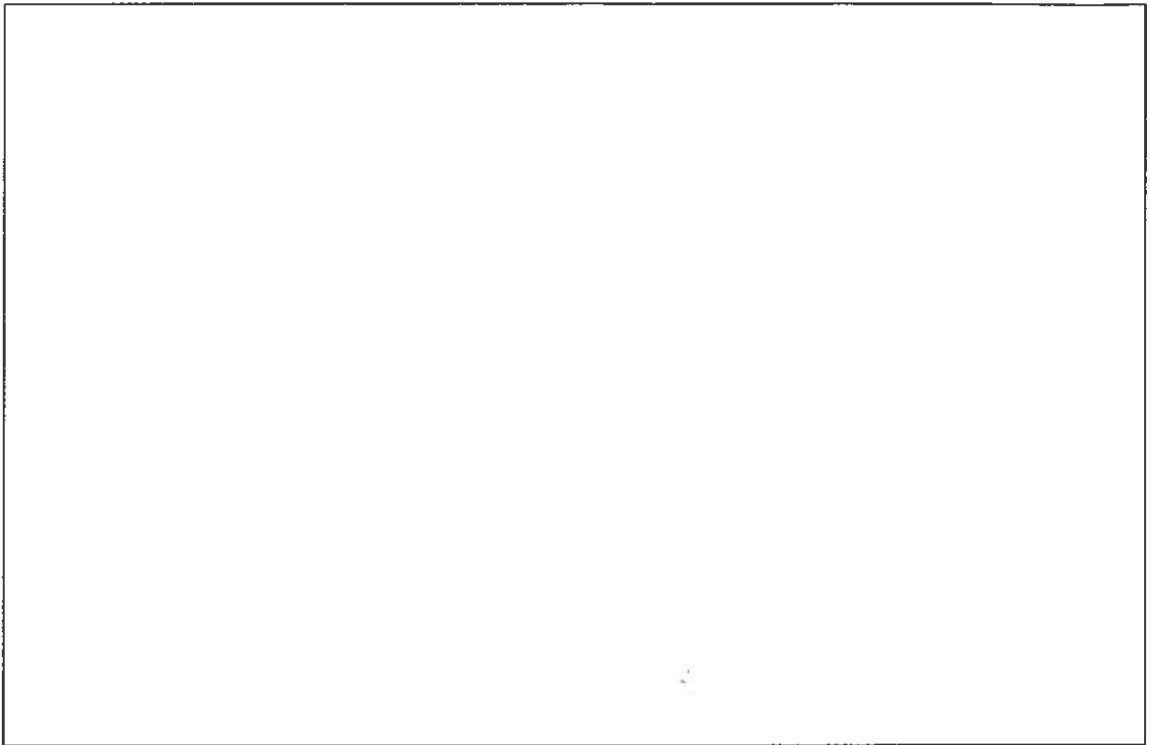
3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Better education and safer roads in the winter. Meet more people

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because if more people come
you could re open the school

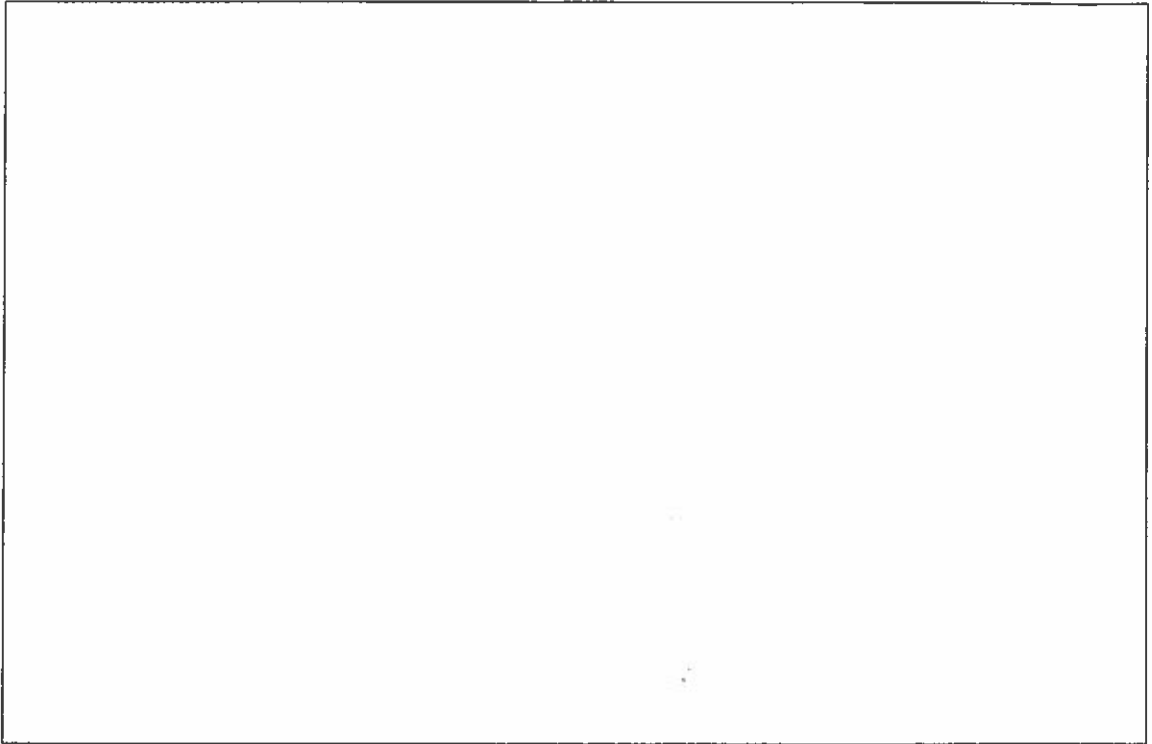
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Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Because the roads are better

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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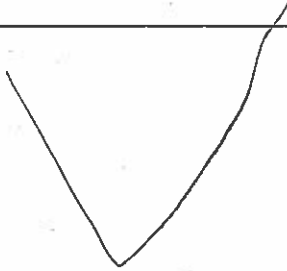
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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

because if you close Dalwhinnie Primary
People might move in depends how good
Dalwhinnie is and if you re-open it
straight away maybe no people may move in.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

because in the winter the road from
Dalwhinnie to Newtonmore is the safer way
even though it may be longer its safer.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

Don't just re-open it or shut it straight away just give it a bit more time.

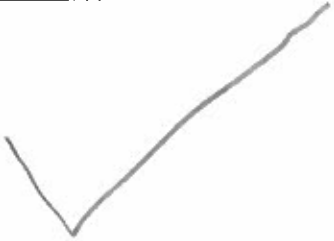
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- 3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.**

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I gave the answer because I dont think that more Pupils will come.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Newtonmore Primary has lots more Pupils than Gergask

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

No.


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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Beacause if the school . reopens it will just be shut down again. and the more people that come to Dalwhinnie whilst the school is closed and then reopen when there's at least 10 people there.

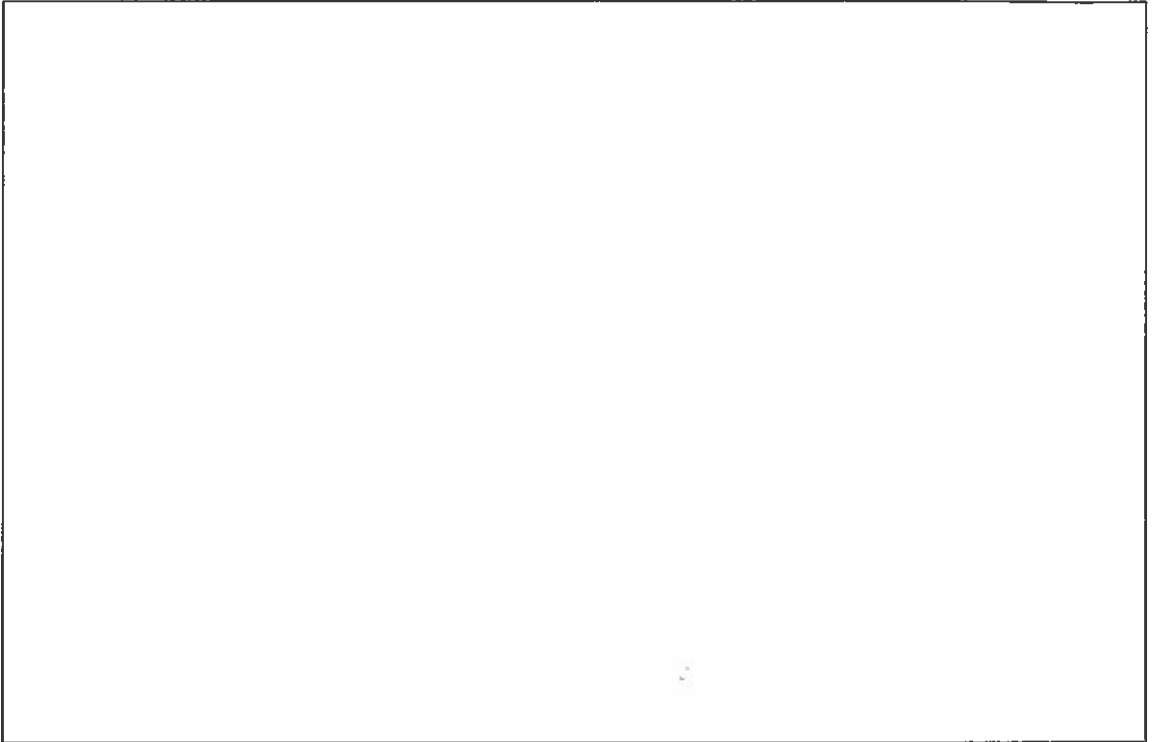
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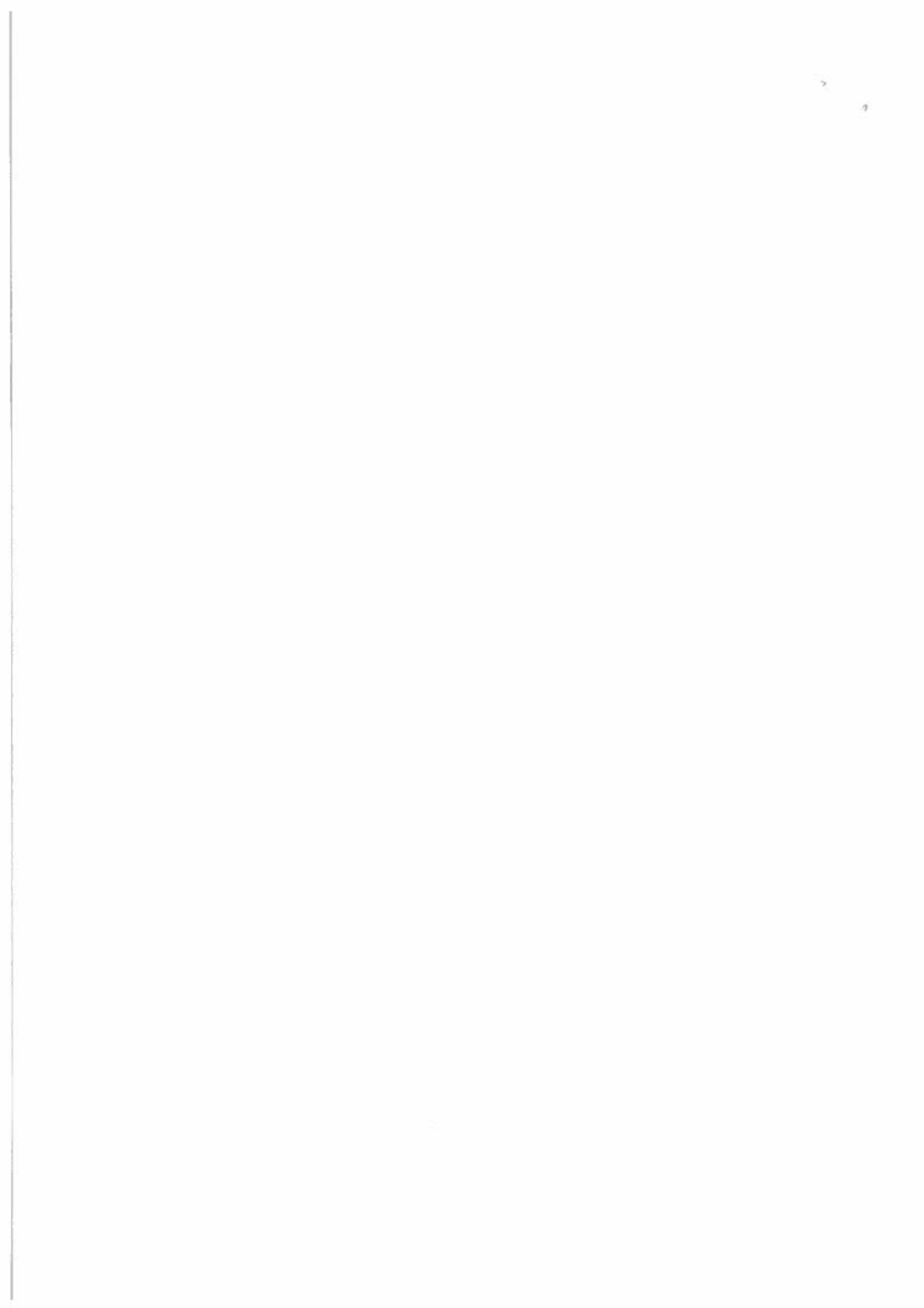
Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	✓

4. Why did you give the answer above?

beacause i know the road from Newtonmore to Dalwhinnie up down it every Saturday

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

because more family's maybe move to Dalwhinnie and more pupils might want there education and get a good job. If pupils came to Newtonmore or Gergask in the winter there is more likely of being an accident and if there parents go to work early they could be very tired.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	
Newtonmore Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

It is a safer route and not a big of a chance of a accident. There is not such a long journey.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

If no more pupl's come in like 9-12
mouth's Shut the School for Good.

From: [Urquhart J \(Jean\), MSP](#)
To: [Sandra Breach](#)
Subject: RE: PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE EDUCATION PROVISION AT DALWHINNIE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Date: 08 February 2016 17:12:31

Hello Sandra,

Many thanks for your email. I have read with interest the proposals and looked at the website. Please would you be good enough to give my apologies to the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 23rd of February; it is a parliamentary day and I have commitments that prevent me attending.

All the best,
Jean

Jean Urquhart MSP
Room 3 – 20
Scottish Parliament
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh EH1 1SP

0131 348 5052

From: Sandra Breach [mailto:sandra.breach@highland.gov.uk]
Sent: 08 February 2016 09:35
Subject: PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE EDUCATION PROVISION AT DALWHINNIE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Importance: High

SENT ON BEHALF OF CALLUM MACKINTOSH

Good morning

Please see attached.

Kind regards.

Callum Mackintosh
Area Care and Learning Manager – South
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

Unless related to the business of The Highland Council, the views or opinions expressed within this e-mail are those of the sender and do not necessarily reflect those of The Highland Council, or associated bodies, nor does this e-mail form part of any contract unless so stated.

Mura h-eil na beachdan a tha air an cur an cèill sa phost-d seo a' buntainn ri gnothachas Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, 's ann leis an neach fhèin a chuir air falbh e a tha iad, is chan eil iad an-còmhnaidh a' riochdachadh beachdan na Comhairle, no buidhnean buntainneach, agus chan eil am post-d seo na phàirt de chunnradh sam bith mura h-eil sin air innse.

Listening * Open * Valuing * Improving * Supporting * Partnering * Delivering
Èisteachd * Fosgailte * Luach * Leasachadh * Taic * Com-pàirteachas * Lìbhrigeadh

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11th March 2016

Dear Sirs,

The Parent Council at Gergask Primary School wish to give our views on the closure of Dalwhinnie Primary.

In our view, it is unfortunately right that Dalwhinnie Primary should close, as there does not seem to be a realistic prospect of a viable number of children living within its catchment in the foreseeable future.

We would like to disagree however with the recommendation that the Dalwhinnie Primary catchment should be moved to Newtonmore Primary, and instead feel it should move to Gergask Primary.

It is not clear that the recommendation in the consultation document logically follows from the Educational Benefit Statement. As it stands at the moment, both Newtonmore Primary and Gergask Primary come out more or less equal in terms of what they can offer pupils from Dalwhinnie and so it would seem that the obvious solution would be to move the catchment to the school that is closest, which is Gergask Primary. There are also points raised in the proposal that are inaccurate and there are significant issues that are not addressed at all.

The "*Effects on Transport*" section, and the travel times suggested in 16.1 of the proposal are misleading. Taken at face value, they may be accurate today, however no account is taken at all of the fact that between Dalwhinnie and Newtonmore Primary, over the next 8 or 9 years there are going to be two separate major sets of roadworks on the A9 (Dalwhinnie to Crubenmore and Crubenmore to Kincaig). Both these roadworks are multi-year projects that will see the speed limit on the A9 reduced to 40mph for the duration of each project, and will cover almost the entire distance between Dalwhinnie and Newtonmore Primary. Travel times between Dalwhinnie and Newtonmore Primary are likely to be further aggravated by the

increased volume of seasonal traffic travelling through the roadworks. We feel that this should be considered as a major reason to move the Dalwhinnie Primary catchment to Gergask Primary. If the Dalwhinnie Primary catchment is moved to Newtonmore Primary, it is probably that a Dalwhinnie child starting primary school in the next few years will spend their entire primary education travelling through major roadworks to and from school. We think that a more realistic estimate of travel times between Dalwhinnie and Newtonmore Primary will be 30 - 35 minutes each way, which is more than double the travel time to Gergask Primary. Of course, as anyone who regularly travels the A9 will know, in the event that they put up temporary traffic lights, the travel times could easily turn into hours, not minutes. This issue will be entirely mitigated by moving the Dalwhinnie Primary catchment to Gergask Primary, since that route does not include the A9 at all.

It is misleading to say that there is *"no guarantee of an age appropriate peer group"* at Gergask Primary, as stated in Appendix B of the proposal. The considerations about where to move the Dalwhinnie Primary catchment make barely any mention of the fact that Gergask Primary currently operates in, and derives considerable benefit from, a cluster arrangement with Kingussie Primary. This means that the pupils at both Gergask Primary and Kingussie Primary have ample opportunity to socialise and to partake in activities together. There are regular occasions when pupils from the two schools do things together and visit each other. For example, Gergask Primary and Kingussie Primary pupils have 'cluster days' together, and enjoy out of school activities together, such as Altnacriche and skiing at Cairngorm. In reality, the children at Gergask Primary benefit enormously from doing things together as a school, with the big ones learning to help the little ones, and the little ones benefitting from positive older role models. It is unquestionably the case that the children at Gergask Primary benefit from peer support across a much wider age range than would be the case in most other schools. Taken along with the excellent relationships the children at Gergask Primary have with the children at Kingussie Primary, not to mention the close relationships with children at Newtonmore Primary through numerous after school activities, it is more accurate to say that the

Gergask Primary children enjoy the best of all worlds, which is something that the children from Dalwhinnie will also benefit from.

In Appendix B, it states that "*Gergask would not provide adequate professional network*" in the event that the Dalwhinnie Primary catchment is moved to Gergask Primary. Presumably, this is meant to imply that the professional network at Newtonmore Primary is superior to that of Gergask Primary. However, it is not at all clear from reading the proposal what impact the relative lack, or otherwise, of an "adequate professional network" will have on an enlarged Gergask Primary catchment that will, at most, include a small handful of additional children a year. In formulating our response to these proposals, the parent council has consulted with the head teacher at Gergask Primary, and learned that; to the contrary, the teachers at Gergask Primary are part of an excellent professional network and benefit greatly from the clustering arrangement between Gergask Primary and Kingussie Primary. We are aware that the staff, and in particular Alan Mclean (teacher), frequently take part in professional development sessions along with other professionals from the area. We therefore feel that that the statement in Appendix B that "Gergask would not provide adequate professional network" should either be properly justified, removed or amended. In any regard, we consider that the quality of teaching at Gergask Primary is easily comparable to that of any other school in the area.

There is a factual error in the proposal paper. In section 10.4 it states that there have only been two placing requests from other catchments to join Gergask Primary. This is not correct. In fact, between 2009 and 2016 there have been eleven children at Gergask Primary from out with the catchment, comprising three from the catchment of Dalwhinnie Primary and eight from the catchment of Newtonmore Primary. Additionally, there have been seven children (in addition to the eleven mentioned above) enrolled at Gergask Nursery from out with the Gergask Primary catchment. Currently, there are 7 children in pre-school nursery, not 5, as stated in 10.3. At the time of writing (March 2016), there are 5 children at Gergask Primary who live outwith the catchment, comprising 3 in the school (2 from Dalwhinnie, 1 from

Newtonmore Primary catchment), and 2 in the nursery, both from the Newtonmore catchment. It is important that section 10.4 is corrected because as stated it might give the impression that there are a disproportionate number of placing requests from pupils moving away from Gergask Primary than for pupils wishing to join, which is simply not true. In fact, Gergask Primary pupil numbers have historically always tended to fluctuate between the low teens and mid to high twenties, and this has always been caused by the normal ebb and flow of families moving into and out of the area.

The Scottish Government has a clear duty to support rural schools and keep them open when possible. It is never the less unfortunate that Dalwhinnie Primary probably needs to close. The parent council at Gergask Primary would like to make it known that in our view the best outcome for primary age children living in Dalwhinnie will be for them to attend Gergask Primary, because they will benefit from greatly reduced and more reliable travel times, and from the very positive and vibrant setup at Gergask Primary where they will benefit from the cluster arrangement with Kingussie Primary. Additionally, the best way to help secure Gergask Primary's future will be to move the Dalwhinnie Primary catchment to Gergask Primary.

Yours faithfully

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 - 3 MAR 2016
 HIGHLAND COUNCIL
 CARE & LEARNING SERVICE

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Dear sir/madam.

I am writing to you regarding the closure of Dalwhinnie Primary school and the reallocation of the catchment area.

The closure of the school unfortunately is the only way forward as the numbers of children in Dalwhinnie at the moment is so small. This is a massive blow for such a small community. When the school goes the heart of the community has gone.

The catchment covers a large area with many out laying settlements. As a parent of Gergask primary school I think the catchment should either be split allowing Dalwhinnie itself to come to Gergask and places such as Cuaich and Drummochter to go to Newtonmore, or let the families choose where they send there children. This could help both schools.

Dalwhinnie has a number of estates that employ a large number of staff. If one family should move in that could make a significant difference to Gergask. Newtonmore primary is currently full so this solution should help both schools.

I have had four Children, my two boys have now moved to Kingussie High and getting on really well. Your report highlights the fact that small peer groups is not a good thing. James went from primary one to primary five on his own and then one boy moved in, as they were not at the same level James always had his own work set by the teacher. He is now in the top maths and English set. It cant get better than that. The ratio of teachers to pupils is fantastic and there is no chance of a child that is struggling being left behind or slipping through the system.

The opportunities the children at Gergask has is second to none. They take part in the Badenoch music festival , winning on several occasions. They have a cross country team and children have represented there school in district and national levels, bringing home several different medals. They have a strong shinty club with most of the school attending training, they join with Newtonmore for big competitions. Gergask has in the past won the Williamson cup with a Gergask team. The school has a croft attached where children can grow and eat there own vegetables. They work with a local farmer to see the livestock side of the croft and have several visits during the year.

The children have a great experience and from nursery age they learn to play and join in with the older pupils. I think our children benefit greatly from this it helps them to interact with others. We also do alot of events which involve the wider community. We recently had a burns ceilidh, as well as the older members of the community we had several ex pupils either performing or enjoying the evening, which was really nice to see.

Travel from Dalwhinnie to Gergask is along the A889 a distance of eight miles. Dalwhinnie to Newtonmore is ten miles. There has been suggestions that the A889 is closed alot in the winter due to snow. As I am sure you are aware the road has only been closed once in the last two years. The road is usually closed because the A9 is closed. When this happens Gergask can

be reached by the Glentruim Road.

I ask that you think very carefully about changing the Dalwhinnie catchment area. This could have big implications for both primary schools.

Yours sincerely,



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16 MAR 2016

HIGHLAND COUNCIL
CARE & LEARNING SERVICE

7th March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write on behalf of the [REDACTED] with regards to the change of Dalwhinnie Primary school catchment to Newtonmore Primary, this we are strongly opposed to.

We believe that the best option is to incorporate the catchment into Gergask Primary School.

This is for the following reasons:

Dalwhinnie is closer to Laggan than Newtonmore therefore less travel time and less costs involved for school transport. This will be especially true for the 10 years expected of A9 dueling.

Gergask Primary is already clustered with Kingussie allowing for opportunity to be part of age appropriate peer groups. It also has regular joint events with Newtonmore fulfilling this requirement.

It is beneficial to the pupils of Gergask Primary to have more attend for the very reason it is suggested in the report that the catchment should go to Newtonmore, using it as the main reason to choose Newtonmore over Gergask is to disadvantage the pupils at Gergask while not affecting those at Newtonmore.

The Scottish Government is committed to supporting rural life, rural communities and the rural economy so it is in the Highland Council interest to fulfil this by increasing the Gergask school catchment area, it is already disadvantaged through its situ we would ask that you don't make it further so.

We would draw your attention to the following comment in the proposed submission "Newtonmore and Gergask Primaries have identical scores for Suitability and Condition." and ask that you support our primary school and our community by recommending Dalwhinnie catchment area is merged with Gergask's.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Dalwhinnie to go to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary, instead of Dalwhinnie Primary.

Now we have to decide what to do for the future. We have 3 choices:

1. Close Dalwhinnie Primary for good, with the pupils going to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary instead.
2. Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary, so pupils from there would go to that school and not to Newtonmore or Gergask.
3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Gergask needs more pupils
It would be a small school if it
reopened and it would be better to go
to a school with more pupils to
work and play with.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Gergask needs more pupils
we have after school clubs like
cookery club.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

We have a croft with a pond and a
firepit which we sometimes cook on.

We have a football pitch with posts
and a great playground.

We get to go to Kingussie and make
friends with the people there.

We welcome people and are good friends




For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Dalwhinnie to go to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary, instead of Dalwhinnie Primary.

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I'm from Dalwhinnie.
I wanted to stay at
Gergask because
there is a lot of
wild life and country
-side

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Gergask is running
low on pupils.
we have a lovely croft
and a pond full of life.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

We get to go on lots of school trips like Glasgow and Allnacriche centre. There is no fighting or arguing because our school is small and we have to get on together

For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Dalwhinnie to go to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary, instead of Dalwhinnie Primary.

Now we have to decide what to do for the future. We have 3 choices:

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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Dalwhinnie would not have that many people so it would be better for to come to are school

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Gergask has a croft and we made a pond and a camp fire also everyones friends

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?


There are opportunities to go to other schools like Kingussie all the time
All the parents come into help

For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Dalwhinnie to go to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary, instead of Dalwhinnie Primary.

Now we have to decide what to do for the future. We have 3 choices:

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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

If Dalwhinnie shuts then we might be able to get the catchment and our numbers might rise a bit for we only have 41 pupils left.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

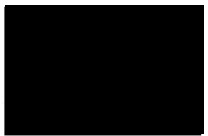
4. Why did you give the answer above?

Gergask's numbers are down and we need to keep our numbers high.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

We have a croft on our doorstep. We can go for Nature walks. Whenever we want. We get the chance to see other schools. We are friendly and would welcome anybody from Dalwhinnie. Gergask is a great school.

All the parents help with something whether its after school clubs or the parent council. Our three clubs Art, Cookery and Shinty are very popular and would love anybody from Dalwhinnie joining.




For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Dalwhinnie to go to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary, instead of Dalwhinnie Primary.

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3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

We only have eleven Pupils in the whole School.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

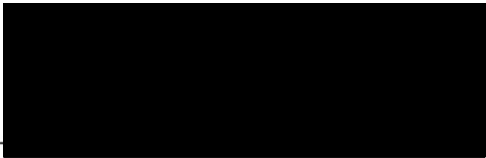
Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Our numbers are going Low
So we need more PUPILS

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

We have a croft on our doorstep and a pond to learn more about wild life. Gergask is a great school and we get the chance to go and see other schools and meet other people in different schools.



For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Dalwhinnie to go to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary, instead of Dalwhinnie Primary.

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3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

close Dalwhinnie so they could come here and have more children to play and work with.

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

Our numbers are down.
• We are a good wee schools.
• We go to other schools like Kingussie.
• We are friendly.

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

- Gergask has a croft and a camp fire.
- Most of the time we all get along really well.
- We have lots of trips and playground equipment.
- The pupils are well behaved.
- The teachers are amazing.



For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Dalwhinnie to go to Newtonmore Primary or Gergask Primary, instead of Dalwhinnie Primary.

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Idea No. 1 – Close Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Dalwhinnie Primary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Dalwhinnie is too small

3. If the Council did close Dalwhinnie Primary, which school do you think the Dalwhinnie pupils should go to? Place a tick next to the school you think we should choose

Gergask Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newtonmore Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Why did you give the answer above?

our numbers are down

5. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

- we have ~~no~~ primary 5ours and only one primary three.
- we have a crost.
- we have a sire pit.
- we have a eco-friendly School.
- we have healthy food.
- we grow our own veggies.

