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**From:**  
**Sent:** 17 June 2016 11:53  
**To:** ECS-CRM Sutherland  
**Subject:** Kinbrace Consultation

Dear Mr Northedge

I would like to make my opinion known with regard to the proposal of discontinuing the education provision at Kinbrace Primary.

I moved to Badenloch in August 2015, this obviously puts my children in the catchment for Kinbrace PS. On moving my original feeling was that I would like to see the school re-open as I was apprehensive about the distance to Helmsdale PS. My eldest child has been attending Helmsdale since August and travels every day via school car. The travelling has not had any effect on him, which was my biggest concern as it obviously made quite a long school day. I was concerned that in the winter that the school transport would not run and am happy to say that there was only a couple of days where it wasn't viable to run and I wouldn't have been happy to send him to school anyway, even if it had only been to Kinbrace.

I would now **not like** to see Kinbrace PS reopen. This is for a number of reason;

- My eldest child has settled into Helmsdale PS and is now flourishing. The teaching staff at Helmsdale PS have worked hard with [redacted] and I can't believe the difference in him. [redacted] loves Helmsdale PS and has made so many new friends, I feel that moving him into a small school like Kinbrace would be detrimental to him, not only socially but educationally as well.
- With a projected roll of 5 pupils by 2019, I can't see how any of the children would benefit socially or even on sporting front with so few kids.
- The children would not even have a school canteen, which may be a minor point but is important to me
- My youngest child would be the only child in nursery. I have only recently settled him in Helmsdale and I don't believe he would cope having to change and certainly not if he was there on his own. There would be no social interactive, he wouldn't learn how to play with his peers and I don't think he would enjoy the same range of activities that he does at the moment with [redacted] and [redacted] in Helmsdale.

- Looking at the financial document in the consultation, I can't believe that the Highland Council could sustain paying for a school to re-open at a cost of almost £32000 per child per year. This money could be better invested else where on education.
- Both schools lose out as they do not have a Head Teacher on site every day and I would think it would be difficult for the head teacher to balance time between both schools
- My children would be together 24/7, in the same classroom, playground and home environment. I don't think this would work in their favour.
- Potentially my children would only ever have one teacher for the remainder of their primary education.
- Potentially they would not benefit from visiting specialist teachers or be offered music tuition, which is available at Helmsdale PS.

All in all I don't see that my children would have the same opportunities if they had to attend Kinbrace PS. If it comes to it, I plan to submit a Placing Request for my children to continue to attend Helmsdale Primary School, so perhaps they should not be included in the projected roll numbers for Kinbrace Primary?

I would happy to talk to you if needed.

Regards