

Discontinue the provision of education at Kinbrace PS

*Dear sir/Madame,*

*As a parent and local employer of the Kinbrace catchment area, we think that the closure of the school would be a bit premature as at the moment we ourselves have two new job vacancies due to employees retiring. There are also three houses and the two local hotels in the catchment area that are for sale. If the school remained mothballed or reopened it would encourage more families to the local area. Also if the school were to reopen it would offer two/three jobs, not including teachers.*

*From an employer's view continue to mothball is a must!!*

*There have been no children in Kinbrace PS, since 2013 as parents were not given the option where their children could go; we were only given Helmsdale as an option. Even though*

*we were assured that they would consider opening Kinbrace PS for four children in 2013 when mothballing happened. As time has gone on the catchment of Kinbrace PS has diminished, as the school roles in Helmsdale and Melvich decreased there catchment areas have widened, taking children from Kinbrace PS. If the education was to extend Kinbrace PS catchment back an extra three miles max, it would increase the role from five to eight children for 2019-20. As the role stands at the moment.*

*Please tell us where in the curriculum for excellence does it stipulate education can't be delivered if there are only five or less pupils?*

*We as parents went to the education six months before our son was due to start school and asked about the reopening of Kinbrace PS, we were told to wait until we registered him for school before an answer was given, which was NO choice just Helmsdale PS. Now our son along with two other boys of similar age have to travel thirty two miles and more a day five days a week instead of walking to the top of the hill, Or being transported a short distance. Our son leave's the house at 8.15 and doesn't return until 3.50. What a life for a wee boy of five, an eight and half hour day. In the mornings they all arrive thirty minutes before school starts why? We have around one hour's worth of homework every day and six hours of school. Do you think this is fair for any child at that*

*age especially those of primary 1-3 to do an eight and half hour day? I don't!!*

*From what I have read, this is about MONEY, NOT THE CHILDREN!*

*What about Loch choire? Are they not allowed families?*

*There is no mention that you leave the tarred road at Badanloch and then travel twelve miles up a dirt track road. It take's around forty five minutes in a 4x4, when the road is good to get there. How far do you expect a child to travel? There is also no road to Ben Armine Lodge from Kinbrace?*

*All the children that would be currently going to Kinbrace PS if it had opened in August 2015 would have been two primary ones and one primary two, with two children for nursery. All similar age.*

*Education in Kinbrace PS: we had the music teacher, P.E teacher and Art teacher that all came from Farr high school to visit for six weeks rotation. They had swimming lessons in Bettyhill. The kid's loved it. They did telly conference with children all over the world. The world of IT has not gone backwards it's moved forward. And we believe Kinbrace PS could move forward too if it was allowed to do so. Kinbrace PS was the hub of the community, where the kids learnt about community spirit, and warmly inviting everyone to join in for any occasion, wheather they are old or young.*

*We as a family would encourage the reopen or re-mothballing of Kinbrace PS.*

*Yours Sincerely*

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