

NSS response Appendix A: Save Abram Bryn Gates – petition supporters

Submitted by email to: consultation@wigan.gov.uk

Between 24 November and 8 December 2021, the following members of the public added their support to a local petition organised by the NSS to Save Abram Bryn Gates Primary School, and prevent a loss of secular provision in the area:

1.	<i>Those of us who feel you can be a decent, caring, human being without being part of a religion already find it extremely difficult to find schools which will teach our children without religious bias. Please do not shut down a school which is not part of this archaic practice.</i>	Lyndsey, from WIGAN
2.	<i>Please don't take away one the very few remaining options for those of us who wish to avoid our children being indoctrinated with any religion. Our son will be starting primary school in 2023 and our choices are already extremely limited. Church schools, in contrast, are plentiful in the area, such that parents wishing for a religious education have an abundance of choice.</i>	Geoff, from WIGAN
3.		John, from WIGAN
4.		Hayley, from WIGAN
5.		Balmer, from WIGAN
6.		Jodie, from WIGAN
7.	<i>There is no school that has space for my son (who is nine and is also on the pathway for autism with a diagnosis of SHDH) that is accessible to me. I will not take my children to a faith school and due to additional needs, I want a smaller school for him, so he is not missed and gets the support he needs. I think all children should make their own decision if they want to believe in a faith not have it forced on them having to attend a faith school.</i>	Nickeella, from WIGAN
8.	<i>Bamfurlong and Stubshaw Cross need our school, as a parent and grandparent of former pupils, I think it's appalling to shut our school and nursery school, not everyone drives a car and it's not safe for primary school children to walk home if their parents work.</i>	Norma, from WIGAN
9.		Gillian, from WIGAN
10.		Michelle, from WIGAN
11.		Michael, from WIGAN
12.	<i>I am a local resident and have lived in Bamfurlong all my life. This school is a big part of our village. I went to this school along with my children and my dad.</i>	Marie, from WIGAN

13. <i>Signing to save my son's school. Small school big heart.</i>	Kim, from WIGAN
14. <i>I work at the nursery on the schools' site. This school is the heart of the community, the families that come to us with their children mostly progress onto the school too. We have good partnerships with the parents and staff of the school. We provide wrap around care for the children that attend the school which is very successful. Abram Bryn Gates is the only community school in Bamfurlong and there are more faith school in the area which children could attend so the us would be suitable for the children from Holy Family school which is the other school at threat of closure.</i>	Janette, from WIGAN
15. <i>My children love this community school, the alternative options are miles away and faith schools. I want my children to have their own options and make their own decisions in regard to religion rather than have it thrown down their necks at a young age.</i>	Jen, from WIGAN
16. <i>We are losing too many schools. Abram Bryn Gates is the heart of our community. Children shouldn't be forced to go to schools of faith if they aren't of that faith/no faith and that is the only other option.</i>	Ruth, from WIGAN
17. <i>Abram Bryn Gates School is a part of the Community and to see it close will rip the Heart out Community. I have a year 5 child in school now and my son just left last year and they both love and loved that school and all the teachers do a brilliant job. There will be no other Community school in the brough of Abram that will have space for my child. Platt Bridge Community is full. Holly family is catholic and my child and we have chosen not to get baptised at the moment and we hope he will not be forced to choose in the end. We are not very happy if Abram Bryn Gates school shuts. So please chose to keep it open.</i>	Philip, from WIGAN
18. <i>The only other option for my child is to go to faith-based school which I do not want and should be given a choice in my child's education.</i>	Gabriella, from WIGAN
19. <i>This school is a fantastic asset to this small community. My grandson is extremely happy there and would be so upset if it was to close. To move him to a much larger school away from his home community would be detrimental to his social and emotional wellbeing!</i>	Linda, from WIGAN
20. <i>My daughter goes to this school which is a brilliant school. If this school shuts down and they try sending her to Holy Family which is not an option as she is not Catholic, the only option is further afield which would cause problems getting to and from school. This school needs to stay open not just for my daughter but for all the other children that attend Bryn Gates. The school is what makes Bamfurlong as a community as well, without that what had Bamfurlong actually got in the community not much. Holy Family has more other faith schools to choose from this should not come down to religion and with shutting Bryn Gates the Council will have a problem on their hands trying to find places for the kids, as no one wants their kids to go to a Catholic school if we all wanted them to go we would of chose that in the first place.</i>	Sarah, from WIGAN
21. <i>Closing this school would not only devastate pupils and staff but rip the heart out of the community too. Choice for non-faith schools are already limited for parents.</i>	Julie, from WIGAN
22. <i>Limiting faith schools and concern on travel and congestion at school times if one school is closed. Concern also for what replaces the school land, housing? Which may become a paradox.</i>	Stuart, from WIGAN

23. <i>My daughter is currently attending Abram Bryn Gates school and is of no faith and that is how we chose to bring our children up. We do not want any faith forcing on her and will not send her to a school of any faith.</i>	Rachel, from WIGAN
24.	Claire, from WIGAN
25. <i>Please save our school.</i>	Annette, from WIGAN
26. <i>I think that it is a disgrace that they are trying to close Abram Bryn Gates I've lived in Bamfurlong all my life. Four generations of my family have been to this school, my children will not be going to a faith school. I walk my child to and from school every morning thus cutting the need for driving their as do many other parents in Bamfurlong. If he was to go anywhere else it would be in a car and the amount of traffic on the road at school times is horrendous. The school has to stay open as the other non-faith schools locally are at full capacity.</i>	Jonathan, from WIGAN
27. <i>This school has been going for over 100 years now, it is part of history and is the heart of the village. It gives the children the feeling of warmth and loving safe environment and makes them feel a part of a bigger school family, the ABG community where everyone is made to feel equal and important. Please save this school.</i>	Tiffany, from WIGAN
28.	Alan, from WIGAN
29.	Fiona, from WIGAN
30. <i>My children moved to this school at Easter time and have absolutely come on leaps and bounds, from crying at the old school being dropped off, to now running in to his new school happy. They have made lots of new friends and love everything single teacher.</i>	Karoline, from WIGAN
31.	Emma, from WIGAN
32. <i>I will not be sending my child to a faith school should Abram Bryn Gates close. I will not send my child to a school in Platt bridge should Abram Bryn Gates close. Abram Bryn Gates is the only non-faith school between Platt Bridge and Ashton in Makerfield. Closing Abram Bryn Gates will result in more traffic that is already at a standstill every morning in both directions away from this school. Children are having to leave for school at 07.10am from Bamfurlong just to avoid getting a late mark at school due to traffic. This is totally unacceptable.</i>	Leanne, from WIGAN
33.	Stephen, from LLANDUDNO
34. <i>This school is a wonderful addition to the community, seeing the growth of my nephew there is phenomenal.</i>	Lianne, from WIGAN
35.	Jen, from WIGAN
36. <i>This school must be saved due to it being our local school and one of the best in my opinion.</i>	Derek, from WIGAN
37.	Ken, from WIGAN
38.	Mike, from WIGAN
39.	Deborah, from WIGAN
40. <i>Closing down Abram Bryn Gates would mean ripping the heart out of a little village. The community and the school work together to create a family feeling. Closing down the school means we have no options of a community-based school in our local area. We send our children to a</i>	Jennifer, from WIGAN

community school for a reason. Abram Bryn Gates is a small school with a big heart.

41.	Keely, from WIGAN
42.	Tracey, from LLANDUDNO
43. <i>If Abram Bryn Gates closes, the heart of an already forgotten village would be gone. Closing down the school means we have no other community-based school in our local area meaning we would have to travel out of area. Our children go to community school by choice. Abram Bryn Gates is a small school with a big heart. Please help keep our school open</i>	Ian, from WIGAN
44. <i>Abram Bryn Gates is the only school in the area as opposed to four in Platt Bridge most of which are religious settings.</i>	Heather, from CREWE
45. <i>Before we moved to Billinge one year ago, my daughter went to ABG, not only had her reception year there but 16 years living in Bamfurlong that was the only the school we ever wanted her to go too, even on her school application choice we only put ABG down. The teachers there gave her the best start possible as a summer born child 'August 30th' even in her new school starting year one they said that you would never have placed her as a summer born child. There isn't much left in Bamfurlong, one of the reasons we moved, we have watched over the 16 years as green land has been built on, shops and post offices shut down. It would be such a huge shame for a small village school to shut when there isn't a lot of small intake school's left, some children don't do well in big intake schools. To be fair I wouldn't want any schools shutting as it must be a huge stress factor for both schools. Plus for walking distance for children in the area to go to others school would be quite a distance for little legs to walk.</i>	Sarah, from WIGAN
46.	Lynne, from WIGAN
47.	Gilligan, from WIGAN
48.	Richard, from WIGAN
49. <i>This school is the heart of the community. I have lived in this village all my life I attended Abram Bryn Gates as did my three children my mum was a dinner lady here too. I worked in this beautiful school for 18 years, four years volunteering. They hold events for the community here it really would be a shame to lose this school</i>	Lesley, from WIGAN
50.	Lynn, from WIGAN
51.	Jemma, from WIGAN
52.	Gill, from WIGAN
53.	Tracey, from WIGAN
54.	Mark, from WIGAN
55.	Hollis, from WIGAN
56.	Hayden, from WIGAN
57.	Ann, from WIGAN
58. <i>This far the best primary school as community goes as all my three children attended here it would be such a shame for this to close.</i>	Andrea, from WIGAN

59.	Claire, from WIGAN
60.	Stacey, from WIGAN
61.	Lesley, from WIGAN
62.	Joanne, from WIGAN
63. <i>As a non-Catholic religious family. Bryn gates should remain open for non-Catholic children. Bryn Gates has children from Abram, Platt Bridge, Bamfurlong and Stubshaw Cross attending, where are you implying that these children go?</i>	Heather, from WIGAN
64.	Vicky, from WIGAN
65.	Kate, from WIGAN
66.	Anne, from WIGAN
67.	Carol, from WIGAN
68.	Rhonda, from WIGAN
69.	Michelle, from WIGAN
70.	James, from WIGAN
71.	Mavis, from WIGAN
72.	Brian, from WIGAN
73.	McAdam, from BLACKBURN
74.	Zoe, from WIGAN
75. <i>This school is the heart of the community in Bamfurlong. The children who attend come from far and wide which proves how popular this school is.</i>	Julie, from WARRINGTON
76.	Ann, from WIGAN
77.	Toni, from WIGAN
78. <i>This is a fantastic school which is the heart and soul of the community if this school closes Bamfurlong will just become another tumbleweed town Not sure why it's even being considered as there is a shortage just doesn't make sense There must be a housing planner behind this as usual.</i>	Martin, from PRESTON
79. <i>Yet again, Wigan Council after making a quick buck by closing Abram Bryn Gates so that they can sell off the land to developers so that houses can be built. What comes with new houses? Families and children that will then have to commute out of the community to go a school.</i>	Gerard, from WIGAN
80.	Barbara, from WIGAN
81. <i>I went to this school as a child, this school is the heart of the village of Bamfurlong. It is the only school in the village and if you remove it. The village then loses its heart and becomes lifeless. You also cause damage to the environment because people that live in the village will then have to travel by car to the next closest school.</i>	Peter, from PRESTON
82. <i>My grandchildren attend this school it is far the best school their education progress is fantastic, they love it after all the upset and Covid disruption, the very last thing the children need is for the school to close. This will have a devastating effect on them.</i>	Michelle, from WIGAN

83. <i>Abram Bryn Gates has put in so much effort to improve the school, it would be a shame for all that effort to go to waste. The school, staff and children are outstanding.</i>	Lucy, from WIGAN
84.	Carole, from WIGAN
85.	Hesketh, from WARRINGTON
86.	Hayley, from WIGAN
87.	Laura, from WIGAN
88.	Emma, from WIGAN
89.	Millie, from GLOUCESTER
90.	Thomas, from WIGAN
91.	Megan, from WIGAN
92.	Katie, from WIGAN
93.	Stephen, from WIGAN
94.	Scott, from WIGAN
95.	Lisa, from WIGAN
96. <i>My sons went to this school, and I was a governor here for many years. My two grandchildren now go here. One is in year six and the other in year three. Both of them started at the school in May 21 and for the first time it has been a pleasure to see them run into school and be smiling when they come out. The teachers and head have been so supportive, it would be a travesty if this school was to close.</i>	Julie, from WIGAN
97. <i>This is the third school my grandchildren have attended. Each previous school has let the kids down in some way. This is the first school where the kids run in excited to be there and start their day. The first school where they are not bullied and the school refuses to acknowledge there is bullying. This is a fantastic school with continuity, there are teachers who taught the grandkids parents.</i>	Michael, from WIGAN
98.	Andrew, from WIGAN
99. <i>I don't wish my children to go to a faith school this is why I picked Abram Bryn Gates.</i>	Nicola, from WIGAN
100.	Glynn, from WIGAN
101.	Melissa, from WIGAN
102.	Kelly, from WIGAN
103.	Nicola, from WIGAN
104.	Tracey, from WIGAN
105. <i>This would have such a negative effect on my nephew. This is the wrong time to do this after the past two years. Families would rather assist with fundraisers than shut this school.</i>	Sophie
106. <i>I've lived in the village for years; I went to Abram Bryn Gates the same as most my family. My daughter went there and I'm hoping my younger daughter can go in a few years! As I work full time my grandparents will be my school childcare, they also live in Bamfurlong so is only a walk</i>	Claire, from WIGAN

away for them. If the school closes, we have no school as a village in walking distance, especially for the working parents who rely on 70+ year old grandparents for the school run. It is a fantastic school with lovely teachers, and I have nothing bad to say. Other places luckily have more than one school in their area to choose from but not us please let Bamfurlong keep our school.

107.	Donna, from WIGAN
108. <i>I was born and bred in Bryn Gates this school was my school and is part of an amazing community that has been in Bryn Gates forever and a day. My parents and friends and their parents went to this school what a complete and utter travesty and also a tragedy to lose it now it has always been a school that strengthens not only children's academia it also forges deep and meaningful friendships for the future.</i>	Ede, from PRESTON
109.	Donna, from WIGAN
110.	Jacqueline, from MANCHESTER
111. <i>A rural school should not be closed and the children forced to travel to find another suitable school.</i>	Christine, from WIGAN
112. <i>Places may be surplus now but in an ever-growing population, it's ridiculous to close any school. This school has a lot of history and parents should have a choice other than to send their child to a faith school.</i>	Jennifer, from WIGAN
113. <i>Closing a school is the most ridiculous thing ever! The poor children that have settled in and had to deal with everything thrown at them the last few years with covid. To potentially be forced to go to a faith school with no other option is disgusting.</i>	Katie, from WIGAN
114.	Anthony, from WARRINGTON
115.	Jonathan, from TWICKENHAM
116. <i>This village is the forgotten village of this part of greater Manchester, Wigan. The school has been part of this village for as long as I can remember. I went to this school as did my three sons. It plays a part of what this village stands for and to lose it would be a travesty.</i>	Ruth, from WIGAN
117. <i>I did my PGCE placement at this school this year and it was amazing. The staff and the children are a family and closing this school is very unfair. The staff are very organised and devote their lives to bettering those of the pupils. I love this school and the people in it, please reduce surplus places</i>	Lauren, from WIGAN
118. <i>This school should not be closed it is a highly valued community school that has served the local people for generations, it is open to everyone regardless of faith which is very important as not everyone wants their children attending a faith school</i>	Carole, from WIGAN
119. <i>Save our school because all kids here love it.</i>	Andrea, from WIGAN
120. <i>I have a strong attachment to the Wigan area and direct personal professional experience of the unhelpful complications arising from faith and sectarian schools there. It therefore seems to me highly inappropriate to restrict parental choice of a non-faith school further, which creates disadvantage for those whose circumstances cannot</i>	Jennifer, from DERBY

accommodate travel to a more distant non-faith school, in addition to the environmental cost arising from those who can.

121.	Anita, from WARRINGTON
122.	Andy, from WIGAN
123.	Fiona, from EDINBURGH
124. <i>Think of the children's upbringing please, please!</i>	Luis, from LIVERPOOL
125.	Rebecca, from WIGAN
126.	Andrea, from WIGAN
127.	Jean, from WIGAN
128. <i>This school means so much to my best friend's son. Please don't close.</i>	Stevie, from WIGAN
129.	Tanya, from WIGAN
130. <i>I have friends with children at this school and feel it would have a negative impact on the community if the school were to close.</i>	Jade, from MANCHESTER
131.	Elizabeth, from WIGAN
132. <i>Without Abram Bryan gates, Stubshaw Cross residents will be sandwiched between two Catholic Primary schools, Holy Family and St Wilfrid's. Other non-faith schools are not within walking distance. All children should be able to walk to a local primary school and not have a faith school be the only option.</i>	Lindsey, from WIGAN
133.	Phil, from WIGAN
134.	John, from MANCHESTER
135.	Wilson, from WIGAN
136. <i>Closing the school is going to have a huge impact on the community and children of the area, not only that I'm a nursery practitioner at twinkle toes at Abram Bryn Gates. The closure would affect us involved in the nursery and the children that attend would then need to find replacement nurseries as we wouldn't be able to stay open if closure is made to the school. There are a number of faith schools and non-faith schools/nursery in the Platt bridge/Abram area but not in Bamfurlong where Abram Bryn Gates is.</i>	Jayne, from WIGAN
137.	Megan, from WIGAN
138.	Kelly, from WIGAN
139.	Brian
140.	Lauren, from WIGAN
141. <i>I don't want my child receiving Catholic dogma in a Catholic faith-based school.</i>	Steven, from WIGAN
142.	Sandra, from BLACKPOOL
143. <i>Abram Bryn Gates is a cornerstone of the community in the local area (not just Bamfurlong and Bryn Gates, but the adjoining areas too). Its closure would not only reduce choice but would impoverish the local</i>	Dave, from WIGAN

communities and leave a void at the heart of the village of Bamfurlong and Bryn Gates. It is essential that this school remains.

144. <i>I attended this school when younger and was a good school, I know lots of people's children who go there and think it's a really good school.</i>	Jeanette, from WIGAN
145.	Janet, from WIGAN
146.	John, from WIGAN
147.	Kim, from WIGAN
148. <i>Access to non-faith primary schools is already restricted in Wigan, this makes it worse.</i>	Jamie, from SWANSEA
149. <i>I attended this school and it is and was part of the community very well and having still got friends whose children still attend their local school I think that the loss of this beacon of education will change the dynamics of a popular village</i>	Ivor, from WARRINGTON
150.	Denise, from WIGAN
151.	Christine, from WIGAN
152. <i>This is a really great school what they have done for my three kids are amazing the conference they have built up in my children are amazing.</i>	Sam, from WIGAN
153.	Jones, from WIGAN
154.	Gary, from WIGAN
155.	Audrey
156.	Claire, from WIGAN
157. <i>It would be a great miss to the community to lose the opportunity for our children to attend Abram Bryn Gates as we did.</i>	Naomi, from WIGAN
158.	Andrea, from WIGAN
159. <i>My children attend this school, one of which is autistic and can't cope in big classes of children, so if this goes ahead that ABG closes he would have to be placed in a special school. But I've also got my daughter and my business that is situated within two minutes walking distance from the school that I would have to close for three hours of my working day just to take my children to and from school and the footfall for my business will be lost as well as parents and children from the school come to my shop before and after school and some that get off the bus from high schools when going home, we have recently moved to the area about a year ago and bought the local shop due to the school being so near our home as we live in the shop as well and the fact that other parents told me it was a brilliant school and would help my child get the help he needs which he is getting, not like he was at his old school, he was violent and had melt downs a lot this school has helped him so much and it would be greatly regretted closing this school down</i>	Leanne, from WIGAN
160.	Jennifer, from PRESTON
161. <i>Stop brainwashing children with nonsense. Religion has no place in a modern world.</i>	Mark, from SWANSEA
162. <i>I went to ABG as a child and it would be a massive blow to the village and people of Bamfurlong were to close. Children should not be forced into a faith school just because the local authority wants to save money.</i>	Wesley, from WARRINGTON

163. <i>We need to save this school for the sake of the people whose mums and dads went there, and there sons and daughters went there and so on and so on, and it's the heart of Bamfurlong x</i>	Nicola, from WIGAN
164. <i>The closure of Abram Bryn Gates school would mean a much longer journey for local children to get to school. This could mean much larger carbon emissions as parents would need to drive their children to school. As there are currently four schools in walking distance of each other in the Platt Bridge and Abram area I cannot understand the closure of Abram Bryn Gates school even being considered. The only reason I can see is that Abram Bryn Gates is a much better housing development proposition with the added potential that the farmland behind the school offers. Holy Family is in a residential area so its development potential is much more limited.</i>	Susan, from WIGAN
165. <i>I grew up in Bamfurlong and attended Abram Bryn Gates school. I firmly believe that education should be free from religious bias. State education should be prioritised if it comes down to choice.</i>	Anne, from WIGAN
166. <i>All my three kids are ex pupils of ABG, they received an excellent education and we cannot close such a vital asset to our area.</i>	Mike, from WIGAN
167.	Amy, from PRESTON
168.	Keelie, from MANCHESTER
169. <i>The school is the heart of the local community, take it away and you're ripping the heart out of an already forgotten village. The school has a great family feel. There are no other schools that the children can go to, all the others are faith schools. The children would have to travel. No children from Abram Bryn Hates will be going to a Catholic school. It's our right to have a choice of type of school we wish to send our children to.</i>	Kenneth, from WIGAN
170. <i>The school is the heart of the local community, take it away and you're ripping the heart out of an already forgotten village. The school has a great family feel. There are no other schools that the children can go to, all the others are faith schools. The children would have to travel. No children from Abram Bryn Hates will be going to a Catholic school. It's our right to have a choice of type of school we wish to send our children to.</i>	Susan, from WIGAN
171. <i>The school is the heart of the local community, take it away and you're ripping the heart out of an already forgotten village. The school has a great family feel. There are no other schools that the children can go to, all the others are faith schools. The children would have to travel. No children from Abram Bryn Hates will be going to a Catholic school. It's our right to have a choice of type of school we wish to send our children to.</i>	Gay, from CHESTER
172. <i>This is a wonderful school and the heart of our little village.</i>	Karen, from WIGAN
173. <i>Please save our Beautiful School from closing, it really is the heart of our community. Along with a corner shop and one pub, it is all we have got! Our Children past and present always feel like Abram Bryn Gates is their home from home. A place that we all gravitate to and appreciate, in these uncertain times ABG is our steadfast place, our rock, the centre of our village. An amazing nurturing kind and vital school. Please don't close it, it would be devastating for our families.</i>	Valerie, from WIGAN

174.	Elsie, from WIGAN
175.	Shane, from BOLTON
176.	Norman
177. <i>My brother and I, along with my three children all attended this wonderful, caring, close knit, community-based school. We have all thrived and are successful adults both educationally and emotionally due to the lower teacher to pupil ratio allowing education to be tailored to enhance our learning. Please give future children of the area the opportunity to have the start in education they deserve.</i>	Emma, from WIGAN
178.	Jed, from WIGAN
179. <i>My two brothers and I attended Abram Bryn Gates and enjoyed some of the best years of our lives there. Which really laid the foundations for successful futures for all of us. The three of us are now at university on our paths to become a doctor, a lawyer and an engineer. As I mentioned before, I do not think this could be possible without the push we were given in Abram Bryn Gates.</i>	Jayden, from WIGAN
180. <i>This school is a small community school with a big heart. Both my girls went here and they loved it. As a parent we loved the village feel, the headmaster made it feel like a family and it always felt fully inclusive. I think it would be a crying shame to close it and merge.</i>	Cheryl, from WIGAN
181. <i>Abram Bryan Gates was the best primary school ever and I was lucky I got to attend there for seven years, the staff are amazing everyone was just a family.</i>	Eva, from WIGAN