

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**22 May 2019**

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**Clare Carter – Statement regarding agenda item 6  
Specials Schools Consultation**

**To Councillor Laura Mayes – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills**

**Statement**

I am so absolutely crushed to see that Wiltshire Council have once again put forward the proposal of a one school option.

On paper this may work for them. It makes sure they are protecting their money. That it looks good!!!

In reality ...

It's dire! It won't work for everyone! These are precious vulnerable human beings!

Our campaign group Wiltshire Send Action have been working with them, giving a viable proposal as an alternative. But yet they re- hash the pre-determined idea of the one school option.

It's unfair. One school does not fit all. It's not a school for just disabled children. This school has a whole range of complications and conditions.

Sadly our school lost another well loved child this week... the whole school is heartbroken. At least our 3rd this year!!!!

The risk of infections on some of the most vulnerable is going to be heightened. totally unnecessary to put them in that situation.

Our children are vulnerable. WC don't get this. It's not all about money.

These are precious human beings.

One school gives lack of choice. I was describing to a friend the other day who's been choosing school options for her main stream child. I pointed out we don't have that but chose the school suited to our child with their individual needs until 19. But if this school happens that choice is gone too! And if it doesn't work for our child? What then? There is nowhere!! We need more not less!!!

It is so wrong. I haven't found many people who think it's right!!!!!!

Our petition showed that!!!!

Wiltshire Council are just penny pinching at the cost of some of the most vulnerable and their families.

I cannot emphasise enough how much this is going to impact so badly on so many children and their families. Including mine!

Please consider this. We are not being awkward! We don't dislike Rowdeford school. But it's not what we need.

A massive school is going to do more harm than good for so many.

My daughter certainly won't cope. We deliberately chose St Nics because it's local community, small, caring, nurturing. Everything she needs with her condition. We didn't want to send her to 3 Ways due to size, distance, sensory impact. Yet we are now being FORCED to do something we already chose not to do!

That's right. We are clearly no longer allowed to make these decisions for our children anymore! What? Because they're special needs? Yet anyone with a 'normal child' can, of course the world is their Oyster!!! What?! Our children don't deserve that too?! They'll be known as the children in 'THAT' school. Institutionalised away from society and community from the people who care and look out for them in the community. Those who help. Those who enjoy them! I know! Who could possibly enjoy them?! But yes, people do.

St Nics has their spring show last week. We had community supporting us and feeling proud of our children. Each child performed on stage. Each child felt safe and proud of who they were. And why shouldn't they? We cheered and cried with pride. Our kids are amazing. Our kids deserve this. It's what the small community does. There won't be shows like that in a school of 400! Ridiculous size! I can't get my head round it.

That school will ruin them!

For a few it will work. But the majority no.

Please take this on board when making such a massive important decision on lives. We are all real people. Not just a number. As are all the people in the future. please give them what we all need. It's not asking much.

Finally show us you care!!! Do what's right for all of us not just Wiltshire Council and a money saving scheme.

Clare Carter  
Parent St Nicholas School Chippenham