

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**22 May 2019**

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**Laura Moore – Statement regarding agenda item 6  
Specials Schools Consultation**

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

I'd like to invite you in for a day into each of our special needs school to see what a typical day is like and how our children lead their day to day school life. Come and sit in our hall for assembly that is already full to the brim with children that can't cope with the noise, how do you expect this to work in a school full of 400 children?! Or maybe we just won't have assemblies anymore maybe they'll just be stuck in their classrooms all day. Come and see how hard just getting a class of 5 children into our hydro pool who we only share with 8 other classes at the moment, of which the benefits to our children is amazing. How would we fit this in with 400 other children? Surely they'd be lucky if they got a session once a month!

I really don't think in this process your thinking of the children, they are real people. This academic year alone we've lost 3 pupils which has left a massive hole in our St Nicholas community and shows you how vulnerable these children really are and just would not cope with a school with 400 pupils in it. Every child knows one another in our school, they pass each other in the corridor and we have conversations they all know each other's names, in this new super school I could pass a different child everyday for a week and probably not know their name that's not very person centred is it?!

Please just come and spend one day in each of our schools and then see what decision you make, because let's face it you won't have to deal with the aftermath of your decision. When our children will be so distressed from a long bus journey that their hitting themselves and staff. Or when the noise of 400 pupils in one hall will distress them so much that they decide not to go to assemblies anymore because they just can't cope. Just see what our beautiful children already have to deal with and just see what your asking them to do.

Thanking you in advance

Laura Moore

(TA at St Nicholas)