

**STATUTORY NOTICE OF A PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL**

**NOTICE is hereby given**, in accordance with section 29 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, that the County of Herefordshire District Council as Local Education Authority intend to discontinue St Mary's of Hope CE Primary School, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 OPJ, during the current school year. **[Explanatory Note 1 below]**.

It is proposed to provide for pupils, attending or living within the catchment area of St Mary's of Hope CE Primary School, at Bodenham, St. Michael's CE Primary School, Bodenham, Hereford HR1 3JU. Bodenham, St. Michael's has sufficient room to accommodate all pupils currently at St. Mary's of Hope CE Primary School or living within the area of Hope under Dinmore. The Council, therefore, has no proposals to increase the number of places at Bodenham St. Michael's. Parents may alternatively seek admission to any other school, that may have places available. **[Explanatory Note 2 below]**.

The proposed transport arrangements are for children living within the catchment area of St. Mary's of Hope CE Primary School to be offered appropriate free transport assistance for their journey to and from Bodenham, St Michael's CE Primary School each day, provided they live more than 2 miles (children under 8) or 3 miles (children 8 and over) from Bodenham, St. Michael's CE Primary School or have other relevant circumstances covered by the Authority's home to school transport policy. **[Explanatory Note 3 below]**.

Within two months after the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to the proposals by sending their objection in writing to the Director of Education, The Herefordshire Council, PO Box 185, Hereford, HR4 9ZR. Within a month after the end of the objection period, the Herefordshire Council will send to the School Organisation Committee for the area copies of all objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with the Authority's observations on them.

**Explanatory Notes.****Note 1**

St Mary's of Hope CE Primary School is a very small school with currently only 12 children on roll. The future of the school has been under consideration for a number of years. Recently, the Governing Body have concluded that, despite the school's very good work over several years, it would now be in the interests of the children for the school to close permanently as soon as possible. The Council have supported the governors' conclusion and have now authorised the issue of a public notice to discontinue the school within the current school year.

**Note 2**

If the proposal to discontinue the school is approved, particular attention will be given to the needs of the pupils who will transfer to other schools, and to the resourcing of the receiving schools for the additional pupils involved. The extra transport costs and the additional costs for the receiving school(s) will be the first call on the annual revenue resources released. All remaining resources released (estimated at £60,000 annually) will be added to the budgets of all other primary schools in the County.

**Note 3**

It is anticipated that transport will be in the form of a contracted vehicle or a public bus service, operating at suitable times on every day the school is in session. The provided transport will make stops before and after school to pick up/set down children at reasonable locations along its route. The stops will include Cherrybrook housing estate in Hope under Dinmore Village.

**Mark Chamberlain**

**School Services Manager on behalf of Herefordshire Local Education Authority**

**Date: 11th November, 2004**