

Appendix D – Survey Direct Responses

Responder	Do you support the closure of Crossroads Primary School?	Please tell us why you made this choice
	Yes/No	
1	No	Taking the heart out of the community of Crossroads. Also because moray Council have been negligent in support & promotion of this school PARENTAL CHOICE has been removed.
2	Yes	Due to the school not being used right now, if reopened a lot of money would need to be spent.
3	Yes	The citizens of Moray also need to take some hard decisions when it comes to supporting the council find and make necessary budget cuts to save Moray and reduces the deficit that the council needs to make. Have attended 2 meetings already and I would also support the difficult decision if the council to mothballed and then possible closure of Botriphnie and St Thomas Primary Schools due to overhead and grading of building
4	Yes	Although in an ideal world small rural schools are beneficial to children and community. Financially in todays climate is not a viable option when you look at cost per pupil (Paper Copy)
6	Yes	The amount of pupils that would attend is far too small to make it financially viable, the cost to keep the school open is massive. As a formal pupil moving from such a small school to Keith grammar was a massive difficult step.
8	Yes	Running costs and cut backs need to be made.
9	Yes	I was a pupil, a member of staff, a parent and I am a member of the community, it was heart breaking to see this school close but realise realistically that the school won't re-open as it all comes down to MONEY! I would like to see the property sold on or something rather than see it getting into an eyesore like it is
11	Yes	We need to support our rural schools where learning is enhanced in many aspects. Keith primary has little capacity within the building where Rothiemay has room for pupils to attend

12	No	I feel that the council are encouraging small schools to close and direct everyone into towns. This is not good for small communities and if they do close a small school they should redirect the children to a similar neighbouring in school, where the children will thrive in smaller numbers.
15	No	It's truly heartbreaking to see such a wonderful school like Crossroads Primary being closed, especially when it holds so many cherished memories for local families. For generations, this school has been at the heart of our community, and its closure feels like the end of an era for everyone who has been a part of it. My daughter attended Crossroads from August 2021 until December 2022, and the transformation in her during that time was remarkable. She had previously attended a much larger school, where she felt like just another number. But when she moved to Crossroads, she became a completely different child. She loved going to school, developed a genuine passion for learning, and thrived in that close-knit environment. It was devastating for her to leave when Crossroads was mothballed, and she was heartbroken to lose a place where she felt so valued and supported. I don't support the closure of Crossroads, although I understand why it might seem like the council's preferred option. However, I am deeply concerned about the lack of support given to smaller schools and the impact this has on children and families. Schools like Crossroads offer something unique—an environment where children aren't just numbers, but individuals who are known, cared for, and inspired. When smaller schools are closed, we lose far more than just a building; we lose a vital part of our community, a place that fosters belonging, continuity, and growth. I believe that the council needs to recognize the profound impact that schools like Crossroads have on children's lives and on the fabric of our communities. Rather than viewing them as just another line in a budget, these schools should be celebrated, supported, and preserved for future generations. They have been, and continue to be, essential in shaping the lives of countless children, and their closure is a loss that will be felt deeply by all who have been touched by their warmth and dedication.
17	Yes	School running costs too high; school too small for good social skills development of children
20	No	If the households supported this school there would be no need for closure as enough children in the catchment area
21	Yes	Unsustainable Whilst there are many positives related to small schools, I still believe they have a limited future

22	Yes	A small school has no benefit what so ever for the children's social aspect, all my children go to Keith primary school for this reason
23	Yes	Childcare for after/before school and bus. Plus I don't want my children going to another small school as such a big transition to secondary. Also Rothiemay has been so inconsistent with several changes of staff.
24	Yes	Yes, if it means keeping nearby rural schools numbers up and maintaining current class sizes.
26	No	I'm a teacher at KPS and a mother of 3 primary age children. Our classes at KPS are already really big. At the moment we're working on embedding numeracy assessments, introducing Wraparound Spelling, and leading the way in Moray schools with CYPIC Writing movement amongst so many other priorities. We're doing this with ASN inclusion, reduced ASN for the most needy, reduced or no PSA support. We're already trying our hardest to improve and raise attainment. Inspections in most schools all the time and trying to get it right for our children. There's only so much we can do that actually benefits these learners and their families. Further increase in class sizes with no additional support and increased pressure to meet our professional expectations is just not 'Getting it right for every child.'
27	Yes	It is not financially viable to keep a school open when numbers are so low. Pupils will gain both socially and academically by attending a school with higher pupil numbers.
30	No	To support Rothiemay
31	No	Children shouldn't have to travel more than 20 mins to school which some now may have to. There may be demand in future for Crossroads, we are not getting it right for the next generation of Grange children.
33	Yes	Not enough pupils
36	Yes	Keeping a school open for such a tiny population is a waste of money. It's far cheaper to move those pupils to another school in nearby towns.
37	No	I do not support closure of small country schools. Having attended one myself (with only ever between 5-12 pupils) I cannot emphasise the importance of them not just to the pupils but to the wider community. The teachers too are always amazing. I think it's a real shame the council are closing crossroads school they should be ashamed

39	Yes	The cost of running a rural school for so few children is prohibitive. Travel costs will be significantly less than cost of whole school staffing etc.
40	Yes	Rothiemay primary school has just been told it is having to move from a 3 class school to 2 classes as we were 1 pupil short on the day of the census. We therefore need more pupils to move into Rothiemay primary to move it back up to a 3 teacher school.
41	No	If every child in the catchment area went to their zoned school, Crossroads wouldn't have to be closed. It's unfair that our primary school children are picked up at 8am and don't get home till 3.45pm so it's a long day for them.
42	Yes	Crossroads is very small, and the buildings are no longer fit for a modern education. The size must make the cost to run per pupil higher than larger schools and there are limited opportunities for groupwork etc. The roll at Rothiemay Primary is falling and has recently caused a move to from 3 to 2 classes - which is not desirable. Any additional pupils that would help to reverse this trend would be a help.
43	Yes	Theres kids already at rothiemay from cross roads
45	No	The arrangements made since the school mothballed have been nothing short of a joke, kids are leaving as early as 8am to go to school and not returning until 4pm, there has been no consideration or support for the children affected by the mothballing not to mention the issues with travel, communication and education.
46	Yes	The amount of pupils that would attend, the age and current state of the building, lack of parking and closeness to the road. Pupils would benefit from attending either Keith or Rothiemay where there are better facilities, access to playgroup or nursery and larger peer groups and educational opportunities.
47	No	If we keep closing schools and reducing classes we will soon end up like primary education in England. from experience not only does this kill the community, it reduces the incentive for new families to move into the area, requires primary age children to take longer and longer bus rides so lengthening their school day and puts increased pressure on the smaller schools around to accommodate these children. its a cost saving exercise to the detriment of children, as usual
50	No	It was a fantastic school and academically the children are now suffering but then that never came into the equation at all

Responder	Do you support the closure of Crossroads Primary School?	Do you think any of these options should be discounted?				Tell us why you made this choice
	Yes/No	Option 1	Option 2	Neither	Both	
1	No				x	Common knowledge that pupils from small country schools are better behaved, and able to interact with young and old alike. Which many young people are now unable to do. This has been confirmed by staff from large schools.
2	Yes			x		Parental choice where their child goes to school
6	Yes		x			Keith primary is better equipped to take the pupils. Rothiemay is a small school which also likely needs a lot of money spent on it to keep it viable
8	Yes		x			Better road conditions in winter.
12	No	x				I have previous experience of a family members school being mothballed and the change has been so harming to the child and he has lost out on 2 months of education for the most part as he cannot cope. There are many other children who will not cope well with such a huge change moving to a large school. The children in country schools have smaller class numbers and should receive a much more one to one education as the ratio of teacher to children is smaller. Please support keeping the smaller schools open. Keep country kids in the country.

15	No				x	I strongly believe that the Crossroads catchment area should be designated exclusively as Rothiemay Primary School's catchment area and should not be split with Keith Primary, nor should it be absorbed entirely by Keith Primary. Rothiemay Primary, as a smaller rural school, offers a unique, high-quality educational experience that benefits from smaller class sizes and a close-knit community environment—qualities that are difficult to replicate in larger schools. Allowing Rothiemay to encompass the entire Crossroads catchment would not only help maintain its student numbers but also ensure that families in this area have access to the exceptional educational opportunities that smaller schools provide. By splitting or transferring the catchment area to Keith Primary, there's a risk of further diminishing the numbers at Rothiemay, which could jeopardize its future. It's crucial that the council and the wider community recognize the value of supporting and sustaining our smaller schools, which play such an important role in rural communities. Instead of directing students away, efforts should be focused on promoting Rothiemay Primary and ensuring it remains a vibrant and thriving choice for families within the Crossroads catchment area.
18	Yes		x			Rothiemay is also costing a lot to run and might be closed soon as well. The children are taught in two classes only- not ideal.
23	Yes	x				My children currently attend Keith primary school and I wish to receive school transport if this is the case of them being entitled to
24	Yes		x			I do not want my child to go to Rothiemay. If others have had a choice in the past I expect the same. Parents need access to childcare!!!!

25	Yes	x				I would prefer my daughter to be in a different class to her brother at Rothiemay and for her to not be rushed into being in the upper stage class before she feels ready.
27	No	x				This is hard because I don't know the situation in Rothiemay nor the families affected and their needs.
28	Yes			x		It gives parents choices
31	No	x				To give people the option to go to a good school
34	Yes	x				Rothiemay primary needs more pupils to keep up their numbers
35	No		x			moray council has just reduced rothiemay from 3 classrooms to 2 due to one pupil. not one discussion with parents before doing this
37	Yes			x		I fully support the closure of Crossroads primary school.
42	No				x	I strongly believe if every child in the area went to their catchment school Crossroads wouldn't have had to close.
43	Yes			x		I think the location of dwellings and pre-school children and transport options within the current Crossroads catchment should determine what if any split should be made.
44	Yes		x			Theres already a decent number of kids at rothiemay, and more kids would keep it open.
47	Yes	x				I believe there should be parental choice in choosing whether you enrol your child in a small or larger school. Some children benefit and thrive in smaller schools where there is often a more nurturing environment.

50	No				x	I'm not in agreement with the school closing at all, for one Kieth primary isn't big enough despite being a new building !! And well rothiemay is being made into a 2 classroom school which means they won't have the ability to take much more pupils either so I honestly don't know what the council is actually playing at
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Responder	Do you support the closure of Crossroads Primary School?	If you would like to make any other comments regarding the proposed closure of Crossroads Primary School do so in the box below.
	Yes/No	
1	No	Mental Health - Not every child can integrate into large school. Many blossom in smaller schools - enabling them to cope with Grammar School - long un-chaperoned journey to & from school cant help. Crossroads Parent Council have provided equipment, workshops for both staff & pupils, sports coach, music teacher, French lessons, cycling proficiency, net ball & football clubs. Theatre & Educational visit & visitors - not to mention school & community social events. Living in the country is a total different world to the town and should be appreciated as such.
3	Yes	No, difficult decisions need to be made
7	Yes	Keith primary school is a preferred learning establishment for many parents and currently our children are attending with us working parents travelling to and from the school each day. Personal preference to Keith primary as more opportunity's for children's learning and social needs.
12	No	The children from crossroads school are all already attending Rothiemay primary and receive free transport. By changing the catchment to Keith or part Keith this would be another huge change to the children's lives after settling in so well at Rothiemay.

14	No	Rothiemay Primary should not be reducing classes from 3 to 2 and it is thoughtless and unfair on the children
15	No	<p>I do not support the closure of Crossroads Primary School, although I understand why this might be seen as the more favourable option from the council's perspective. However, I feel very strongly that the Crossroads catchment area should be designated exclusively to Rothiemay Primary School and should not be split with Keith Primary. More support is needed from local parents and the council to preserve and promote our smaller rural schools, which offer such a high standard of education. My daughter attended Crossroads Primary and was heartbroken to leave such a wonderful educational environment. She then moved to the equally lovely Rothiemay Primary. Although it took some time for her to adjust, she is now happy and thriving in a larger, yet still small, school setting. However, due to a drop in just one pupil, there have already been some changes at Rothiemay, and my daughter is now worried that the same thing could happen to her new school. Our children should not be burdened with fears about their school closing—they deserve to feel safe, secure, and supported in their learning environment. While I understand why some parents might choose Keith Primary due to the convenience of breakfast and afterschool clubs—services that are invaluable for working parents—I question why these amenities aren't also available in our smaller schools. If such options were offered, I know I, along with many others, would definitely make use of them. Unfortunately, smaller schools are not receiving the attention and promotion they deserve from the council, and as a result, their numbers are declining. If this continues, we risk losing yet another wonderful local school due to budget cuts. I find the current situation quite uncaring toward our future generation. It's crucial that we prioritize supporting and investing in these smaller schools to ensure they remain a viable and thriving option for families in our communities.</p>

28	Yes	My husband and 2 of our children attended Crossroads Primary school but sentimentality and handiness are not valid reasons for keeping it open. Whilst I believe that my children received a good education at Crossroads Primary School, it left them socially disadvantaged and slightly alienated when transitioning from Primary to Secondary education which is why we chose Keith Primary School when our third child came along and have never regretted that decision.
35	No	give buildings back to community to use.
37	Yes	Please close this school ASAP.
42	No	Why is Moray Council paying Aberdeenshire schools for education and closing a school that could be opened if everyone in the attachment area attended?
43	Yes	This has taken a long time coming, although educational benefits are clear to the closure, given the state of Moray's finances, any similar cost-saving exercises should be accelerated.
50	No	I think this whole process has been a shambles from day one. Myself as a parent heard about this from my nail technician !! Yes you heard right my nail technician as a member of your staff had informed them months before that the decision had and was made to close this school. Now this alone is disgraceful and I have absolutely no confidence in our so called council anymore after this.