

Mr M Burr  
 Chief Executive  
 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
 Council Offices  
 Sandwick Road  
 Stornoway  
 Isle of Lewis  
 HS2 1BW

318 signed letters received

Date:

4/11/14

Dear Mr Burr,

**The Review of Education Provision at Lionel School Secondary S1/S2 Department.**

As a community member I object to the proposed closure of Lionel Secondary S1 & S2 provision on the following grounds.

**i. Any educational benefits from the secondary school closure.**

There does not appear to be any evidence to support the view that a pupil's education will benefit from attending the Nicolson Institute from age 11. The school work being undertaken at Lionel Secondary is the same as the school work being undertaken in the Nicolson Institute and the teaching staff are the same in both schools.

The only obvious difference between the schools from an educational viewpoint is the fact that Lionel Secondary has smaller class sizes. Surely this should be viewed as a benefit, as teachers would be able to allocate more time to each individual pupil?

**ii. Impact on the local community of closing the secondary school.**

Ness is a thriving rural area and currently offers many benefits to people considering moving to the island to live or indeed people looking to move within the island. The withdrawal of the Secondary School will immediately put Ness at a disadvantage to people with children looking to move to the area, as it will mean their children travelling longer distances from an early age.

Lionel School is viewed as an integral part of the community and having the Secondary Department closed will be viewed as a huge blow. This could encourage a downward demographic trend, which would be to everyone's detriment and we as a community would be devastated to see this happen.

**iii. Impact on the pupil's health and well-being.**

I do not feel there has been enough consideration of the short/long term effects on pupils health and well-being should the Lionel School S1/S2 provision be discontinued.

Children having to spend up to 10 hours on a bus travelling almost 300 miles each week just to obtain the same level of education from the same teachers puts them at an instant disadvantage to their peers.

**iv. Alternative to school closure.**

There has not been one viable credible alternative put forward to closing Lionel Secondary Department. This was the case two years ago and remains the case at present. I feel this is unacceptable when the Council is looking at making such an important decision affecting the whole community in the district of Ness.

In conclusion I would urge the council to reconsider its plan to close Lionel Secondary Department and leave it to function as a successful school for the benefit of the community, parents, teachers and most of all the children attending the school.

Yours faithfully



0 - 1577 2014

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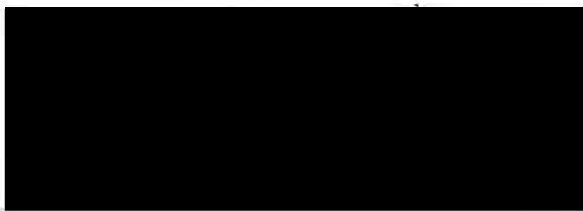
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6 - 11 - 2014





This petition has collected  
226 signatures  
using the online tools at [iPetitions.com](http://iPetitions.com)

Printed on 2014-11-06

226 on-line signatures  
572 written signatures

6 - NOV 2014

# Save Lionel Secondary School From Closure

## About this petition

Western Isles Council propose to close Lionel Secondary School in 2015, please sign our petition and help us save our school.

6 - Dec 2014