

22nd June 2008

Dear Ms Morris

I understand that the Assembly is at present conducting an inquiry into rural education, and as I am a very strong supporter of our primary school here, I wish to write in its favour.

I attend the school one afternoon a week to listen to the children read, and am very impressed by the qualities of a small rural school like this. The atmosphere is always good, the discipline is good, and the children work hard with no significant remonstrance from the teachers. The children are friendly, and the older and the younger children are always mutually cooperative. There is in particular, no evidence of bullying.

I understand that nearly all the overall measures of attainment when the children complete their primary education are frequently superior to those of children who have spent their primary education in large urban schools. I appreciate that small schools are relatively expensive, but if there is less need for remedial measures at a later date, this must help to balance out costs. It is, of course, impossible to quantify this, as with so many other features of the intangible benefits of small communities.

In addition, Gladestry, along with some other small villages has recently received notice of closure of the village Post Office. This will certainly have an adverse affect on the community, and the idea of closure of the school as well is anathema. The prospects for the health and prosperity of many small communities in the country are not good if more major parts of the social fabric of the rural scene are destroyed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Z.', written in a cursive style.