

Representations Received

Name / Organisation	Date Received and Number	Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
Elector – (Name Supplied)	7 th October 2018 (1)	HUB	Hurworth Primary School	<p>“I live at <i>(address supplied)</i> and our polling station is Hurworth Primary School. I strongly object to the school being closed for polling causing the children to miss a day of their education.</p> <p>Quite rightly parents are told that every day of a child's education is important and they can be fined for taking their children out of school without permission. It is therefore completely inconsistent for DBC to cause about 200 children to lose a day at school. Surely an alternative polling station can be found that doesn't impact the children's education.”</p>
Elector – (Name Supplied)	7 th October 2018 (2)	NRA	St. Thomas Aquinas Church Hall	<p>“I complained some time ago about it being difficult to vote if you live on Ridgeway. I would like to point out once again that Ridgeway is alongside Longfield School, so why do we have to go to St Thomas Aquinas Church to vote. There is no public transport to get there, for people without personal transport it is a long walk, all this when there is a school bordering this estate.”</p>
St. Teresa's R. C. Primary School	12 th October 2018 (3)	EAA	St. Teresa's R. C. Primary School	<p>“I am writing to you to express our concerns about being used as a polling station next year and in forthcoming years. Having to close the whole of St. Teresa's school or having to close part of St. Teresa's School impacts greatly on the lives of our children, staff and parents.</p> <p>Quite often the closure around local elections, police commissioner elections and general elections occurs just before one of our most crucial periods in the school calendar – namely year six SAT time. The consequences for our children of missing out on vital learning time can damage their performance in their external year six SATs and then thus damage the reputation of our school. A reputation that we have spent many years of hard work establishing.</p>

Name / Organisation	Date Received and Number	Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
				<p>The consequences of closing impacts greatly upon our parents. Children have to be looked after -subsequently involving child care costs for working parents or loss of income if they have to take days off from work to care for them.</p> <p>In closing only part of our school – this causes concern about the safety of our children in the remaining school buildings and outside areas. Having lots of unfamiliar adults on our premises is not ideal.</p> <p>I am sure an alternative venue can be found that is far more suitable - rather than to close St. Teresa’s and impact on the learning of 360 children and the lives of their parents. In my own Co Durham ward, the county there, for example, hire porta cabins and place them in public house car parks or on verges. My local school has not been impacted upon for many years now. Community centers are also used. It does seem to be a shame that when other local authorities are offering creative solutions that Darlington cannot find polling stations that impact less on the community within the building.”</p>