

Responses to Online Petition – “Support Grandtully Primary School to thrive not close.”

This document lists all responses to an online petition by Grandtully Parent Council, carried out between 22 October 2018 and 10 November 2018. Responses were sent to Perth & Kinross Council (20 November 2018) as part of the School Estate Review for Grandtully Primary School. The petition received 1,053 signatures (20 Nov 2018).

For the purposes of anonymity all personal details have been redacted from the comments below (including names, dates & locations).

1. This wee school has been what my children needed when they couldn't cope in a big school. They cope now and enjoy school thanks to Grandtully primary.
2. As a grandparent of one of the children who attend Grandtully School it would be the death knell to the community. So please save this brilliant wee school and the teachers who strive to make a difference to the best years in a child's life. So I am begging the powers that be take a look at what will happen to the community if this school closes.
3. I have heard of all the fab teaching and learning that happens at this great school.
4. Great wee school that does do much.
5. Fab school which has grown significantly in recent times because it is perfectly placed to serve the local community. The teachers and parents are passionate about keeping the school open! Don't make a huge mistake!
6. The Primary School is central to the villages of Grandtully and Strathtay. It's a great wee school with 29 pupils who are well catered for in both educational and social activities.
7. Diversity of educational provision is critical and this school is vital for our community.
8. Small local schools provide valuable choice and a community centre.
9. This award-winning school holds the community together.
10. The school is central to the community in Grandtully and Strathtay. School role is increasing not decreasing.
11. It would be a sad loss for such a wonderful school and community...and also for the kids.
12. Too many small rural communities losing their schools.
13. Fantastic school, my friend's son is thriving here.
14. My child loved this school. It is excellent.
15. Grandtully School does not meet any of the stated criteria for review in the first place, this process is legally inappropriate and should be actively contested as such. The Council has made a grievous mistake in considering the School in this way in the first place. Beyond that this is a community asset without which our area becomes a far-less attractive place for families to live, reducing important amenities and even property values. The community pays taxes, actively participates in the school, and deserves reciprocity from government to keep our area viable.
16. Rural communities should be places where young families are encouraged to settle. The community will die otherwise. Keep the school open!!
17. It's an essential wee school! Too many little schools are being closed and making life even more difficult for our rural communities!
18. I believe we are all worth investing in. We currently have a variety of educational options in our community which enriches and supports more kids than one large school. What a shame it would be to push more people into one type school. Please support diversity.
19. Breadalbane doesn't offer the teacher to student bond that small schools supply.
20. Schools are important in helping children and rural communities thrive.
21. Rural schools are required to keep children and families in the countryside.
22. Too many small communities losing their schools.
23. Lovely school, would be a loss to the community if they permanently closed its doors.
24. Rural communities must offer a variety of educational settings which suit our diverse population! For us to continue getting things right for the children in Scotland we must

- support small schools like this which are an asset to our communities and bring valuable learning experiences to the lives of our children.
25. I was educated at a similar school and think smaller schools do it better.
 26. Sometimes the wee schools are just what a family needs. It's so important that children can go to a local school if at all possible, and cut down the travel time. It also gives community a central point.
 27. The Grandtully Primary School is an essential academic facility for local children. It is one of the reasons the area was so attractive to us as parents of a young child. It is vital to us that our son is educated locally as we believe that becoming a part of a community is an essential component to a country child's education (and any child's education).
 28. My boy is due to go to this school !
 29. Grandtully School is an multi-award winning school offering outstanding education for its students. It shouldn't even be in this review in the first place since it doesn't meet the Council's criteria for review. This is an unnecessary, costly disruption and upset to children, families and community.
 30. I'm signing this petition because there seems to be enough money to give to foreign aid, and the foreigners entering this country. But not enough to keep our schools open for our children, I as many other proud to be British people have had enough!!!!
 31. In my experience small rural schools give an excellent education.
 32. [NAME] XXXXX.
 33. This school is vital to the community. I went here some years ago and it serves the rural area perfectly.
 34. We need rural schools, closure means longer travel for young kids, in bad weather in the winter it's not ideal.
 35. Should not be closed.
 36. Great school.
 37. To support this fantastically run and well-loved school.
 38. Heard only good things about this school. Keep it open!
 39. This is a fantastic school much needed in the area, shouldn't be closed should be shown as a prime example if best teaching practice. Super School.
 40. It is an asset in our wee community.
 41. I am signing because these schools are the backbone of the community. Places where the young ones can be taught in safety and in familiar surrounds.
 42. We need these rural schools otherwise everyone will move to the towns and cities.
 43. A wonderful school that's integral to the local community.
 44. It's the moral thing to do! Save the school and their right to Education!
 45. I am signing because education is the key element to our future society and if a closure happens now then we can never progress further to what is best for the next era.
 46. I feel it's very important to keep small schools like this open so that parents and young children don't have to travel miles to get to another school.
 47. Rural schools are important.
 48. It's vital that this popular and well used school stays, it's the heart of the local community
 49. Makes sense.
 50. I am signing this petition as Grandtully Primary School is a vital asset to the community and for the future of our young folk.
 51. My XXXXX and XXXXX are XXXXX on the autistic spectrum. My XXXXX was badly bullied at Aberfeldy Primary School but thrived when moved to Grandtully School. It has been a very good school for my XXXXX who XXXXX attends because of the small numbers which means it helps children with special needs more beneficially to the child.
 52. I think this school is very very important for the future of the children. Please do not close this school.
 53. It would be a shame to close.
 54. We should cherish small schools like these in remote catchment areas.
 55. I live and work in the area and have known pupils who have benefitted from this vibrant wee school over a thirty years period.

56. This is a wonderful little school and deserves to stay open.
57. My nephew attends this fabulous school.
58. This is the local school to where I live and it would be great to see it open for future generations.
59. XXXXX I frequently see children whose physical complaint such as XXXXX, XXXXX or XXXXX when they move to a big school. They can't express their anxieties so their bodies do it for them. I have heard nothing but love for Grandtully and treated a few children who have struggled at Aberfeldy.
60. Great school, keep it open.
61. We need small rural schools.
62. Rural schools matter.
63. Too many of these rural school are being closed they are a hugely important part of the community network – stop shutting them down!!
64. It is important that children are educated in their community and do not have to travel great distances.
65. There should always be a choice for pupils as not every child performs well in the larger schools.
66. This is an amazing small school that embraces the wider community and do their bit with litter picking, area for all to use etc. This school is part of the community and the community is part of the school and not just the Grandtully area.
67. XXXXX hope to settle here long term. I would love to see the school remain open as myself and my partner are planning to start a family. My partner attended Grandtully Primary as a child and I attended a school of similar size XXXXX (XXXXX) – we both feel we benefitted from the community feeling of a smaller school environment and would hope for the same for our future children.
68. [Duplicate of Comment 67 – above]
69. For a community to grow and attract new residents, a local school is key.
70. Wonderful memories of this excellent school when we lived & worked in Pitlochry.
71. Education should be accessible and relevant within the communities the children actually live in. Life is becoming disperate enough without making them leave their communities earlier than necessary.
72. Don't want to see any rural schools closing.
73. As a former pupil of Grandtully primary school, I fully support keeping this world open that provided me with such an amazing learning experience!
74. I live in Aberfeldy and know the importance of rural schools as I taught in them for XXXXX years. Grandtully is a growing school and should remain open to its catchment.
75. It's a wonderful school and would be a travesty to be closed!!! All parents should have a choice and this is a wonderful wee school and should remain open.
76. Brilliant school full of happy children - closing this growing school is the wrong thing to do!
77. There are too many big schools and local small schools accommodate the local children, keep it that way.
78. Small schools are a great environment for kids.
79. My XXXXX children went through Grandtully Primary school and got an excellent start to their education. They got a sense of belonging in their community.
80. My XXXXX attend this excellent little school and it is essential that it should continue and not be part of the review. It is irreplaceable.
81. I am part of the Grandtully Primary Family. My XXXXX loves this school and has blossomed and grown in confidence. XXXXX gets lots of outside learning time and interacting with all ages. We are out of catchment but chose Grandtully because it was the best school for our XXXXX. It's creative and caring and XXXXX loves going there to learn.
82. It's needed in the community.
83. It's great to have variety of educational facilities for a community Aberfeldy area. It's good for teachers, kids, community...everyone.

84. Grandtully Primary School is at the heart of the village community. It offers children a happy nurturing and stimulating learning environment.