



## Open letter from Albury Parish Council regarding the possible closure of Albury C of E Primary School

The HCC Education Board and the Diocese of St Albans have confirmed that **Albury Primary School is being considered for closure** at the end of this academic year July 2026.

Albury Parish Council firmly objects to the closure of the school and alongside the parents, will robustly challenge this assault on our village and way of life.

**Please, please, support our local school and help to protect our village from potential decay and decline.**

**Have your say! The deadline for responses is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**



**YOU** have the opportunity to object to the closure via a consultation. Use this link to access the form <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/75HU0M/> or scan QR code on the left.

If you prefer, you can request a paper copy from the parish clerk by calling **07811 110159** or emailing [alburyparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alburyparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

**YOU** and **EVERY** person in your household can submit a response to the consultation. Numbers matter. Whether your family has or has not availed yourselves of this village asset, it matters now and for the future of Albury Primary School that you all respond.

***Closing Albury Primary School removes choice. Closing Albury school damages Albury as a community.***

Albury Primary School has been educating children since 1879. 146 years of local educational provision. 146 years of children of Albury and children from neighbouring villages nurtured. Generations of local families sitting at a school desk once occupied by their parents, grandparents and great grandparents. Kicking a ball, running and playing on turf their families also enjoyed.

### **Available to all since 1879 but potentially no longer from 2026**

Albury Primary School (alongside similar small rural schools) we acknowledge is financially challenged within the current funding formula. This places every small rural school at the mercy of closure by cost being a higher priority than value.

Albury families have consistently at a greater proportion compared to nearby parishes and their families, chosen to use the school in their parish as a first choice. Albury Primary School has been the first choice for many families who live outside of Albury too. The ultimate endorsement if you will, of Albury Primary School's value to them, is that they accessed education in Albury when their community could not provide it.

Now it appears, as a community we are to be denied the access for our families to education that is a walk or bike ride away.

A village school is far more than a place of learning. It is a cornerstone of village life, a symbol of continuity, a hub for family, traditions and community cohesion. Once a school closes, the heart of a village often follows suit. A slow erosion of rural vitality begins, an erosion that is virtually impossible to reverse. Every household in Albury will feel the impact of losing our school.

Then what replaces the school site? Houses? A business? Or will it just be a boarded-up asset left to go to rack and ruin? What and where is next?