

Clarence High School in Formby to close.

"I cannot offer more words of praise for the staff at Clarence High School and the amazing work that they do with the disadvantaged and very complex children that attend our school which is currently rated as 'Good' with Ofsted." Normandie Wragg, CEO

The closure of our school is not a reflection on quality of our staff, the quality of the education or the outcomes our students achieve. Our staff at Clarence are exceptional and the children that have attended Clarence have accomplished excellent results. This closure is about current and future financial viability and the unsustainable deficit that the school has experienced.

We have diligently, and in good faith, tried multiple scenarios to have our school thrive. We implemented a full consultation about the future of the school and worked with staff to find a solution. Unfortunately, none of the proposals that were presented and explored were sustainable. All proposals were reviewed with Nugent's Trustees and we liaised with local authorities about the children that attend our school.

We have fully consulted with staff with full union involvement. We appreciate that this has been a very difficult and upsetting time for all involved. Nugent has redeployed members of staff where possible. All of the children that have been attending Clarence have had alternative provision identified and some of the students will be transferring to Nugent House School which has just been approved by the Department of Education to take female and male students.

Local Authorities are responsible for placing and the transfer of children and for providing necessary support in the process. The Principal at Clarence and his team of dedicated professionals and teachers, supported by other Nugent staff, supported the pupils and their parents/carers as well as the local authorities in any manner that was necessary.

There is no offer on the land that the school stands on or the sports field that is behind the school. Nugent has no plans to sell this land and this didn't factor in our decision. Nugent's intention is to retain the land for continued use by the community and for future development of activities that would be in line with our charitable trust deed.

Nugent would like to thank the staff, students, families, stakeholders and supporters of Clarence for their support of our school across the decades.

www.wearenugent.org

For further details on Nugent Care please contact:

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Editors notes:

Nugent has provided an educational facility on the Clarence High school site for many years and the school is rated GOOD by Ofsted,

Clarence High School is a very large and aging school building that once provided education to 100s of children however now provides education to under 25 students with 38 staff.

Nugent offers a diverse range of support to adults and children in Merseyside through our schools, care homes, community and social work services and social enterprise. We work at the heart of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. We strive also to generate interest, awareness and an understanding of the issues they face and the impact of this on our wider communities.

We support on average 6,000 people each year. We are a major employer in the area, employing 650 staff and supporting 350 volunteers and we advocate on issues of justice and fairness.

We aim to:

- Care, educate, protect and inspire those in need.
- Be an employer of choice.
- Be an advocate: A voice for the voiceless.

The origins of Nugent date back to the 1800's and the pioneering work of Father James Nugent (1822-1905) in relation to child welfare, relief from poverty and social reform. His work continues through Nugent and we are the social welfare arm of the Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool.

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