

ail

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School SOS goes out to Mrs Thatcher

Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher, has been called in to the fight for the future of the Forest of Needwood School at Rolleston.

School governors' chairman Mr Ken Green broke the news at the village's annual parish meeting last night.

He announced that he had written to Mrs Thatcher and sent her a copy of the governors' appeal document against Staffordshire County Council's closure proposals.

He had done this, he said, because of what he considered glaring inconsistencies following Sir Keith Joseph's decision.

DEVASTATED

In the letter to the Prime Minister Mr Green talks of his total devastation at the decision.

"My devastation has only been subsequently matched by my determination not to capitulate, even at this

stage, until I can take the matter no further. This letter and appeal to you personally is, I think, that point."

Mr Green continues by reminding the Prime Minister that the Government had set goals and standards for education aimed at producing educationally and socially mature young people who will make a positive and constructive contribution to society and the future of the nation.

"You have called for advancement in education, with an emphasis on achievement of potential and high academic standards; the teaching and development of standards of civilised behaviour; the cultivation in the young of self-discipline and respect for self and others, and the promotion of acceptance of high social values and the teaching of social skills.

REACTION

"If these points are the recognised and accepted criteria which form the basis

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SOS

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of an educational and social development policy for youth, why then, at a stroke, did the Secretary of State, in the face of overwhelming opposition from the vast majority of parents decide, apparently on the basis of a purely political decision made by others, to close as surplus to requirements an educational establishment which excelled in these areas?"

Mr Green told Mrs Thatcher: "I appreciate that your first reaction must be to support your Minister and would understand this, but in making this final and desperate appeal to you to intervene, I am doing no more than our democratic system allows and provides for.

"I am also fully aware that, compared with the matters of State which demand your time, our overwhelming concern must pale into insignificance.

"Nevertheless, I still retain sufficient confidence in the integrity of our democratic system to believe our small voice will be heard and more important that it will be listened to."