

SOUTHDOWN SCHOOLS AMALGAMATION

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

The statutory notice proposing the amalgamation of Southdown Infant and Junior schools, Bath to be achieved via the closure of the Junior school and the expansion and change in upper age range of the Infant school in order to create an all through 420 place primary school has been approved.

The two schools will become a primary school on 13th April 2015.

Reasons for the decision:

The two schools were federated on 1 January 2014. Federation is a formal arrangement whereby schools share a single governing body but retain their own legal status, character, budget, performance tables and OFSTED inspections. As a result, they are already led and managed by a single Headteacher and Governing Body, in the same way as the primary school would be. The Headteacher and Governing Body have expressed a wish for the two schools to be fully amalgamated into an all through primary school.

The 11 consultation responses that were received from parents, parent governors, staff, unions and other interested parties between 12 May to 22 June 2014 were all in support of the proposal. No representation responses were received during the Representation Period running from 11 September to 9 October 2014.

There are benefits in becoming a primary school. These are:

It would provide children with a seamless journey through school from age 4 – 11, removing the need for Infant school children to apply for a Year 3 junior school place as now.

It would support and enhance the delivery of the new 2014 curriculum and would enable better continuity and progression of children's learning, particularly between Key Stage One and Key Stage Two.

It would promote high educational standards and ensure high quality, good teaching.

It would allow consistency of approach to learning policies, behaviour management, Special Education Needs (SEN) provision and better use of educational resources including teaching and non-teaching staff.

It would provide opportunities to increase the range of expertise and experience of teaching staff and provide opportunities for improvements in the deployment and development of teachers.