

Consultation on the Proposal to Amalgamate Southdown Community Infant and Junior Schools into an all through Primary School

Proposal

Bath and North East Somerset Council is proposing to amalgamate Southdown Infant and Junior schools to create a larger all through primary school. Before this change can be made the Council is required to carry out a statutory process of consultation with individuals and organisations that may be affected by this proposal.

It is proposed that the Junior school would close and the Infant school would change its age range and expand to provide places for junior pupils in Years 3 to 6 in addition to places for infant pupils in Reception to Year 2. The Infant school would then become an all through primary school with a single point of admission at Reception.

The existing Infant and Junior schools each currently have a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 45 and offer a total of 315 places for children in Reception to Year 6. The primary school would have a PAN of 60 for admissions into Reception in 2015 onwards and offer a total of 420 places for children in Reception to Year 6. The primary school would also make provision for Early Years age children as at present, therefore the age range of the school would be 3 to 11.

The primary school would continue to operate from the existing buildings and sites currently occupied by the Infant and Junior schools. The current Infant and Junior schools are Community schools and the primary school would be a Community school. All children currently on roll at the Infant and Junior schools would become pupils on roll at the primary school.

Background information

The Local Authority is under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area. These places should where possible be provided in popular and successful schools serving the area of need to increase parental choice and contribute to raising standards and attainment. Additional primary school places are projected to be required in this area of Bath for admissions in 2016 onwards. Southdown Community Infant school has an OFSTED rating of Outstanding and is a popular school, having 135 places and 130 pupils on roll.

As the two schools were federated on 1st January 2014 they are already led and managed by a single Headteacher and Governing Body, in the same way as the primary school would be. There would be several benefits in becoming a primary school:

- 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.



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- 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.

How you can comment on this proposal

This consultation will run for six weeks from 12th May 2014 to 22nd June 2014. If you would like to comment on this proposal, you can do so by sending an email or a letter to Bath and North East Somerset Council.

In order to ensure that every consultation response counts, please could you ensure that you give **your name, your postcode, state the school's name and your relationship to the school** e.g. parent/carer, member of staff, etc. All comments must be submitted in writing. In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 your personal details will not be used for any other purpose, will not be made public or shared with any other organisation.

Email address: schools_organisation@bathnes.gov.uk

Postal address: Schools Capital & Organisation Team, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Riverside, Temple Street, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 1LA.

The deadline for comments to be received by Bath and North East Somerset Council is **midnight on Sunday 22nd June 2014**. We regret that we will be unable to enter into any correspondence regarding comments submitted.

What happens next

After the end of the consultation period, at a public Cabinet meeting in July 2014 the Council Cabinet will consider any written comments that have been received during the consultation period and will then decide whether to proceed to publish a statutory notice for the proposed change as above.

If the Cabinet does decide to go ahead, the proposal will be published in a local newspaper, posted on the Infant and Junior school sites and at all the entrances to the schools and on the Council website at the beginning of September 2014. There will then be a further four week 'representation period', during which interested stakeholders will have a final opportunity to comment on the proposal.

After the end of the representation period, at a further public Cabinet meeting in November 2014 the Council Cabinet will consider any written comments or objections received during the representation period and decide whether to go ahead with the proposed change. If the decision is made to go ahead with the proposal, the proposed implementation date would be the beginning of Term 5 on the 13th April 2015.