



Children and Young People's Services

Diocese of Bristol
Board of Education



Come to a public meeting to hear about the

Proposed Amalgamation of

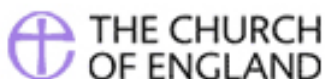
Highridge Infant and Bishopsworth CE VC Junior Schools

on

Monday 6 October at 5pm at Bishopsworth Junior School



Diocese of Bristol
Board of Education



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Bristol: a city where learning comes first



Commitment to Consultation

This consultation is undertaken jointly on behalf of Bristol City Council and the Diocese of Bristol. The City Council is collecting responses on behalf of the Diocese of Bristol. All responses related to the establishment of the proposed new school will be considered by the Diocese of Bristol.

Bristol City Council is committed to listening and responding to citizens' views. When the Council consults it will provide clear and balanced background information to help you reach a view. The Council will allow time for you to consider information and will make it clear how you can submit your views. After the consultation has closed the Council will publish feedback on the range of views expressed and on how these have been used to inform decisions that are made. In return, the Council asks that you keep your response short and to the point; that you make it clear whether you are responding individually or on behalf of an organisation or group; and that you respect other people's views, even when they are different from your own.

This document aims to:

- Explain why there is a proposal to amalgamate Highridge Infant and Bishopsworth CE VC Junior Schools to form a primary school;
- Tell parents, staff, governors and the local community what is proposed and how it would influence the education of children currently attending both schools.
- Provide an opportunity for parents, pupils, governors, staff, the community and others to comment on the proposal before a decision is taken.

The information contained in this document is available in other languages and formats by contacting the School Organisation Team on 0117 9222571.

Please send your views on the proposal using the response form at the end of this document. You can also respond by letter or e-mail. Please reply by 24 October 2008 to:

School Organisation Team (CF/CR/FI3)

P.O. Box 57

FREEPOST SWB 203

BRISTOL

BS99 7BR

By fax to: - 0117 9037710

By email to:- catherine.filmer@bristol.gov.uk

Consultation meetings

A meeting for parents and the public has been arranged to help you fully understand the proposal.

Monday 6 October at 5pm at Bishopsworth Junior School

The meeting is open to all parents and the public.

This consultation document and the response form are also available at www.bristol-cyps.org.uk.

PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF HIGHRIDGE INFANT SCHOOL AND BISHOPSWORTH CE VC JUNIOR SCHOOL

Background

The City Council has a policy of moving towards a pattern of all through primary schools across the city, rather than separate infant and junior schools. When opportunities arise, we consider the possibility of amalgamating the two schools to form a primary school. This will provide the opportunity for children to remain in one school from age 3 until 11 with the benefits of being able to attend the same school as brothers and sisters and allowing the school to plan for progression in learning from Foundation Stage to Key Stage 2.

Highridge is a community infant school and Bishopsworth is a Church of England (CE) voluntary controlled (VC) junior school. Currently the junior school does not have a permanent headteacher and therefore this is a good opportunity to consider the future of the schools. The governing bodies of both schools have discussed the situation and decided that they want to consult on amalgamation to create a new primary school. They have requested that the Council and Diocese of Bristol begin consultation on this proposal.

Proposal

Bristol City Council and the Diocese of Bristol are proposing that Highridge Infant School and Bishopsworth CE VC Junior School should be brought together in September 2009 to form a 315 place primary school plus a 30 place nursery to serve children aged 3-11. This proposal would require the City Council to consult on the closure of the current infant and junior schools in order for a new primary school to open. The Diocese of Bristol is the proposer of the new primary school, which would be a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school. The Diocese of Bristol is therefore consulting on the proposal to open the new primary school. The infant and junior schools would close on 31 August 2009 and the new primary school would open the following day.

The new primary school would provide 315 places, with an admission number of 45 for the reception year and would be planned to provide one and a half forms of entry in each year group, plus a 30 place nursery. The admission number of the infant school is currently 60 and the junior school is 57. All year groups currently have between 30 and 45 pupils. This proposal would change the admission number for the primary school to 45. The planned size of the school will allow some surplus places to remain at the school to allow for some increase in demand for places in the area in the medium term.

The new Voluntary Controlled primary school would have the principles and values appropriate for a Church of England School, as does the present junior school. It would receive the support of the Diocesan Department for Children & Young People. The new primary school would build on the already strong links between the infant and junior schools and would remain a local school for local children. Religious education would be taught following the National Curriculum, as in community schools.

Pupils

Children currently in Year 6 would not be affected by the proposal. Pupils in other year groups would transfer into the new primary school without the need to apply and the schools will be supported to manage the process.

Special Needs

Both schools support children with a variety of special educational needs. There is no specialist unit in either of the schools currently and there is no intention to include one in the new primary school.

Nursery

There is currently a nursery class at Highridge Infant School. It is proposed to include a nursery class at the primary school providing 30 full time equivalent places.

Finance

Most of the income of schools is generated by pupil numbers and the new school's budget will be based on those same pupil numbers. The new school would have one headteacher and management structure which will enable it to operate with the number of pupils projected in the medium term.

Buildings

The primary school will be based in both current school buildings. Work is underway to determine what building work needs to be carried out to make the buildings more suitable for a primary school and funding has been allocated for this work. However, the building work will not be completed by the time that the new school opens.

Staffing

If two or more schools are amalgamated, the existing schools are closed and a new school is opened. A temporary governing body is set up in advance of the opening date in order to prepare for the new school. This temporary governing body would include members of the governing bodies of each of the existing schools. It would be responsible for deciding the staffing structure and making appointments. Wherever possible the strengths of the current staff would be used to benefit pupils' learning.

Benefits of the Proposal

The Local Authority and the Diocese of Bristol believe that the benefits of this proposal are:

- Provision from age 3 to 11 at one school;
- Improved transition between key stages (KS);
- Opportunity to plan for progression in learning from the Foundation Stage to KS 1 to KS 2;
- Opportunity for children to attend the same school as older or younger brothers and sisters;
- Children having access to a wider range of staff expertise, with co-ordinators overseeing the teaching of individual subjects to the whole school, providing greater continuity in learning;
- A greater number of subject specialists able to provide support to colleagues, and therefore a broader curriculum for children;
- Increased opportunities for staff to work with a larger team, thus supporting professional development and providing further opportunities to take on new responsibilities;
- Reduced duplication and economies of scale in the management of budgets.
- The new school, as a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school, will ensure a range of provision in the local area and parental choice.

What happens next?

Your comments will be taken into account by the Diocese and the Council when deciding whether to take the proposal forward to the next stage. At the end of the consultation a report will be prepared summarising the comments. If the Diocese and Council decide to adopt the proposals, a notice will be published on the school gates and in the local paper proposing to close both schools and establish a Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school. There will then be a six week period (in November/December 2008) for people to make comments, with a final decision early in 2009.

Please complete the attached response form and return it to the schools or the School Organisation Team by 24 October 2008.