

Consultation on a proposal to
create a new primary school
through the amalgamation of
Cardinal Road Infant & Nursery
School and Victoria Junior School

Consultation runs from 11th January to
1st March 2019



**London Borough
of Hounslow**

The proposal

The proposal is to create a new primary school in September 2020 through the bringing together (known as amalgamation) of Cardinal Road Infant & Nursery School and Victoria Junior School. The new primary school would admit up to 90 pupils a year (the same as the current infant and junior schools) and would have a nursery class. **All the pupils who would be attending Cardinal Road Infant & Nursery School or Victoria Junior School in September 2020 would automatically become part of the new primary school.**

This document is intended as a basis for consulting with parents/carers, staff, governors, the local community and other interested parties. The Council will then consider all the views put forward before deciding whether to continue with this proposal. The Local Authority (LA) welcomes responses from all stakeholders.

Key Dates/Timetable:

11 th January–1 st March 2019	Stakeholder Consultation. During this time consultation meetings will be held at both schools, see page 3 for details.
Cabinet meeting 14 th May 2019	Report to the Council's Cabinet, seeking a decision on whether or not to publish Statutory Notices on amalgamation.
7 th June–5 th July 2019	If agreed to proceed to next stage, publication of Statutory Notices. Four-week period for responses and comments on the notices.
Autumn 2019	Following Statutory Notice period, confirmation of decision from the Schools Adjudicator.
September 2020	Opening of the new primary school.

What are the advantages of amalgamation?

- Provides consistent leadership and management across key stages through one Headteacher and one Governing Body.
- Ensures consistency of policy and planning across key stages – the potential for cross-phase policies with a key stage specific focus.
- Continuity and consistency for pupil learning and progress.
- Strengthened tracking of pupil learning and assessment.
- Staff retention and recruitment opportunities:
 - greater scope for the efficient deployment of staff and expertise and curriculum range;
 - enhanced opportunities for professional development.
- Cost effectiveness for the schools by allowing economies of scale.
- A greater proportion of the school's budget is available for teaching and learning rather than administration, e.g. service level agreements.

- Larger workforce with a broader range of shared expertise.
- The relationship between pupils, parents and the school can build over a longer period of time, allowing the school to better understand the needs of each pupil.
- Transition from Year 2 to Year 3 can be managed more effectively.
- Parents only have to apply for primary school before Reception and do not need to reapply for a Year 3 place.

What is the process?

The consultation runs from 11th January – 1st March 2019. During the consultation, meetings have been arranged by the Local Authority for parents and carers to hear more information and ask questions. These meetings are scheduled to be held:

Monday	21 st January 2019	9:00am	Victoria Junior School
Monday	28 th January 2019	2:00pm	Cardinal Road Infant & Nursery School

There are also separate meetings arranged with governors, staff and pupils.

The Council will consider all of the views expressed during the stakeholder consultation, and Cabinet Members will then decide what happens next at their meeting in May 2019. At this point the Cabinet will have three choices:

- To not proceed and stop the process – in this case the separate infant and junior schools would remain.
- To change the proposal as a result of the consultation feedback – the next steps would then depend on what the new proposal was.
- To proceed with the amalgamation proposal – in this case, the Local Authority would publish Statutory Notices as the next step.

If the Cabinet agrees to continue with the proposal, the Statutory Notices would propose the closure of the existing infant and junior schools on 31st August 2020 and the opening of a new community primary school with capacity for 90 pupils in each year group commencing 1st September 2020. Anyone would be able to comment on the Statutory Notices for a four-week period.

After the Statutory Notice period, all of the responses and other documents would be sent to the Schools Adjudicator who would make the final decision, which is binding on all parties. The Schools Adjudicator is independent of the Council.

If the Schools Adjudicator approves the creation of the new primary school, a temporary governing body would be established to oversee the creation of the new school, including the recruitment of the Headteacher.

The proposal is that the new school would open in September 2020.

Some frequently asked questions

What does this proposal mean?

It means that a new single primary school would be created through the amalgamation of the two existing schools.

The new school would include pupils from Reception (ages 4-5) to Year 6 (ages 10-11). There would also be a Nursery class for children aged 3-4. The school would admit 90 pupils at Reception, the same number as currently admitted to the infant school. The opening of the new school, if agreed, would be in September 2020.

Why would an all-through primary school be the best structure for the future?

All pupils entering Reception would receive their education from Reception to Year 6. A single primary school enables a consistent ethos and approach and has a single governing body and Headteacher accountable for pupil progress. The LA believes that the proposal is in the best long-term interest of the children and their families.

How would amalgamation affect pupils?

All the pupils who would be attending Cardinal Road Infant & Nursery School or Victoria Junior School in September 2020 would automatically become part of the new school. This includes all pupils who are offered a Reception or Year 3 place to start in September 2020. After September 2020, pupils would not need to transfer between schools at age seven and would automatically move through the year groups until they transfer to secondary school at age 11.

How would amalgamation affect parents?

From September 2020, once a child is enrolled within the primary school, there would be no need to apply for a place at the junior school at age seven (end of Year 2). A single primary school would provide continuity of education between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and would operate under a single set of policies and procedures.

How would amalgamation affect the staff of the current schools?

Within its remit to oversee the creation of the new primary school, the temporary governing body would be responsible for the appointment of the Headteacher, which must be done in line with statutory provisions and guidance from the Department for Education. The temporary governing body would be made up from members of each of the current governing bodies to ensure a fair representation from both schools.

The Headteacher and temporary governing body would then develop the staffing structure for the new primary school. Because the new school would have the same number of pupils as the existing two schools, it is expected that it would need a very similar staffing structure. At the time of opening, staff contracts would transfer to the new school.

When and how would a new primary school be created?

The Council would seek to open the new primary school in September 2020, which would require the legal closure of the existing infant & nursery and junior schools on 31st August 2020. The staff and governing bodies of the existing infant and junior schools would remain in place until the new school opens and would remain focused on ensuring children learn effectively. The temporary governing body, which would operate alongside the current governing bodies, would oversee the creation of the new primary school.

What is the decision-making process?

The Council will consider all consultation responses before the Cabinet makes a decision about how to proceed. If the Cabinet decides to continue with the proposal, the LA would publish Statutory Notices to create the new school and to close the existing schools. There is then a four-week period in which anyone can comment on the proposal. All responses, together with other related documentation, are then sent to the Schools Adjudicator, who will make the decision on whether the schools should amalgamate. The decision of the Schools Adjudicator is final.

What are the financial implications of amalgamation?

The proposal for amalgamation is being made because of educational reasons, not financial reasons.

The education budget that the LA receives from government is ‘ring-fenced’ and can only be spent on education – so there is no saving to the Council through amalgamation. The budget for each individual school is determined by a formula that includes some amounts for every school but is mainly determined by the number of pupils. There are many primary schools in the borough the same size as the proposed new primary school, and they are able to provide effective education within their budgets.

Would there be a new school building for the primary school?

No, the new primary school would operate within the existing buildings. During this consultation the Local Authority will give consideration to any questions that may be raised by stakeholders about the suitability of the current buildings.

Will the new primary school be too big?

Whilst the new school will be bigger as it is two schools joined into one, this will not mean that classes will be bigger. The total combined capacity will remain the same. Children will still be cared for by their class teacher, just as they are now. The staff will continue to make sure that the younger children are looked after and have their own places to work and play just as they do now.

Your views

We are very keen to hear your views about this proposal. You can tell us:

by coming to one of the meetings

by emailing: childrens.ppu@hounslow.gov.uk

by responding to an online survey:

Information can be accessed throughout the consultation on our website
www.hounslow.gov.uk/consultations

by writing to: Catherine Pinto
School Organisation Officer
School Organisation & Access to Education
Children's, Health & Adults' Services
London Borough of Hounslow
Red Zone
Civic Centre
Lampton Road
Hounslow TW3 4DN

You may want to use the attached sheet for your response.

The proposal to amalgamate Cardinal Road Infant & Nursery and Victoria Junior Schools

The consultation ends on 1st March 2019.
Please ensure that you have your say before then.

What do you think about the proposal to create a new primary school by bringing together Cardinal Road Infant & Nursery and Victoria Junior schools?

Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
No View	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Why do you have this view, and do you have any specific comments that you want the Council to consider?

In what capacity are you completing this questionnaire?

- Parent
- Staff
- Governor
- Other (please state)

of which school?

- Cardinal Road Infant & Nursery School
- Victoria Junior School

Please return to: Catherine Pinto, School Organisation Officer,
School Organisation & Access to Education, Children's, Health & Adults' Services,
London Borough of Hounslow, Red Zone, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow TW3 4DN

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