

Consultation on a proposal to create  
a new primary school through the  
amalgamation of Hounslow Heath  
Infant & Nursery School and  
Hounslow Heath Junior School

Consultation runs from 28th September to  
16th November 2022



**London Borough  
of Hounslow**

## The proposal

The proposal is to create a new primary school in January 2024 through the bringing together (known as amalgamation) of Hounslow Heath Infant & Nursery School and Hounslow Heath Junior School. The new primary school would admit up to 150 pupils a year and would have a nursery class. **All pupils who would be attending Hounslow Heath Infant & Nursery School or Hounslow Heath Junior School at the time of amalgamation 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 views put forward before deciding whether to continue with this proposal. The Local Authority (LA) welcomes responses from all stakeholders.

### Key Dates/Timetable:

28 September–16 November 2022	Initial Stakeholder Consultation. During this time consultation meetings will be held at both schools, see page 3 for details.
Cabinet meeting 17 January 2023	Report to the Council's Cabinet, seeking a decision on whether or not to proceed to the next stage of publishing Statutory Notices on amalgamation.
8 Feb–8 March 2023	If agreed to proceed to the next stage, publication of Statutory Notices. Four-week period for responses and comments on the notices.
Summer Term 2023	Following the Statutory Notice period, confirmation of decision from the Schools Adjudicator.
January 2024	Proposed opening of the new primary school, subject to decision of Schools Adjudicator.

### 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 development and recruitment opportunities:
  - Workforce with a broader range of shared expertise
  - 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 through savings on service level agreements.
- 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 stakeholder consultation runs from 28 September – 16 November 2022. During the consultation, meetings have been arranged by the Local Authority for parents and carers to hear more information and ask questions.

### **Meetings for Parents/Carers are scheduled to be held:**

Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022	6:30pm	Hounslow Heath Infant & Nursery School
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	1:45pm	Hounslow Heath Junior School

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

### **Meetings for Staff members are scheduled to be held:**

Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022	3:30pm	Hounslow Heath Infant & Nursery School
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	3:30pm	Hounslow Heath Junior School

The Council will consider all views expressed during the consultation, including minutes from the consultation meetings. Cabinet Members will then decide what happens next at their meeting in January 2023. 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 31 December 2023

and the opening of a new community primary school with capacity for 150 pupils in each year group commencing 1 January 2024. 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 January 2024.

## **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 schools, with the infant and junior school phases operating within their existing buildings.

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 up to 150 pupils at Reception. The opening of the new school, if agreed, would be in January 2024.

### **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 Hounslow Heath Infant & Nursery School or Hounslow Heath Junior School at the time of amalgamation would automatically become part of the new school, including those pupils supported within the SEND Centres. After January 2024, 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?**

If the Schools Adjudicator determines that the amalgamation should proceed, then 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 (in 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 work on developing the staffing structure for the new primary school. 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 January 2024, which would require the legal closure of the existing infant & nursery and junior schools on 31 December 2023. The governing bodies of the existing infant and junior schools would remain in place until the new school opens, and staff 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 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 a fixed lump sum for every school but is mainly determined by the number of pupils. There is another Hounslow Primary school with 5 classes in each year group, which provides 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.

### **Why is the Local Authority (LA) proposing to reduce the number of places in the new Primary school?**

The schools were expanded to 7 forms of entry (FE) in 2015. The demand for pupil places in the area has been reducing over time following a dramatic decline in the birth rate from 2013 and other factors beyond the LA's control. As a result, following discussions with the Infant and Junior schools, it was decided to make temporary changes by reducing the year group capacity. Over a 5-year period there has been a total of 7FE reduction to the number of pupil places across the infant and junior schools. As of Sept 2022 only two year groups across both schools are operating at the full 7FE (210 capacity).

### **Will the new primary school be too big?**

Whilst the new school will be bigger as the two school capacities will be combined, this will not mean that class sizes will be bigger. The total combined capacity will be 1050 (5FE capacity Years R-6) plus Nursery, compared to the current schools' capacities – 630 (7FE capacity Years R-2) plus Nursery for the Infant school and 840 (7FE capacity Years 3-6) for the junior school. These figures exclude the SEND Centres. 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.

### **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 will 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.

## **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 responding to an online survey:

Information can be accessed throughout the consultation on our website

<https://haveyoursay.hounslow.gov.uk>

By filling in the attached response sheet below

by emailing: [childrens.ppu@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.ppu@hounslow.gov.uk)

by writing to: Catherine Pinto  
Senior Officer - School Organisation  
School Organisation & Access to Education  
Children's & Adults' Services  
London Borough of Hounslow  
Hounslow House  
7 Bath Road  
Hounslow TW3 3EB

# The proposal to amalgamate Hounslow Heath Infant & Nursery and Hounslow Heath Junior Schools

The consultation ends on 16th November 2022.  
*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 Hounslow Heath Infant & Nursery and Hounslow Heath Junior schools?

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

Do you have any specific comments that you want the Council to consider?

In what capacity are you completing this questionnaire?

- |                          |        |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> | Governor             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Staff  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please state) |

of which school?

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hounslow Heath Infant & Nursery School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hounslow Heath Junior School           |

Please return your completed form to the school office for collection by the School Organisation Officer, or post directly to:  
Catherine Pinto, Senior Officer - School Organisation,  
School Organisation & Access to Education, Children's & Adults' Services,  
London Borough of Hounslow, Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road, Hounslow TW3 3EB

School Organisation Officer  
School Organisation & Access to Education  
Children's & Adults' Services  
London Borough of Hounslow  
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