



## **School Organisation Proposals**

Proposals to Amalgamate Daylesford Infant School and Chapel  
Fields Junior School

22 January 2018

PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE DAYLESFORD INFANT SCHOOL AND FOR A RELATED PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO CHAPEL FIELDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

**1. In respect of a Council proposal: School and Council details**

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Children's Services and Skills, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull. B91 3QB

School	Address	Type of School
Daylesford Infant School	Lyndon Road, Solihull B92 7QW	Community
Chapel Fields Junior School	Lyndon Road, Solihull B92 7QF	Community

**2. Description of Alteration**

The proposal to amalgamate Daylesford Infant and Chapel Fields Junior Schools will be implemented through the closure of Daylesford Infant School and the expansion of and alteration to the age range of Chapel Fields Junior School. These proposals are related and will be considered together.

**3. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates for each stage.

The closure of Daylesford Infant School is proposed to take effect from 31 August 2018 and the expansion of Chapel Fields Junior School is proposed to take effect from 1 September 2018. The amalgamated primary school will be established across the two existing school sites.

The school will relocate on to one site in due course. High level of feasibility suggests that this will be on the Chapel Fields School site in an expanded building. Any change to the sites and buildings will subject to separate consultation.

#### **4. Objections and comments**

A statement explaining the procedure for making representations.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, make comments on or support any or all of the proposals by emailing the School Place Planning Team at [researchandpolicy@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:researchandpolicy@solihull.gov.uk) or, by writing to School Place Planning Team, Children's Services and Skills, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull. B91 3QB

The last date for comments is 19 February 2018. Full details on the proposals, including copies of the public notice can be found at [www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation)

#### **5. Reasons for the proposals**

The Council's School Organisation Plan states that the Council will consider the feasibility of creating a primary school from separate infant and junior schools if a Headteacher leaves one of the schools, one of the schools becomes of concern or, where significant expansion of school places is required at one or both of the schools.

##### **Leadership**

In August 2016, the Headteacher of Daylesford Infant School retired and an Interim Headteacher has been recruited (from Chapel Fields Junior School). The Headteacher of Chapel Fields Junior School is due to retire in August 2018. The creation of a primary school will enable the amalgamated Governing Body to consider and secure a long term leadership structure for the amalgamated primary school.

##### **Expansion**

Daylesford Infant School expanded in September 2015 from a capacity of 225 to 270; this increased the reception intake at the school from 75 to 90 places. This increase in pupil numbers has been managed within the existing school building in the short term but in the long term, expansion of the school building is required. The larger numbers feeding through Daylesford Infant School will increase the numbers attending Chapel Fields Junior School from September 2018. Chapel Fields Junior School does not have the scope to accommodate the additional pupil numbers within its existing accommodation so an expansion of the school building is required.

The expansion of pupil numbers at both schools is required to meet demand from families living in the school's catchment area and families with brothers and sisters already at the school.

By creating a primary school the funding required to expand the school premises can be used more effectively to the benefit of all pupils.

## **Standards**

One of the key benefits of the amalgamation is the impact it can have on transition of pupils from year 2 to year 3. In one single school there would not be the regress of achievement from the end of Key Stage 1 teacher assessments and the beginning of Key Stage 2. Progress can be maintained and meaningful work completed to ease the transition into Year 3. Evidence shows that all through primary schools provide a richer and more varied curriculum experience for their children. This enables progress to be more sustained throughout the school ensuring that there is good achievement throughout the whole school. The curriculum can be planned to sequentially build upon knowledge and skills acquired in previous years. In a primary school teachers can use and develop their skills to work across a wider age range thus raising expectations of what can be achieved.

Children also benefit from having role models of older children throughout the school allowing them to aspire to leadership roles.

In June 2017, Daylesford Infant School was deemed to require improvement by Ofsted. Although the Ofsted outcome was not the key driver in bringing the amalgamation proposal forward, now that the school has received such a rating, there is a duty on the Council to take action to improve standards. This amalgamation proposal will improve standards, in particular with regards to the stronger governance that an amalgamated governing body can provide.

## **6. Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

Daylesford Infant School currently caters for up to 270 pupils across years Reception to Year 2, plus 60 part time nursery pupils. The School has a published admission number of 90 places.

Chapel Fields Junior School currently caters for up to 256 pupils across Year 3 to Year 6. The School has a published admission number of 64.

Both schools cater for boys and girls and neither school has designated special needs provision on site.

The proposed primary school will cater for up to 630 pupils across years Reception to Year 6 plus 60 part time nursery pupils.

It is proposed that the admission arrangements remain the same and that the catchment area for Daylesford Infant School becomes the catchment area for the primary school.

There is not expected to be any impact on other neighbouring schools, academies and educational institutions within the area.

## **7. Displaced Pupils**

All pupils on roll at Daylesford Infant School at the time it is proposed to close will be guaranteed a place at the proposed primary school.

Admission may be sought to other schools which have places available.

## **8. Impact on the Community**

It is proposed that there is no change to admission arrangements and that the catchment area for Daylesford Infant School becomes the catchment area for the proposed primary school. This will ensure that families living in the catchment area for Daylesford Infant School will have a high priority for a place at the primary school should they apply for one.

Any additional services or facilities offered to the community by Daylesford Infant School will continue to be offered by the proposed primary school.

## **9. Travel**

The pupils displaced from Daylesford Infant School are guaranteed a place at the proposed primary school which will be an expanded Chapel Fields Junior School.

It is proposed that the primary school will be located across the two existing school sites so there will be no impact on the length of journeys for the displaced pupils.

It is expected that the school will be located on one site at the earliest opportunity. Therefore, the number of journeys some families have to make will reduce as siblings will be on the same site rather than at separate schools.

## 10. Project Costs

**Capital** – A budget has been allocated within the Children’s Services Capital Programme to meet the cost of the expansion of places required. Feasibility work will consider how best to use these resources to provide the additional accommodation required.

**Revenue** – Amalgamating schools do lose the lump sum component of the school funding formula. For 2017/18 this has a value of £175,000. From 2018/19, the national funding formula proposes that the lump sum will be £110,000.

The Solihull funding formula has a split site factor of £100,000 which could apply to the schools for at least the next two years, so this would represent a very similar amount of funding to protecting the current lump sum for 2 years, the balancing figure of £20,000 could be found from other schools block budgets for 2 years.

The main financial benefit for bringing the two schools together is the economies of scale that can be achieved both through staffing changes and more efficient operations, in particular once the school is located on one site.