

Consultation on the Proposal to amalgamate Dorridge Nursery and Infant and Dorridge Junior Schools

1. Introduction

On 21 January 2014 the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People gave approval for consultation to take place on the proposal to amalgamate Dorridge Infant and Dorridge Junior School to become a 3 form entry primary school from September 2014 following a resolution of the full Governing Body of the Dorridge Schools.

This consultation will run until Friday 14 March 2014.

2. What Changes are proposed?

Dorridge Nursery and Infant and Dorridge Junior Schools are two separate schools even though they already operate with a single Headteacher and a Federated Governing Body across both schools. They are linked for admission purposes at infant to junior transfer and they both serve the same catchment area. This proposal seeks to formalise the school organisation which effectively operates as a primary school.

In process terms, the amalgamation of Dorridge Nursery and Infant and Dorridge Junior Schools can be achieved through the closure of one of the schools and by expanding and altering the age range of the remaining school. In technical terms, this will mean the closure of Dorridge Junior School, with a linked proposal for the expansion and alteration of the age range of Dorridge Nursery and Infant School from September 2014.

3. Why do we want to do this?

The Federated Governing Body of the Dorridge Schools has requested that the Council make this change. They believe it will support transition for pupils between key stages, provide a more consistent approach to assessment for pupils, support staff development, and avoid the unnecessary duplication of processes for example two census returns and infant to junior admissions processes.

The all through Primary School will provide benefits to ensure better rates of progression in learning and achievement throughout the school. It will also allow for greater movement of teachers across the school and establish a coherent ethos across all key stages.

4. How will this affect pupils?

All of the children in Dorridge Nursery and Infant and Dorridge Junior Schools will be guaranteed a place in Dorridge Primary School.

Under this proposal there would no longer be an intake at the school at Year 3 as the children would continue through from Reception to Year 6. The admission number for pupils starting in Reception will not change and will still be 90 places and no change to the catchment area is proposed.

5. How will this affect staff?

It is not proposed that any changes to staffing will be required as a result of this organisational change. All of the staff at both schools will be transferred to the Primary School.

6. Will this definitely happen?

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. At this moment we are at the consultation stage during which we want to hear your views on the proposal. If after considering your views, we still think it is a good idea, we will publish full proposals and there will be another period when people can comment.

7. How can I make my views known?

This is your opportunity to let us know what you think about these proposed changes.

You can register your views by emailing or writing. Please respond to:

Post: School Place Planning Team, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull. B91 3QB

Email: researchandpolicy@solihull.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is **Friday 14 March 2014**

Individual replies will not be made to consultation responses. However you will receive an acknowledgement to confirm that your response has been received. Your written responses will be made available to any person or body responsible for making or reviewing the decision on whether to proceed with this proposal.

8. What happens next?

The table below sets out the consultation and possible implementation timeline for the proposal. This is for guidance only as the dates could be subject to change depending on the outcome of the consultation process.

Date	Event
10 February 2014	Consultation begins
14 March 2014	Consultation ends
7 April 2014	Decision - Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People
2 May 2014	Proposals published
13 June 2013	End of 6 week representation period
July 2014	Cabinet decision
September 2014	Implementation