

# **Consultation on a Possible Amalgamation of Radcliffe-on-Trent Community Infant & Nursery and Radcliffe-on-Trent Community Junior Schools**

---

## **Introduction**

**We are seeking the views and comments from interested parties about a proposal to amalgamate Radcliffe-on-Trent Infant and Junior Schools.**

This document outlines the proposal to establish a new community primary school, including early years provision, which will replace the schools.

The County Council proposes to:-

- establish a new community primary school providing education for children aged 3-11
- provide 525 places for Reception to Year 6
- provide 39 full-time equivalent early years places (Foundation 1)
- propose a pupil Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 75 for the main school
- locate the primary school on the existing sites at Bingham Road and Cropwell Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent
- maintain the existing Radcliffe-on-Trent schools' pupil catchment areas
- open the primary school with effect from September 2015 dependent on the relevant decision making processes

## **Consultation**

This proposal is at a formative stage and **no final decisions have yet been made.**

This consultation process is designed to establish the views of: parents and carers, pupils, governors, staff, the local community and other interested parties in respect of the proposal to amalgamate the two schools.

**It is important** that you take time to find out about what is being proposed so that you fully understand and can make an informed contribution to the discussion. You can do this by referring to the **Frequently Asked Questions** section within this document or by attending one of the meetings listed on page 5.

**If you would like to make a response and 'Have your Say'**, details of how you can do this and where to send your completed response form are included within this document.

**We value your response** as it will help the County Council's elected Members form a view about whether the amalgamation process should continue.

**This consultation closes on Friday 13 June 2014.**

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. What will be involved in this proposed amalgamation?

This proposal will see the closure of the two existing schools and opening of a new primary school on the existing sites.

**It must be stressed** that this proposed amalgamation is not a criticism of the existing schools but a vision as to how the teaching and learning could be further improved in an amalgamated primary school.

### 2. What are the benefits of amalgamation?

**There are a number of benefits** when amalgamating two schools; these are primarily educational and set out below.

**Benefits for Children** - The National Curriculum sets out what children must be taught and the standards they are expected to achieve. Exactly how this curriculum is taught is up to each school.

A primary school that provides education for children aged 3-11 benefits from:-

- a consistent educational philosophy from when a child first enters the school, until they move into secondary education
- a more coherent delivery of the National Curriculum from Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage Two.
- a consistent approach to the ways in which children are taught.
- teachers using a variety of different approaches to help children learn drawing on ideas from the different key stages, so that there is a whole school approach and children know what to expect as they move through the school.
- consistent behaviour management strategies resulting in clear expectations and a shared ethos which is understood by children, parents and carers throughout the primary and early years stages.
- a shared vision which directs its work. This vision will endure for children throughout their time at the school.
- Consistent homework, marking and feedback policies.
- Consistent approaches to record keeping.
- Seven uninterrupted years of education without a potentially unsettling transition to another school.

**Benefits for Parents/Carers** - In a through primary school parents and carers are able to develop a longer term relationship with all of those involved in the school, including the head teacher and support staff. School policies are the same throughout the primary years. Examples could be:-

- how children with special needs are supported
- arrangements for open evenings and school events
- dress code
- school closure days etc.

This means parents and carers know what to expect. Over time the staff build up a good knowledge of children and their families as they progress through the school, creating a sense of the school as a 'family', which in turn helps develop trust and confidence.

**Benefits for Staff** - In a through primary school there are greater opportunities for staff to build upon their professional knowledge and skills across a wider age range. This would enable them to share good practice across the whole school and establish consistent approaches to areas

like classroom organisation and the ways in which children learn best. Additionally, professional development (training) is largely geared towards primary settings which may not be entirely appropriate for an exclusively infant or a junior phase school.

All teachers, including those at infant and junior schools, have different skills and abilities; in primary schools good ideas can be shared between them, thus benefiting the children they teach. The development of this professional knowledge within the school means that:-

- the staff is more knowledgeable, not just about the age group they are teaching, but also about what children need to learn next
- this helps with target setting, ensuring that there is no 'slippage' in progress as children move from one Key Stage to the next.

### **3. It is proposed to establish the new school on two separate sites. What effect will that have upon children?**

Children attending the new school will probably notice very little difference on an everyday basis. For the majority of the time they will be in their own classroom with their friends and their teacher.

Children will still be working in a familiar environment and have a close relationship with the teaching staff. Progress would continue to be assessed by the class teacher just as it is now. Parents and carers will still have close contact with the class teachers being able to discuss problems or concerns they may have. The way that the school is organised will be the responsibility of the head teacher and the new governing body.

### **4. Will there be times when children are part of the whole school?**

**Lunchtimes** - though this may well be similar to how children have lunch now, few schools have the whole school sitting down to lunch together. The children may then play together or separately according to how the head teacher and staff have decided to organise break times.

**At certain times of the year**, such as special celebrations, the whole school will want to come together in celebrating important events. Also, many schools have whole school assemblies which help create the feeling of a whole-school community. These events are carefully organised to ensure that all the children feel involved. They are an important element in children learning to be part of the wider school. They also teach children important attitudes, such as looking after each other, the school and the environment.

All children need to feel safe, secure and cared for if they are to learn and enjoy school. Ensuring this is the case is an essential job for all schools, regardless of size. The new governing body will want to ensure that the head teacher is focussed on the needs of all the children throughout the school.

### **5. What will the admission criteria be for the new school?**

If the new primary school goes ahead, the planned admission number (PAN) at reception age for the school will be 75.

The oversubscription criteria for admission to the primary school will be the same as is current for first admissions.

Pupils who are attending the Radcliffe-on-Trent schools at the time of their proposed permanent closure in July 2015, will automatically have a place in the new school from September 2015 as appropriate.

In line with the usual practice, children attending the non-statutory early years places from September 2015 **will not** automatically be offered a place in the primary main school (Reception-Year 6). **The normal admission procedures for primary main school places will apply.**

## **6. How will the integration of the pupils from the two schools happen?**

If a decision is made to establish the new primary school, the infant and junior schools will begin to hold 'getting to know you' events for the pupils, staff and the parents/carers.

## **7. What about the governing bodies of the existing Radcliffe-on-Trent Schools?**

A temporary governing body will be set up to oversee the process of establishing the new school including:-

- agreeing a staffing structure
- appointing a head and deputy head
- deciding on the school name
- agreeing policies for the new school and
- making arrangements for the handover to the full governing body of the new school.

All parents/carers of children attending the amalgamating schools will be invited to put their names forward as parent governors on the temporary governing body, but the final decision as to who will be appointed will be made by the County Council.

## **8. Will the proposed new school have a new name?**

This is a matter for the temporary governing body.

## **9. If the proposal is approved, what will happen to the existing staff of the Radcliffe-on-Trent Schools?**

**The County Council will recommend to the infant and junior governing bodies** that they adopt the standard County Council procedures for dealing with staff involved in amalgamations. These procedures give detailed information about the appointment of staff involved in an amalgamation and have been agreed with all the appropriate Trades Unions.

**Essentially the temporary governing body would decide** on a staffing structure for the new school. Staff would be matched to the posts that most closely resemble their existing posts.

## **10. Who will the Head Teacher be if the proposed new school is established?**

This is a matter for the temporary governing body.

## **11. What happens if the proposed amalgamation doesn't proceed?**

Both schools would continue to provide education as separate infant and junior schools in their existing premises.

### **What happens next?**

- You will see on the following page that **a number of meetings have been arranged** at the Radcliffe-on Trent schools where you can come and ask questions about the proposal.
- We have also included details of a **potential statutory process timeline** depending on the decision making processes.
- **If you have any concerns** about how the change might affect children at the new school or the local community, **do come and talk to us** at one of the meetings.

## Potential Statutory Process Timeline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Consultation Meetings</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Tuesday 6 May 2014	1 <sup>st</sup> Joint Parents/carers	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Infant School
Tuesday 6 May 2014	Joint Staff	3.45 - 4.45 pm	Infant School
Tuesday 6 May 2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> Joint Parents/carers + local community and other interested parties	5.30 - 6.30 pm	Junior School
Wednesday 7 May 2014	Joint Governors	7.15 - 8.15 pm	Junior School
Friday 13 June 2014	Last date for return of consultation Response Form		
June / July 2014	Analysis of consultation outcomes		
Monday 14 July 2014	Report to County Council elected Members on the consultation outcomes		
September 2014	If approval given by the County Council, publication of statutory notice for further comments on the proposal		
October 2014	End of statutory notice four week period for comments		
December 2014 / January 2015	Formal decision made by independent Schools Adjudicator (SA)		
September 2015 at the earliest	Depending on SA decision, new primary school with early years provision opens		

## **Statutory Process Periods for responding about the proposed Amalgamation**

**Consultation Period:** Tuesday 22 April - Friday 13 June 2014 (8 weeks)

**Statutory Notice Period:** September - October (4 weeks)

### **HAVE YOUR SAY**

**Your views about this proposal are important** and will help us make a recommendation to the County Council about whether to publish a statutory notice.

You can make your views known by:-

**Attending one of the meetings** to be held at the  
Radcliffe-on-Trent Schools on  
**Tuesday 6 May 2014**  
(see the above list of times and venues)

**Completing** the attached Response Form  
and handing it in to either  
Radcliffe-on-Trent Infant or Junior Schools  
**or**  
at one of the meetings that are being held at these schools

**OR** send responses to:

**By post:**  
Support to Schools Service  
Children, Families and Cultural Services  
County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham  
NG2 7QP

**By email:**  
[statutory-school.proposals@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:statutory-school.proposals@nottscc.gov.uk)

**Response Forms are also available and can be completed on line** at the  
County Council website:  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

**All responses should be returned by no later than Friday 13 June 2014**



# Consultation on a Possible Amalgamation of Radcliffe-on-Trent Community Infant & Nursery and Radcliffe-on-Trent Community Junior Schools

(Please tick one box only)

11

[illegible]

Page 7 of 8

**It will help us to analyse responses if we know more about you.**

**Please complete the following details:  
(Please tick and complete all boxes that apply)**

**I am a:**

Parent / Carer		Which school / academy does your child (ren) attend?
Governor		At which school / academy?
Member of Staff		At which school / academy?
Pupil		At which school / academy?
Other		Please specify (e.g. Resident)
What is your Post Code		E.g. NG12 2FS / NG12 2FU

**The County Council wants to ensure that the views of people with protected characteristics are taken into account. If you have any specific concerns relating to age, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion or belief, please detail below:**

**Thank you for your response.**

**Please return this form to Support to Schools Service, Children, Families and Cultural Services, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP OR to either Radcliffe-on-Trent Infant or Radcliffe-on-Trent Junior Schools, to be received by no later than Friday 13 June 2014.**