

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

Contact details

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

School: Fairfield Junior (Community) School, Gallowbarrow, Cockermouth, Cumbria. CA13 0DX

Local Authority: Cumbria County Council, School Organisation, Parkhouse Building, Lower East Wing, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4SJ

Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

The proposal is to discontinue Fairfield Junior School from 31st August 2013.

Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal were complied with.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

- a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted;and
- d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a) Consultation meetings were held with the staff, governors, parents and the public at the school. Engagement with pupils also took place at both the Infant and Junior Schools. Consultation documents were provided to: staff and governors at the school, parents of current pupils at the school via the school; other schools affected by the proposal, elected members of Cumbria County Council in the affected wards and cabinet members, parish councils, Department for Education, Diocese of Lancaster Education Service, Carlisle Diocese, Copeland Borough Council Chief Executive, local libraries, trade unions, other local authority officers and local press.

b), c) Copies of the various minutes, views of the persons consulted, and consultation documents are all available on request from School Organisation Team, Parkhouse Building, Lower East Wing, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle, Cumbria. CA6 4SJ. Email: school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk. Tel: 01228 226013. They are also available on the Cumbria County Council website; www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation.

d) Consultation documents were provided by post or e-mail to the above list of consultees. They were also available to the public via local libraries, and via the Cumbria County Council website and local offices.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objectives of the proposal are the closure of Fairfield Junior School and, via a linked proposal, the extension of the age range at Fairfield Infant School to form an all through primary school for children aged 3-11 years old. The newly-formed Fairfield Primary School will use the existing buildings of Fairfield Infant and Fairfield Junior schools.

Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Fairfield Junior School is currently rated by Ofsted as a 'Good school with many outstanding features'. While Fairfield Infant School is currently rated by Ofsted as 'Outstanding'.

Fairfield Infant and Fairfield Junior Schools share the same site. Currently, there can be no guarantee that a pupil enrolled at Fairfield Infant School will automatically transfer and have a place at Fairfield Junior School. This may go against parents' expectations. The amalgamation of the schools provides parents and children with additional certainty in terms of their primary education. Amalgamation would also provide the following educational benefits;

- Continuity of experience for children, with no need to transfer to a 'new' school at the end of Key Stage 1
- Shared consistent vision and values across the school
- Consistent engagement with parents across the primary phase, with no need to transfer information at the end of a Key Stage
- Expertise within the whole school can be better targeted across the full age range
- Combination of roles and services allowing more resources to be spent directly on teaching and learning
- Professional development opportunities for staff within an all-through environment

The closure of Fairfield Junior School and the change of age range of Fairfield Infant School to form Fairfield Primary School is likely to have a positive impact upon standards and diversity for children in the area.

Provision for 16-19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable.

Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

In October 2012 Fairfield Junior School has a total of 225 children on roll and a net capacity of 240. There is an ongoing need for Key Stage 2 places within the town.

The extended Fairfield Infant School (to form Fairfield Primary School) will accommodate 'displaced' pupils; the school will have a net capacity of 420 and a Published Admission Number of 60.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Not applicable.

Current School Information

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

Fairfield Junior School caters for boys and girls aged 7-11 years old. As of October 2012 (School Census), there were 225 pupils on roll. 28 (12.4%) of those pupils were assessed as having special educational needs. The school is not a boarding school.

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as

reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and

c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

For 'displaced' pupils from Fairfield Junior School, places will be offered at Fairfield Infant School, Gallowbarrow, Cockermouth, Cumbria. CA13 0DX, where it is proposed that the age range be extended.

a) It is proposed that Fairfield Junior School closes on 31st August 2013; the pupils will then start in their new school at the beginning of the new academic year in September 2013; no interim arrangements are required in respect of pupil places. There will be an extensive transition programme for pupils transferring that will take place through the 2013 summer term.

b) Not applicable.

c) Not applicable.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

Proposals to extend the age range and enlarge Fairfield Infant School, to form Fairfield Primary School, will directly and commensurately replace those places removed as a result of closure.

Impact on the Community

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

There are no foreseen community impacts resulting from the closure. The linked age-range extension proposed for Fairfield Infant School will ensure there is no change in the number of Key Stage 2 places available in the town. Parents will have additional certainty that a place is available for their children through the primary age range once a Reception place is secured, and children will benefit from guaranteed continuity.

In reality, children, parents and staff would see very little difference between how the two schools currently work and how a single school would work in the future. The county council is not proposing to build a new school; instead the two existing schools' buildings will continue to be used, only with a single Headteacher and single governing body rather than two of each.

Children who currently have places at the Junior School in Years 3-5 will all be guaranteed a place in the 'replacement' primary school, and there should be no disruption to their education.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

The extended services available at Fairfield Junior School are after school clubs. These after school clubs will still be available at Fairfield Primary School, which will cater for the

displaced pupils.

Travel

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

0 miles. The schools are not changing location. Fairfield Infant and Junior schools are located next to each other and the new proposed Primary School will continue to use the same buildings.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

As there will be no change of location of the school there will be no impact on travel arrangements. Provision of transport will continue to be in line with the Local Authority's home to school transport policy.

Fairfield Primary School will have a Travel Plan, which will set out a number of practical ways to reduce the number of car trips to school, to encourage more walking and cycling and to improve safety on the school journey.

Related Proposals

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

This proposal is related to others for the change of age range and statutory enlargement of Fairfield Infant School. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: School Organisation, Parkhouse Building, Lower East Wing, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4SJ. Email: school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk. Telephone: 01228 226013 or online at www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation.

The related statutory proposals will be published together.

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
 - b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
 - c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase;
- and
- d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4)

The LA has considered all of the above in reaching a decision to publish the proposal.

Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children’s centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- b) the LA’s assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable.

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Not applicable.