

Consultation
on proposed
changes to Kingmoor
Nursery & Infant
and Kingmoor
Junior Schools



What this consultation is about

This consultation document is about proposals for changes to Kingmoor Nursery & Infant and Kingmoor Junior Schools. The proposals are part of a wider review of the number of primary school places in Carlisle as a whole.

We are considering the following options:

In order to provide additional places for the increasing pupil numbers in the area as a result of the rising birth rate, it will be necessary to expand both the Nursery & Infant School and the Junior School; keeping both as separate schools or amalgamating the two schools into one all-through primary school. This would mean either:

Option 1

Keeping Kingmoor Nursery & Infant and Kingmoor Junior Schools separate but expanding each of them to provide 75 places per year group.

Option 2

a) Amalgamating the two schools which would require the closure of Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School and extending the age-range of Kingmoor Junior School to provide an all-through, 3-11 primary school. The school would also be expanded to provide 75 places per year group.

b) Amalgamating the two schools which would require the closure of Kingmoor Junior School and extending the age-range of Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School to create an all-through, 3-11 primary school. The school would also be expanded to provide 75 places per year group.

At present both schools have 60 places available in each year group.

We are suggesting this because we expect the number of children living in the catchment area to remain above the number of places available in the Kingmoor schools for the foreseeable future.

There is no indication that pupil numbers in this area will rise further in the future, but nor is there any evidence that they will fall back to their previous levels. This means that a whole new school is not required, but additional places in the existing schools are needed if the demand for places is to be met.

The county council wants to hear your views on these options before deciding whether to make the changes. Option 1 would see both schools remain, but expansion would still take place from 1 September 2012. Options 2a and 2b would mean one of the schools closing on 31 August 2012, the other becoming a 3-11 primary school and being expanded to provide 15 additional Reception places from 1 September 2012.

Who this consultation is for

This document is aimed at parents, staff, governors and everyone else with an interest or stake in primary education in the area and includes those members of the community living locally who may be affected by the proposals.

How you can respond to this consultation

Use the form on the back page of this document to let us know what you think or you can attend the consultation events on 23 November at Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School and 24 November at Kingmoor Junior School to talk to us face to face.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please contact the School Organisation Team on:

T: **01228 226013** E: school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk

The deadline for responses is 16 December 2011

Let us know what you think!

We hope that you will take the time to read this consultation document carefully. We both feel it is really important to hear from parents, governors, pupils and other local people about the proposals we are making before we make decisions. With the birthrate increasing we have to take steps to make sure there are enough school places available in the area. We want all children to have the best possible chance of finding a place at their local school. We look forward to hearing your views on our proposals.

Yours sincerely




Duncan Fairbairn
Cabinet Member
Children's Services



Julia Morrison
Corporate Director
Children's Services

More information

How we know extra places are needed

By law the council must make sure there are enough school places in the area. There is a risk that there will not be enough places in future, as illustrated in the table opposite.

Each year the county council looks at data provided by local GP surgeries. This data shows how many children have been born and where they live. From this information the council can estimate the number of children who are likely to require a school place over the next four years in each area. In the Kingmoor area the data shows the number of school age children is increasing.

Why we are proposing changes again

In March 2010 there was a consultation on proposals to expand both Kingmoor Nursery & Infant and Kingmoor Junior Schools to accommodate the increasing number of children in the catchment area. At that time the overwhelming response was against the proposal. As a result, parents have had to appeal to an independent panel to seek places, and those pupils that could not be given a place at Kingmoor have had to attend alternative schools in or around the city. The allocations and appeals process is carried out in accordance with nationally published timescales which means that where parents request appeal hearings this may mean that parents and children will not know until relatively late in the process which school they will be attending the following September. It creates uncertainty for the schools too because they are unable to finalise class lists and plan for the staffing required until the outcome of appeals is known.

For September 2011, nine children were admitted to Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School following successful admission appeals. The number of children living in the catchment area is expected to remain above the capacity of both schools. The increase in demand across the whole Carlisle area means there may no longer be spaces in nearby schools to accommodate these children. To meet demand in this area it would be necessary to increase the number of places available.

In view of this the proposal is to expand the school buildings to create capacity for an admission number of 75 pupils giving overall capacity of 525 pupils (excluding nursery aged children) either across both schools or in one all-through primary school.

Kingmoor Infant

Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School caters for pupils aged between 3 and 7 and has a net capacity of 162 pupils although there are currently 188 pupils in the infant department. The school has admitted up to its maximum Reception capacity of 60 pupils a year since September 2007. The school is full in all years and is forecast to have more applications in future years than the number of places available. The situation described above – with parents facing the prospect of seeking places through admission appeals – is, therefore, expected to occur again in the future unless additional places are provided.

The table below gives the projected demand for reception places. Whilst the figure for 2014 is currently only just above the number of places available, we would expect the number of children in that age-group to increase between now and 2014, based on what has happened in the past.

School	Current reception places	Number of reception places required in future years			
		Sept 2012	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015
Kingmoor Infant	60	71	75	62	Projections updated shortly

The increasing number of children means that it is unlikely that all children in the catchment area will be able to secure a place at the school.

Kingmoor Junior

Kingmoor Junior School caters for pupils aged between 7 and 11 and has a capacity of 236 pupils; 60 pupils can be admitted each year. It sits on the same site, and is next to Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School. In terms of its capacity there are only a small number of places in Year 5, all other year groups are full. In future years it is unlikely there will be enough places available to meet demand from pupils leaving the infant school, if, for example, more families with children move into the area.

Option 1: Why retaining separate schools is an option

Both Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School and Kingmoor Junior School offer high quality educational provision for their pupils and are recognised as such in the local community. The schools are popular and demand for places is high. The schools work well together whilst retaining separate identities defining their unique characteristics. Facilities in both schools are good with light, comfortable, airy classrooms providing a pleasant working environment.

If the separate schools continue as they are now this will enable;

- Retention of two existing successful schools already established at the heart of the local community
- Class organisation and structures to be maintained
- Personalised and detailed knowledge of the pupils and their families within the two smaller schools facilitating close communication with parents
- Experience of transition which can help to prepare pupils for the necessary move to secondary education at the end of Key Stage 2
- A key stage-specific environment allowing children to thrive within their own age group
- A curriculum which is specifically tailored to the needs of the age-range of the separate schools delivered by specialist staff teams
- A nurturing environment for very young children

Options 2a and 2b: Why an “all-through” primary school is an option

Kingmoor Nursery & Infant and Kingmoor Junior Schools share the same site. Currently, due to pressure on places and admission processes, there can be no guarantee that a pupil enrolled at Kingmoor Nursery & Infant will automatically transfer and have a place at Kingmoor Junior. This may go against parents’ expectations. A solution to this issue could be to merge Kingmoor Nursery & Infant and Kingmoor Junior to form a primary school. This would give a 3 - 11 school where a child would be guaranteed a place at the same school throughout their full primary education.

If the schools are amalgamated this will provide;

- 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 key stage
- Expertise within 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 all-through environment
- In line with the county council’s stated policy for all-through primary schools.

Staffing

We know that the process of bringing two schools together into one – as set out in Options 2a and 2b – can be unsettling for the school community. Council officers work closely with staff, and a staffing handbook is available on the school portal to help guide the process.

Buildings

All of the options proposed would require some additional accommodation, and a full feasibility study needs to be carried out to determine the best solution. The council is aware that as well as providing extra classrooms consideration needs to be given as to how this would impact on other facilities in the schools such as dining and storage facilities.

Finance

School budgets are largely based on pupil numbers. Option 1 would bring about no change in the way in which the schools’ budgets are calculated, although the extra pupils on roll would generate additional funding for the schools. Options 2a and 2b would mean some relatively minor changes reflecting the move from two schools to one. Again, additional pupils on the school roll would generate additional funding, and duplication of some roles across the two schools would be avoided allowing for a greater proportion of available funding to be spent directly on teaching and learning.

School Transport

Regardless of the option chosen, there should be no impact on school transport. There is no proposal to change the current catchment area boundaries, and the county council's school transport policy will continue to operate in the same way as it does currently. We know, however, that access to the school sites is a major issue for parents and local residents, and we appreciate that expanding the schools may exacerbate the current problems. As part of the work being undertaken on the development of the school buildings the council will be investigating whether it is possible to improve the current position.

Next steps

The School Organisation and Governance Regulations mean that, if a council proposes to close a school, change an age range or increase the capacity above a certain point, their proposal must be published in a statutory notice.

There are five stages to the statutory process which must be followed:

Consultation

The issue of this document marks the beginning of a period of consultation during which the views of any interested parties are sought. These views will be considered before any move to the next stage of the process happens.

Publication

Dependent upon the outcome of this consultation, a decision on whether to proceed to issue a statutory notice must be made by Cumbria County Council's Cabinet.

Representation

Following publication of statutory notices representations can be made on the proposals. This period lasts for either 4 or 6 weeks, depending on the nature of the proposals.

Decision

Within two months after the representation period ends, the county council must make a decision on the proposal.

Implementation

If the proposal is approved then changes would be implemented from September 2012.

Timetable

- | | |
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| • Consultation | 1 November – 16 December 2011 |
| • Decision: Cumbria County Council considers the results of the consultation and decides whether to publish a Statutory Notice | 12 January 2012 |
| • Publication of the Statutory Notice | 27 January 2012 |
| • Closing date for responses to the Statutory Notice | 24 February or 9 March 2012 depending on the nature of the proposals |
| • Final decision by Cumbria County Council | 24 February or 15 March 2012 |
| • Possible implementation of any changes | 1 September 2012 |

Have your say

The council's proposals will be the basis of a period of public consultation for six weeks from 1 November to 16 December.

You are invited to a consultation event so that you can find out more about the options. A meeting for staff and governors will be held from 3.45pm.

From 6pm there will be opportunity for **parents and members of the public** to speak informally with council officers on a 1-2-1 basis. This will be followed at 7pm when there will be a presentation from council officers and an opportunity for questions. Events will be held:

Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School
23 November at 3.45pm – 8.00pm

Kingmoor Junior School
24 November at 3.45pm – 8.00pm

The consultation runs until **16 December 2011** and you can respond by completing the questionnaire in this document or writing separately to:

Cumbria County Council
School Organisation
Parkhouse Building,
Kingmoor Business Park,
Carlisle
Cumbria CA6 4SJ

By Email to:
school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk

On-line at: (Use the link below to complete the questionnaire contained in this document on-line)
www.opinionsuite.com/cumbria/cumbria-county-council

It is not possible to enter into individual correspondence.

Thank you.

Kingmoor Schools

Reply slip - Please send by 16 December to Cumbria County Council, School Organisation, Parkhouse Building, Kingmoor, Carlisle CA6 4SJ.

- 1. We need to know some basic information so that we can accurately report back to the council's Cabinet. Please tick those boxes that apply.

Are you a	Kingmoor Infant School	Kingmoor Junior School
Parent/carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) _____

- 2. Given the current situation, and the information contained in this document, which of the following options do you prefer:

- Keep Kingmoor Nursery & Infant and Kingmoor Junior Schools separate but expand each of them by building additional classrooms so that they can take more children.
- Close Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School and extend the age-range of Kingmoor Junior School to provide an all-through, 3-11 primary school. The school would be expanded to provide 75 places per year group.
- Close Kingmoor Junior School and extend the age-range of Kingmoor Nursery & Infant School to provide an all-through, 3-11 primary school. The school would be expanded to provide 75 places per year group.

Supporting and additional comments can be entered overleaf if required.

Name _____ Date _____
(Please print)

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Please provide any supporting / additional comments below: