

# PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE MARYPORT INFANT SCHOOL

## Extract of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:

### Contact details

1. The name and contact details of the LA or governing body publishing the proposal, and the name, address and category of the school proposed for closure.

Cumbria County Council. School Organisation Team, Parkhouse Building, Baron Way, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle, CA6 4SJ.  
The school to be closed is Maryport Infant School, Camp Road, Maryport, CA15 6JN (DfE number 909/2125). The category of the school is Community.

### Implementation

2. The proposed closure date or, where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of, and information about, each stage.

Closure would be effective on 31 August 2019.

### Objectives and reason for closure

3. The objectives of the proposal and the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.

The objective of the proposal is to amalgamate Maryport Infant School with Maryport Church of England (CE) Junior School. This will form a new all-through CE primary school by enlarging and extending the age range of the junior school. Currently there is provision in Maryport for Community and Roman Catholic education at infant and junior phases but there is only Church of England junior provision. The formation of the new primary school will provide both infant and junior Church of England provision in Maryport.

This proposal for the closure of Maryport Infant School will run simultaneously with linked proposals from Cumbria County Council to enlarge the premises of Maryport CE Junior School, and from the Governing Body of that school (of the same address) to extend its age range to 2 to 11 year olds in order to create a new all-through primary school on the existing schools' shared site.

### Pupil numbers and admissions

4. Information on the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the schools.

Maryport Infant School is a 2 to 7 year old co-educational infant school. In the January 2018 pupil census there were 74 4 to 7 year olds, with an additional 39 children in the nursery.

There were 130 children in Maryport CE Junior School which is a co-educational Voluntary-Controlled Church of England school.

### **Displaced Pupils**

5. Details of the schools at which displaced pupils will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) the alternative provision for children recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special needs; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

a), b) and c) – No pupils will be displaced as both Maryport Infant School and Maryport CE Junior currently share the same site. The extended Maryport CE Junior School will operate across both schools' existing buildings after implementation of the proposals.

### **Impact on the Community**

6. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact, including details of the extended services the school offered and what is proposed for these services once the schools have closed.

The community will have increased educational options with the availability of a Church of England infant stage in addition to the existing junior provision. Children currently in Maryport Infant School will no longer have to apply for a Year 3 place on transfer between the infant and junior stages. Other than this the community will see little change in the way the schools currently operate.

### **Balance of denominational provision**

7. Where the school has a designated religious character, a statement about the impact on parental choice in the area.

The amalgamation will provide the alternative of a Church of England infant education in Maryport where currently none exists.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

8. Where a proposal relates to a rural primary school a statement (as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006) that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) has considered:

- a) the likely effect of closure 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 closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- d) any alternatives to the closure of the school.

a), b) and c) are not applicable as the all-through primary school will

operate from the existing schools' site. In considering section 15(4) of the Act, alternatives to closure were discussed, but the governing bodies of both existing schools were in favour of pursuing amalgamation via the closure of Maryport Infant School.

### **Maintained nursery schools**

9. Where a proposal relates to the closure of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be closed and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable.

### **Provision for 16-19 year olds**

10. Where the school proposed for closure 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.

### **Special educational needs (SEN) provision**

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

Not applicable.

### **Travel**

12. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools.

Not applicable.

### **Consultation**

13. Decision-makers will need to be assured that consultation has taken place, and that the statutory process has been adhered to. Therefore, proposals should include the results of that consultation.

A formal consultation process was held between 30 April and 8 June 2018 with regards to the proposed amalgamation of Maryport Infant School and Maryport CE Junior School which included the proposal to close Maryport Infant School.

Those consulted included the local community, school staff, the school governing bodies, surrounding primary and secondary schools, the Roman Catholic and Church of England diocese, the local MP, local Trade Unions, district and parish councils and Allerdale Local Committee.

A staff and governors' meeting and a public meeting were held on 17 May 2018.

As well as the distribution of hard copy and electronic versions of the consultation information, all documentation was available on Cumbria County Council's website, the schools' websites, in local libraries and copies were sent to the local press.

There were 37 responses to the consultation questionnaire. 78% of respondents agreed that 'A new all-through primary school should be established by extending the age range of Maryport CE Junior School and discontinuing the use of the Maryport Infant School DfE code'.