

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.

The Governing Body of St Mary's Church of England Nursery & Infant School, Prince's Road, Windermere, LA23 2DD intends to discontinue, St Mary's Church of England Nursery & Infant School, Prince's Road, Windermere, LA23 2DD.

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.

St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant School will close on 31st August 2013 and the new St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School will open on 1st September 2013.

Consultation

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

The Diocese and the governing bodies of the schools of St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant School and Windermere Church of England Junior School developed linked proposals (see 17 below) and undertook appropriate consultations during September, October and November 2012. The consultations complied with all the applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals was 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.

Consultation Document is available on both schools and Carlisle Diocesan web sites

<http://st-marys-school.org.uk>

www.windermere.cumbria.sch.uk

http://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/uploads/1348/Amalgamation_Consultation_Windermere-pdf.html

Amalgamation questionnaire responses

Questionnaires were

- sent by hand to all parents via the children
- given to staff and governors by hand
- delivered by hand to local churches, Tourist Information Centres, doctors surgeries and the library (Windermere)
- emailed to all local heads
- emailed to Windermere Town Council clerk
- posted to Department for Education
- posted to Diocese of Lancaster
- posted to South Lakeland District Council
- posted to the local MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, Tim Farron
- emailed to chairs of Primary Heads Association and Cumbria Association of Secondary Heads
- posted (or a few emailed) to Cumbria County Council members with relevant posts in Children's Services and other areas
- posted to all trades union leaders

In addition to those sent to parents, staff and governors, 40 questionnaires were posted, approximately 15 hand-delivered and approximately 12 emailed.

Total number of responses was 83 (66 parents/carers, 7 staff, 3 staff and parent, 3 staff and governor and 4 others)

Question 1 BECOMING ONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

81 agreed, 1 didn't know, 1 disagreed (respondent felt the transition from juniors to infants is a beneficial experience in helping the children when they move to senior school.)

Question 2 CLOSING BOTH SCHOOLS TO FORM A NEW SCHOOL

61 agreed, 14 didn't know, 7 disagreed, 1 unmarked

Of those who disagreed 5 were parents of Junior School children and the other 2 had children at both schools. 2 appeared to have a misunderstanding of what closure meant (disruption to children / lack of space in other schools), 1 wished to keep status quo and 4 made no comment.

36 respondents made comments (Some simply in support of the amalgamation)

Some of the substantive comments made (with number making them in brackets)

- Easier transition from infant to junior (9)
- Staff terms and conditions should remain unchanged (1)
- Upper and Lower school differentiation requested (1)
- Need for a central office, central access and 1 staff room (2)
- Would uniforms change? Could existing uniform be used? (2)
- Need for staff to be fully on board (1)
- Would infants get hot school dinners? (2)
- Would both Churches still play a part? (1)
- Need for holiday and school events to be co-ordinated (4)
- Need for a smooth transition from 2 schools to 1 (1)
- Need to ensure effective joining rather than co-existing (1)
- Good for continuity and progression (3)
- A good time for change(1)
- It would give more financial stability (1)
- Makes good economical sense (2)
- Rites of passage need to be kept (1)

Consultation with children

The proposals have been discussed with pupils, in class, in assembly time and at the school council; their responses have been very positive.

Windermere C of E Junior School and St Mary's C of E Nursery & Infant School
Amalgamation Consultation Meeting 17th October 2012.

Rev James Richards opening the meeting at 7pm introducing Judith Gore (Head Teacher, St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant School and Executive Head Teacher, Windermere Church of England School), Mr Michael Mill (Diocesan Director of Education) and Governors from both schools, and welcomed staff, parents and Dr David Selby (from the Lakes School).

Judith Gore outlined the proposals as outlined in the School Amalgamation Consultation document.

Michael Mill outlined the reasons for amalgamation including funding, inspections, staff recruitment and pupil numbers. He noted that the Junior and Infant schools are very good schools, and are in a position of strength to create a new school with secure leadership. He also stated that the Diocese was delighted to support both schools in the coming months.

Jane Hibbitt (Vice Chair of Governors, St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant School) reported on the 23 replies from the Infants school, all of these replies agreed with amalgamation.

Fiona Moore (Chair of Governors, Windermere Church of England Junior School) reported on the 44 replies from the Junior school, 43 of these being in agreement.

Rev Richards opened the floor to questions.

1. What arrangements would there be for children to use playgrounds? Both playgrounds to be used the same or would they be mixed.
2. Concern was raised over the age difference and influence on younger children if playtimes were shared.
3. What is the time scale for staff to know about their job security. Judith Gore was able to answer that with the present pupil numbers that all staff would be required in the new school.
4. Unison has contacted its members regarding the amalgamation. Judith Gore reported that this was part of the legal process, as the Governors had informed all unions.
5. Would there be a single point of entry and reception? A question was raised about the size of the hall and that it would not fit all the pupils in. Judith Gore is consulting with Sue Emery (of the Carlisle Diocese) regarding the safety and practicality of the new school regarding a single point entry, staff room large enough for all staff, and a covered secured walkway between both sites. Judith Gore also noted that it was an advantage to have two halls.
6. Are there any other schools that we could ask for support and advice regarding the amalgamation process. Michael Mill stated that there were. Judith Gore noted that she has been in contact with the heads of two schools and they have both been very positive regarding the amalgamation.
7. What if pupil numbers are more than the PAN of 60? Judith Gore advised there was an appeals process set out in the admission code of practice that applies to all schools.
8. Is there any room for slippage for the projected date of 1st September 2013. Michael Mill reported that he was confident that this would not happen as it is the Local Authority's timescale that we are working to.
9. What is the name of the new school going to be? (And who would decide on a name). As a community we have close links with both churches.
10. What will the size of the governing body be? Judith Gore reported that it is likely to be the same size as is required now. It would be the Diocese who would decide terms of governance. Advice will be taken from Cumbria Governor Services.

Rev Richards thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8pm

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objective of the proposal is to close St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant School along with Windermere Church of England Junior School and open a new 5-11 Voluntary Aided Primary School for 420 pupils plus a nursery of 52 full time equivalent 3 and 4 year olds. The school will open on the same site and in the same buildings as the 2 predecessor schools, St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant and Windermere Church of England 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.

The Governing Bodies are committed to a provision that best meets the needs of children in the schools and in the area, now and for the future. Creating a single primary school from the separate infant and junior schools will benefit children by enhancing provision in the area. St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant School and Windermere Church of England Junior School both provide a good quality education. However a full range primary school has the following advantages:

- A seamless transition from Key Stage 1 (Infants) to Key Stage 2 (Juniors)
- Greater opportunities for curriculum continuity and development
- Greater opportunities for professional development of staff
- Greater flexibility with a combined budget to deploy staff and curriculum resources effectively
- Greater opportunities for staff recruitment

The range of teaching and leadership opportunities in the new primary school are likely to attract aspiring head teachers in the future

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.

n/a

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.

There will be no displaced pupils as all pupils will be guaranteed a place in the new Primary school that will occupy the same site and buildings. The proposed size of the new school is 420 5-11 year olds and 52 full time equivalent 3 and 4 year olds.

The position for St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant School and Windermere Church of England Junior School is that there are vacancies in each year group. We foresee fluctuating numbers over the next few years as different sized year groups pass through the school. The County's projected pupil numbers for the area are, however, forecast to rise. The General Practitioner Register indicates that the number of pre-school children living in the area is steadily increasing from 68 reception age children in September 2010 to 78 children who are expected to attain reception age in September

2015. The proposed new school will have a reduced number of Key Stage 2 places (from 66 to 60). This will leave more than sufficient school places in the area to accommodate the expected levels of demand. As a larger school the proposed amalgamated school will be in a stronger position to cope with the expected fluctuations. There are two other primary schools serving the community of Windermere.

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.

The school will be replaced by a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School and so there will be no impact on the balance of denominational provision.

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.

The proposed school will be a single full range (3-11) Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School from September 2013. The published admission number (PAN) of the school on entry to reception class will be 60. The new school nursery will cater for 52 full time equivalent 3 and 4 year olds. The school will cater for boys and girls. The school is not a boarding school.

There is no provision currently recognised as reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

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.

All pupils will be offered places at the new Voluntary Aided Primary School that will occupy the same site and buildings as St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant School and Windermere Church of England Junior School. No interim arrangements will be required. There is currently no provision currently recognised as reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

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.

n/a

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 will be no impact on the community as a result of these proposals.

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

The new school will continue to provide the extended services currently provided by St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Infant School and Windermere Church of England Junior School.

Travel

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

There will be no impact on the current travel arrangements to the new school.

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

n/a

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.

These proposals are linked to proposals by the governing body of Windermere Church of England Junior School to discontinue that school and to proposals by the Diocese of Carlisle to open a new Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary school on the same site and in the same buildings. Notices for all 3 proposals have been published at the same time.

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 ghe 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)

This school is not designated a rural primary school.

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.

n/a

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.

n/a
