

Proposed change to West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School

April 2024

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AND INCLUSION



Proposal

- To amalgamate West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School on 1 January 2025 to create an all-through primary school
- To lower the primary school's age range to 2-11, to take on the management of West Rise Nursery



Background to the proposal

- Two separate schools that share the same site
- Each school has its own governing board and, until recently, separate headteachers
- Historically, the schools have worked independently of each other
- Ofsted inspection in July 2023 graded the junior school as requires improvement



Building on the partnership

- Since January 2024, the schools have been working in partnership
- One of the infant co-headteachers has become the interim headteacher across both schools as part of the partnership, strengthening joint working
- Similar approaches now being used across the schools which benefit pupils e.g. teaching of phonics and early reading
- The local authority is keen to see the partnership develop through a formal amalgamation of the schools
- The two governing boards agreed that we should consult on the proposal

Educational benefits of amalgamation

- Shared vision and ethos across the school
- Greater ability to track progress between key stages
- More coherent delivery of the National Curriculum from Early Years through to the end of Key Stage 2
- Easier sharing of good practice across the whole school
- Greater opportunities for staff recruitment and development
- Flexibility in organising classes, deploying staff, and using curriculum resources even more effectively

Key points for families

- Builds on the strengths of both schools
- Continuity of experience for children under a single headteacher and staff
- Consistent engagement with families across the school
- Families of children in Year 2 wouldn't have to apply for place in junior school
- No change to the school uniform
- No change to the school day



Statutory process

Stages	Timeframe
1: Consultation	15 April to 24 May 2024
2: Publication	July 2024
3: Representation	July to August 2024 (4 weeks)
4: Decision	October 2024
5: Implementation (if approved)	October to December 2024 Amalgamation on 1 January 2025

Questions

Local Authority officers:

- Elizabeth Funge, Assistant Director Education
- Nicola Blake, Strategic Lead: Intervention & Early Years
- Gary Langford, Senior Manager: School Organisation & Admissions

[Consultation on a proposal to make a significant change to West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School - East Sussex - Citizen Space](#)

All views put forward during the consultation period will be considered by the local authority before a decision is taken on whether to proceed with the proposals