

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

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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
- Continuity of experience for children under a single headteacher and staff
- 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
- Consistent engagement with families across the school
- Families of children in Year 2 wouldn't have to apply for place in junior school

Impact on staff

- Staff would continue in their roles in the new all-through primary school
- No change of employer and no change to contracts of employment
- Proposed change would not constitute a break in service or affect staff terms and conditions
- Professional development opportunities for staff within an all-through primary school environment
- Support for staff from the local authority through the transition



Impact on budget

- Currently each school receives a lump sum in its budget each year in addition to its 'per pupil' funding
- The new primary school would receive one lump sum. Funding protection would be applied in the first two financial years to help the school achieve economies of scale of being one larger school:
 - Following amalgamation, the new school would keep the two lump sums for the remainder of the 2024/25 financial year
 - In the 2025/26 financial year the school would receive 85% of the two lump sums
 - In the 2026/27 financial year the school would receive one lump sum

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
- Janet Bowen, Lead HR Consultant: Schools
- Sharon Marks, HR Consultant

[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