

**Proposed
Amalgamation of
Sunnymede Infant
and
Sunnymede Junior
Schools**



Parent Consultation Meeting

5th October 2022

The Proposal 'in a nutshell'



The governing bodies of Sunnymede Infant School and Sunnymede Junior School are consulting on a proposal to:

build on the strengths and good progress in place at the schools by the **creation of a single primary school**, under the unified leadership of one Headteacher (Mrs Branch) and one governing body.

The governing bodies, with the support of Essex County Council, are therefore **proposing that the two schools amalgamate to form a primary school for children aged 4 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2023.**



Advantages

- greater consistency of approach to teaching and learning from ages 4 to 11;
- consistency of approach to teaching and learning policies, curriculum planning, behaviour, management, equal opportunities and special educational needs;
- monitoring pupil progress from 4 to 11 years of age would enable staff to build up a comprehensive profile of individual children and build consistently on their achievements;
- avoiding transfer at the end of Year 2 and any worries children may have about moving to a different school – continuity of experiences for children and enhanced progression in learning;
- Strengthened relationships over time from Reception to Year six;
- Streamlined communication – saving time for parents ;
- children come together more easily for social and creative activities;
- planning and delivery of a continuous and coherent curriculum – Ofsted inspection reports show that planning for progression and continuity for Key Stage 2 is better in primary schools than junior schools;
- greater sharing of curriculum and other resources, including staff expertise.

Timeline

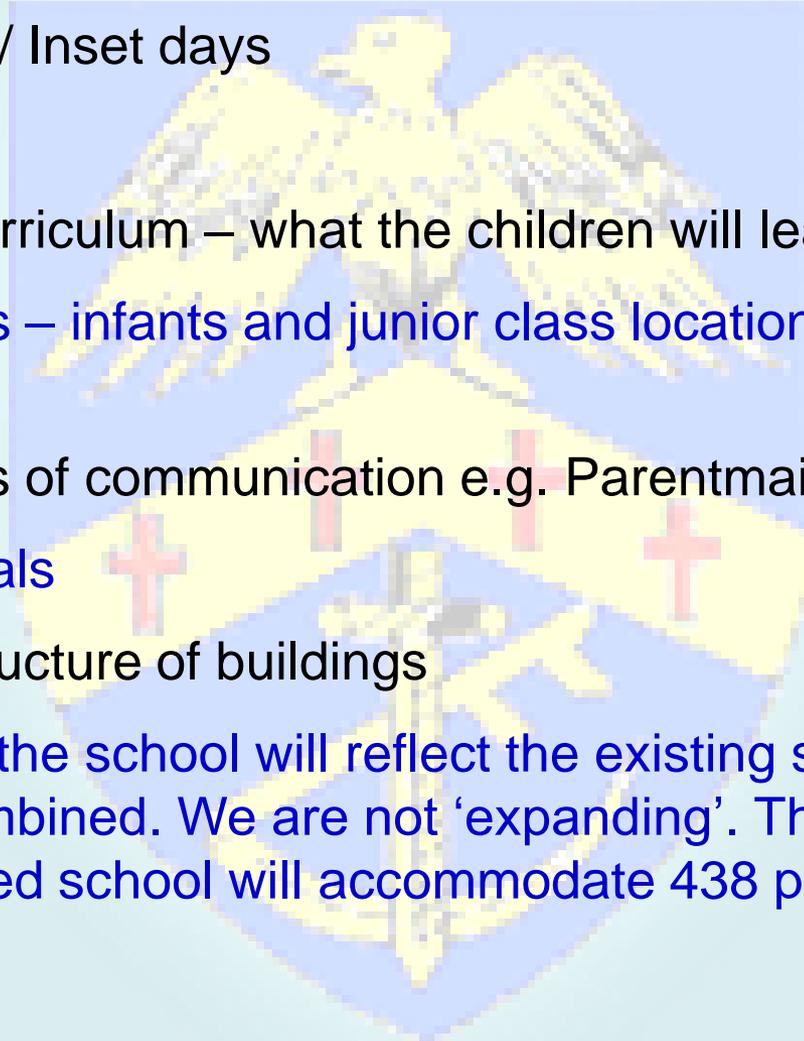


15 September 2022	Consultation commenced – consultation document can be viewed on the schools’ websites.
5th October 2022	Meetings for parents of both schools
19th October 2022	Meeting for staff to be held
27th October 2022	5pm-End of consultation period
November 2022	Publication of statutory notice
December 2022	End of period for representations
February 2023	Final decision on proposal
February to August 2023	Amalgamation steering group works to review and agree policies and procedures in preparation for amalgamation – communicate with parents
31st August 2023	Sunnymede Infant School closes*
1st September 2023	Age range of Sunnymede Junior School is extended to become a primary school*

Things that Won't Change



- Term dates / Inset days
- Staff
- National Curriculum – what the children will learn
- Class bases – infants and junior class locations will remain as they are
- Core Means of communication e.g. Parentmail
- Kitchen meals
- Physical structure of buildings
- The size of the school will reflect the existing size of both schools combined. We are not 'expanding'. The amalgamated school will accommodate 438 pupils.



Adjustments - examples



- Update School vision, values, ethos, rules
- New school name / signage
- New website
- New telephone numbers
- Main physical point of contact for parents
- 'Tweaks' to uniform policy
- Organisation of staff across central offices
- Introducing some new communication systems for the current infant school e.g.
 - use of Studybugs for online registration and reporting absences
- Admissions Policy
- Timings of the school day and lunch breaks (new DfE guidance for implementation in September 2023)

Post - Amalgamation



- Evaluating and refining new routines as needed
- Evaluating and streamlining policies to ensure they reflect a primary school
- Reviewing and refining the curriculum as one staff and governing body

Make your voice heard...



Your Comments

You are invited to respond to this consultation using the following electronic survey form:

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation/sunnymede-amalgamation>

OR

write to or email us with your comments to the address given below by 5pm on Thursday 27th October 2022. All comments received through these mechanisms or made directly to the governors will be collected to be included in the analysis of feedback received.

If you have any questions about the consultation process or the proposal you can email

Rhona Long, School Organisation Officer, at school.organisation@essex.gov.uk, or

alternatively contact the chairs of governors at the infant and junior schools, via the schools.



**Thank you
for
coming**