

Newport City Council and the Governing Body of Malpas Church in Wales Junior School

Joint Consultation Report

**Joint proposal to amalgamate Malpas Church in Wales Infant School and Malpas
Church in Wales Junior School from September 2017**

Formal Consultation period:
29th November 2016 to 15th January 2017

Purpose

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, July 2013.

This consultation report includes the following sections:

- The Proposal
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People
- Consultation Responses
- Estyn
- Learner Voice
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Copy of the Pupil Questionnaire (at Appendix A)

The Proposal

This is a joint proposal put forward by the Governing Body of Malpas Church in Wales Junior School together with Newport City Council.

The Governing Body of Malpas Church in Wales Junior School proposes to extend the age-range of Malpas Church in Wales Junior School from 7-11 to 4-11. As a consequence, the Council is proposing that Malpas Church in Wales Infant School is discontinued on 31st August 2017.

This will enable the establishment of a single all-through Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales Primary School to accommodate children aged between 4 and 11 years from September 2017.

Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to the following stakeholders, with a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website sent by e-mail, and hard copies being made available through the Council and the two schools named in the joint proposal:

- Teachers, staff and the governing body of Malpas Church in Wales Infant School and Malpas Church in Wales Junior School;
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Malpas Church in Wales Infant School and Malpas Church in Wales Junior School;
- Pupils at Malpas Church in Wales Infant School and Malpas Church in Wales Junior School;
- The Director of Education, Monmouth Diocesan Trust;
- The Director of Education, Roman Catholic Archdiocese;
- The Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all other schools within the Newport High School cluster, ie., Newport High School, Crindau Primary School, Kimberley Nursery School, Malpas Court Primary School, Malpas Park Primary School, Millbrook Primary School and Monnow Primary School;
- All Newport City Council elected members;
- The Welsh Ministers;
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by the schools subject to the proposals;
- Estyn;
- The South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- The regional Transport Consortium;
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and staff at Malpas Church in Wales Infant School and Malpas Church in Wales Junior School;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- The local Communities First partnership (or equivalent).

Two consultation events were arranged as outlined overleaf. These were publicised via a letter to stakeholders, on the Council website and through the consultation document.

Venue	Date and Time	Event type
Committee Room 4, Civic Centre, Newport, NP20 4UR	Monday 5 th December 2016 3.30pm – 5.00pm	Drop-in event
Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Newport, NP20 4UR	Thursday 8 th December 2016 9.00am – 10.30am	Drop-in event

Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People

An Everyday Summary Version of the main consultation document was published and shared with stakeholders. This document was also targeted at children and young people.

An officer from the Council also met with a group of children from across the two schools to discuss the joint proposal and gain the views of the pupils. A summary of the comments received is outlined in the Learner Voice section.

In addition a children's questionnaire was created and shared with these schools for distribution amongst pupils. A copy of the questionnaire is shown at Appendix A.

Consultation Responses

8 consultation responses were received from stakeholders, including one from the Director of Education of the Monmouth Diocesan Trust. Seven of the respondents were in support of the proposal (87.5%). The eighth response did not answer either “yes” or “no” to this question.

The questions raised and comments received during the consultation period were responded to via *Frequently Asked Questions* published on the Council website. These latest *Frequently Asked Questions* are included within this report.

Estyn

The formal response from Estyn concluded that “the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area”.

The following comments were also made within the response:

- The proposers have given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to effective use of resources, continuity and progression in pupils’ learning and improved parental engagement;
- The proposers note appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include easier transition arrangements from the Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2, efficient and effective use of resources, the continuity and progression in pupils’ learning and improved parental and community engagement;
- The proposers have identified suitably the disadvantages to the current proposal, noted the risks associated with the amalgamation and considered counter measures appropriately;

- The proposers have considered appropriately the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and school categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes for both schools;
- The proposal notes that amalgamation of the two schools should help support pupil progress by improving continuity and progression both in terms of curriculum and pastoral experiences. It is likely that the proposal should result in pupil outcomes that are at least as good as those at present; provision that is at least as good as current provision; and stable leadership.

However, whilst an equality impact assessment has been undertaken which considers the impact of the proposal on a very few vulnerable groups, it does not refer to the effect of the amalgamation on other groups including those with a disability.

The Council's response is that an updated Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment is prepared at each separate stage within the reorganisation proposal, and it is routine for those areas where there is no measure to impact or comment upon are left blank.

Learner Voice

An officer from the Council met with a group of 23 pupils from across the two schools during the consultation period. The following questions were raised by the pupils:

Question	Response
<i>Will there be one or two Deputy Headteachers at the new primary school?</i>	This will be decided by the Governing Body and the Headteacher once the proposal is approved.
<i>How many classes will there be at the new primary school?</i>	There will be no change to the current number of classes. Currently there are 6 classes in the Infant School and 8 classes in the Junior School. If this proposal is approved, the new primary school will open with 14 classes.
<i>How many children will be able to attend the new school?</i>	Currently the Infant and Junior schools are able to accommodate a combined total of 382 pupils. The new primary school will have capacity for a total of 378 pupils. The revised published admission number of 54 will be applied for all new admission applications from September 2017. Children currently attending either school will not be affected.
<i>Will the canteen be moved?</i>	The proposal does not include any building works on the current school site.

<i>Will Infant children go to Junior Assemblies and will Junior children go to Infant Assemblies?</i>	This will be a decision for the Headteacher but it is possible that there will be some shared School Assemblies, especially to support transition for children moving from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2.
<i>Will Infant and Junior children have the same Sports Day?</i>	This will be decided by the Headteacher.
<i>Will there be any building work before the new primary school is opened?</i>	The proposal does not include any building works on the current school site.
<i>What will happen to the outdoor play areas and the field?</i>	The use of the outdoor play areas will be decided by the Headteacher, although she will take the views of pupils into consideration in doing this.
<i>If the canteen was knocked down, would pupils have to stay off school?</i>	The proposal does not include any building works on the current school site. However if building works were carried out in the future, the site would be made secure to enable all pupils to attend school safely.
<i>Will the Infant children be placed in Houses for Sports Competitions etc?</i>	This will be decided by the Headteacher, although she will want to take the views of the pupils into consideration in doing this.
<i>Will the Infant children be allocated Computer Buddies?</i>	This will be decided by the Headteacher, although she will want to take the views of the pupils into consideration in doing this.
<i>Will Year 4 children be able to play with Year 5 and Year 6 children in the yard?</i>	This will be decided by the Headteacher, and although she will want to take the views of the pupils into consideration in doing this, any changes would have to be made with the safety of all children in mind.
<i>Where will the Flu Jab take place?</i>	This will be decided by the Headteacher to ensure that as few children as possible are disrupted.
<i>Will the Infant and Junior children go to Church together?</i>	The Church isn't big enough to accommodate all children together regularly but the Headteacher will make efforts to achieve this where possible.
<i>Will the whole school share the shed?</i>	This will be decided by the Headteacher.
<i>Will the primary school have a new logo?</i>	This will be decided by the Governing Body and the Headteacher once the proposal is approved but it is likely that they will want to involve the pupils in this.

<i>Will the Infant Children be able to take part in the annual Fun Day?</i>	Yes it is intended that all children will be able to take part.
<i>Will the Infant and Junior children go to the same disco?</i>	No it is likely that there will still be separate discos on the same day.
<i>Will the new school offer After School Clubs?</i>	This will be decided by the Headteacher, although she will want to take the views of the pupils into consideration in doing this.

The Pupil Questionnaire (Appendix A) was also discussed with the 23 children who took part in this session. Copies of the questionnaire were also shared with the two schools. The following responses were received:

- 91% of respondents felt that having one school instead of two was a good idea;
- Reasons for this included being able to see your brothers, sisters and friends during the school day, making new friends and supporting an extension of the buddy system to allow older children to be good role models for the younger children;
- However against this they noted that the outdoor areas would need to be a safe environment to ensure that the younger children were not hurt or knocked over by the older pupils during play times;
- 78% of the respondents thought that reducing the maximum pupil number by 4 was a bad idea as it could cause problems if children had to go to other schools, and also that some classes would contain more children than other classes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Following the issue of the consultation document, a set of Frequently Asked Questions has been drafted and published on the Council website. The latest version is as follows:

The consultation document makes reference to the Council, the Monmouth Diocesan Trust and the two Governing Bodies maintaining a joint aspiration to establish a nursery class at the amalgamated primary school. When is this likely to take place?

There is no proposal to establish a nursery class.

You make reference to the new primary school having access to £35,000 to support the amalgamation. Could this be used to support building work?

No, the £35,000 is a maximum figure which will be used to meet any revenue costs specifically arising from the amalgamation. It cannot be used to support capital projects.

Is there space on the current MCiW site for an extension to provide a nursery class?

The site is extensive but there is no proposal to establish a nursery.

Isn't the Council's policy for 3-11 education to be provided on all school sites?

Yes, wherever possible as and when circumstances and opportunities arise.

If the amalgamated school opened a nursery class, what would be the impact on Kimberley Nursery School?

There is no proposal to establish a nursery class at this school.

Can voluntary schools be included in “21st Century Schools” funding bids?

Yes.

What is being included in the Council’s Band B bid?

This has not yet been determined.

I am unsure as to whether or not I am in support of the proposal. How should I respond?

The consultation response pro-forma offers the opportunity to answer either “yes” or “no” as to whether you are in support of the proposal. There is additional space for any comments to be made and concerns to be highlighted.

How will the management team of the merged school be structured?

The staffing structure for the new primary school will be agreed by the governing body in consultation with the Headteacher. In doing so, good practice across both of the current sites will be explored to ensure that the primary school is established and operates in the most efficient and effective manner possible. The Local Authority has a strong and successful history of supporting amalgamated schools. Indeed Malpas Church in Wales Infant School and Malpas Church in Wales Junior School are currently one of only three remaining paired Infant and Junior Schools across the City.

How will the governing body of the junior school be “extended”?

Some individuals currently sit on the governing bodies of both schools and therefore there is already some shared expertise, experience and knowledge. The governing body of the new primary school will also increase in size when compared with the current separate governing bodies, thus allowing new individuals to join. These may or may not include people who currently sit on the infant governing body only.

What plans have been put in place to ensure that the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning are not impacted by the reduction in funding that the merged school will receive?

The reduction in lump sum funding will be accounted for in part through economies of scale which arise when one school is established in place of two, for example in relation to the post of Headteacher

How will a nursery class be created and has the impact on Kimberley Nursery been considered?

This is not a proposal to establish a nursery class at the school.

Is the school fit for purpose in operating as one through school? The latest school condition survey was undertaken in 2010. Will this be reviewed with a reconsideration of capital works for the primary school site?

The operational management of the school is the responsibility of the governing body of the new primary school. Members are aware that there is no capital financing to support this amalgamation. Newport Norse is the property services delivery partner for Newport City Council and as such carries out condition reviews on all Council assets as and when required.

How will staff be supported through this period of instability?

If this proposal receives final approval, the governing body and Headteacher will agree a staffing structure for the new school. The HR Business Partner allocated to the school will work with all affected staff, and will ensure that any potential staffing reductions are dealt with in accordance with the Council's Job Security Policy. This process will be finalised in as timely a manner as possible to ease any instability that arises.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2013) this report is published electronically on Newport City Council's website at www.newport.gov.uk. To request a hard (paper) copy of this document please contact Newport City Council's Education Service Development Manager on 01633 656656 or email school.reorg@newport.gov.uk



Amalgamation of Malpas Church in Wales Infant School and Malpas Church in Wales Junior School

Together with the governing body of the junior school, the Council wants to join Malpas Church in Wales Infant School and Malpas Church in Wales Junior School together to make a new primary school. We want to know what you think about this plan.

1. Do you think having one school instead of two is a good idea?



No



Don't know



Yes

2. What do you think will be good about having one school instead of two?

3. Can you think of any reasons why we shouldn't do this?

4. The new school will be able to take slightly less children in total than at present (378 instead of 382). Do you think this is a good or bad idea?



Bad idea



Don't know



Good idea

5. Why do you think this?

6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about our plan?

Thank you for taking the time to tell us what you think!