

Newport City Council

Consultation report

Proposal to amalgamate Milton Infant School and Milton Junior School into an all-through 3-11 primary school with effect from April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Formal Consultation period:

5th September 2016 to 16th October 2016

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

To amalgamate Milton Infant School and Milton Junior School into an all-through 3-11 primary school with effect from April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

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, or hard copies being made available through the schools:

- Teachers, staff and the governing body of Milton Infant School and Milton Junior School;
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Milton Infant School and Milton Junior School;
- Pupils at Milton Infant School and Milton Junior School;
- The Church in Wales, Diocese of Monmouth;
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese;
- The Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all local schools and those within the cluster, ie., Llanwern High School, Alway Primary School, Eveswell Primary School, Langstone Primary School, Llanmartin Primary School, Ringland Primary School, St Gabriel's RC 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 Milton Infant School and Milton Junior School;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- The local Communities First partnership (or equivalent).

The following consultation events were arranged. These were publicised via a letter to stakeholders, on the Council website and through the consultation document.

Venue	Date and Time	Event type
Milton Junior School, Hendre Farm Drive, NP19 9HB	Monday 26 th September 2016 3.00pm – 5.00pm	Drop-in event
Milton Infants School, Hendre Farm Drive, NP19 9HB	Wednesday 28 th September 2016 9.00am – 11.00am	Drop-in event

It was unfortunate that no stakeholders chose to attend either of these drop-in events.

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.

Officers from the Council also met with a group of children from Milton Junior School to discuss the 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 both schools for distribution amongst pupils. Unfortunately however no completed questionnaires were returned to the Council. For information, a copy of the questionnaire is shown at Appendix A.

Consultation Responses

18 consultation responses were received from parents of pupils across the two schools. Each of these respondents, therefore 100% of those stakeholders who shared their views, supported the proposal.

Estyn

The formal response from Estyn includes the following summary:

“The proposer has clearly defined the benefits of changing the age range of Milton Infants school from 3-7 to 3-11 and to close Milton junior school. It is Estyn’s view that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of educational provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.”

Learner Voice

Officers from the Council met with nine pupils from across Milton Junior School on Thursday 6th October 2016. All of these pupils thought that the proposal was a good idea. Points made in support on the proposal included:

- Pupils across the two schools would be able to help each other;
- Junior children could make sure that smaller children were not left alone at playtime;
- Being one school will make things easier for teachers, children and parents as there will be one set of events instead of two and only one drop-off and pick-up;
- There would be more space outside to play;
- The pupils would be able to enjoy the play equipment across the both schools;
- Children would find the move from Year Two to Year Three easier.

Against this however they thought that the older pupils could cause some disruption for the younger children and that this could lead to an increase in bad behaviour habits across the school.

The pupils were also asked for their views on the associated proposal to increase the published admission number of the school. Again all pupils thought that this was a good idea particularly because it would mean that there would be more room to accommodate children living in the area. In summary therefore, 100% of the pupils present at the meeting thought that the whole proposal was a good idea.

Frequently Asked Questions

Following the issue of the consultation document, a set of Frequently Asked Questions was drafted as follows:

My child is currently in Year 2 at the Infant School. Should I submit an application for him / her to be admitted to the Junior School in September 2017 or is this no longer required?

This proposal is currently at the consultation stage and therefore the Council is unable to predict the outcome. As a result, parents of children currently in Year Two should still submit an application for admission to Year Three at the Junior School from September 2017. If the proposal is subsequently approved, the Council will contact parents to advise them that their applications are no longer required and so will be withdrawn. The application window will be open from 7th November 2016 to 13th January 2017.

What will happen to the staff at both schools if this proposal is approved?

If the proposal is approved, the current Infant Headteacher will become the Headteacher of the Primary School. Alongside this, the governing body of the Infant School will become responsible for the new Primary School, and will be required to approve a staffing structure. Whilst the closure of the Junior School will result in all junior staff being declared at risk of redundancy, it is anticipated that the governing body will agree to ring-fence recruitment for the primary school to those staff currently employed at the junior school.

Will there be any building works on the site to support an amalgamated primary school?

Unfortunately there is no capital funding associated with this proposal.

What will be the uniform at the new school and what will the school logo look like?

The Headteacher and governing body will be responsible for confirming a whole-school uniform policy and any changes to the current logos. It is likely that pupils will be asked for their opinions on these matters.

What will be the name of the new school?

The name of the new school will be agreed by the Headteacher and governing body. If any changes are proposed, it is likely that pupils will be asked for their opinions at the appropriate time.

Where will the Headteacher of the new school be based?

The Headteacher and governing body will be responsible for confirming the operational arrangements for the new primary school.

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 Milton Infant School and Milton Junior School

We want to join Milton Infant School and Milton Junior School together to make a new primary school and 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 more children. 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!