

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

Contact details

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

The name of the Local Authority publishing the proposals is Halton Borough Council, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF.

The school to be discontinued is Fairfield Infant School, Peel House Lane, Widnes. WA8 6TH

Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

It is planned that Fairfield Infant School will discontinue on 31st December 2013. This proposal is linked to Fairfield Junior School which will expand from its current age range of 7 to 11 to an age range of 4 through to 11 to become an 'all-through' primary school.

Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

The pre-statutory consultation commenced on 17th April 2013 and was for 6 weeks until 29th May 2013.

The outcome of the consultation was considered by the Executive Board of the Council on the 27th June 2013, and permission was given to proceed to a statutory consultation.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

- a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a) The following people were consulted:

Fairfield Infant and Junior School staff, Governors, parents and carers, pupils, Trade Unions, Neighbouring Authorities, Diocesan Authorities, the Children's Trust and the general public.

b) Minutes are available for the following meetings:

Staff meeting 17th April 2013 15.15

Junior School Governor Meeting 17th April 2013 16.30

Infant School Governor Meeting 17th April 2013 18.00

Public meeting 24th April 2013 18.00

c) Feedback forms were provided for consultee's to comment and a summary of the responses were outlined in the Executive Board paper dated 27th June 2013.

d) All consultation documents were provided either by e-mail, in paper format and also on the Halton Borough Council website. The information was also placed on public notices in key information points such as Children Centres, Direct Links, Libraries and Community Centres.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The main objective is to amalgamate Fairfield Infant School and Fairfield Junior School to create an 'all through' Primary School with one Headteacher and one Governing Body

Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Creating a primary school by amalgamating the Infant and Junior schools will benefit children by enhancing the provision in the area. A primary school will have the following advantages:

- it will allow a seamless transition from Key Stage 1 (Infants) to Key Stage 2 (Juniors);
- it will provide greater opportunities for curriculum continuity and development;
- there will be greater opportunities for staff development;
- it will allow greater flexibility with a combined budget to deploy staff and curriculum resources effectively; and
- it will provide greater opportunities for staff recruitment.

Provision for 16-19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

N/A

Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

All Infant pupils will transfer across to Fairfield Junior School which will expand to become Fairfield Primary School, operating on a split site. No pupils will be displaced.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

N/A the school does not have a religious character

Current School Information

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

There were 234 pupils when the May 2013 School Census was conducted, of these 37 were SEN Pupils (School Action, School Action Plus or Statemented).

The school is a mixed sex school.

The age range is 4 years to 6 years.

It is not a boarding school, all pupils are day pupils

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

All Infant pupils will transfer across to Fairfield Junior School which will expand to become Fairfield Primary School, operating on a split site.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

N/A as the schools will continue on a split site.

Impact on the Community

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

To minimise the impact on the pupils, staff and community both schools have agreed for a joint committee to be set up to ensure both Governing Bodies are fully involved in the amalgamation. Governors of both schools will therefore be represented on the governing body of the amalgamation if this is approved.

Split site funding will be applied for through School Forum.
There is a proposal to invest in the new school's facilities if approval is given to dispose of the Peelhouse Lane Playing Fields.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Provision will continue to be available.

Travel

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

N/A as infant pupils will continue to attend the same site.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

N/A as pupils will continue to attend the same site.

Related Proposals

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

This proposal forms part of a link proposal.

Part 1 addresses the change of age range for Fairfield Junior School from its current age range of 7 to 11 to an age range of 4 through to 11 to become an 'all through' Primary School.

Part 2 addresses the discontinuance of Fairfield Infant School, where all pupils attending the infant school in reception class to year 2 at the time of its closure, will transfer on to the roll of the 'all-through' Primary School.

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
 - b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
 - c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase;
- and
- d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4)

N/A

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Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- b) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

N/A

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

N/A
