

UNITING NEVILL ROAD INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS INTO A SINGLE SCHOOL

Stockport Council Consultation

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INTRODUCTION

Stockport is immensely proud of its children and young people and recognise that they are our future. We all must acknowledge the great responsibility we have to ensure our children and young people have the best start to life, they are happy and safe, and they have the opportunity, skills and passion to thrive.

Our schools and colleges give them the foundations they need to prepare them for adulthood and achieve their aspirations. The importance of education and schools as key anchors in neighbourhoods is vital. We want our families to feel supported, empowered and connected to their community.

Covid-19 has significantly impacted our children, young people and their families, whether that's through the pressures of home schooling, the cancellation of exams, missing out on going to university or simply being unable to spend time with friends and family. Our families, schools, colleges and public services have come together to support each other and have remained ambitious for the fantastic things that they can and will go on to achieve.

We want to move forward with that spirit of togetherness and inclusion, and work with schools and communities to plan our priorities to:

- Align and underpin the offer of our Schools so that it better meets the needs of its community
- Enhance our early offer, ensuring all children, young people and families receive the help they need, when they need it and before things escalate
- Deliver our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Strategy to ensure children and young adults with SEND have the best start in life and the opportunity to improve the emotional wellbeing for all children
- Equip children in care and care leavers with the skills needed to live a fulfilling, successful and rewarding life through delivery of our Corporate Parenting Strategy

We believe the fundamentals to delivering our vision for Children and Young People in Stockport is:

- Strong leadership
- Clear and consistent ethos about learning and life
- Fostering a sense of belonging and significance within schools and colleges
- Quality teaching and learning opportunities
- Learning environments suited to providing quality learning and to the needs of its pupils

About this consultation

Each time an infant or junior school Headteacher announces their intention to leave their school, consideration is given to whether the schools should become a single primary school. Mrs Alison Marshall, Headteacher at Nevill Road Infant School will leave the school at the end of the 2020/21 academic year. As such, we are seeking views about whether Infant and Junior schools should become a

single primary school. If the proposal was to go ahead, the new primary school would come into effect on the 1st September 2021.

Who is this for

This is for anyone with a role or interest in Nevill Road Infant School or Nevill Road Junior School or their local community. It may include:

- Parent/Carers
- Staff
- Governing Bodies and academy trusts
- Other local authorities
- Schools, including free schools and academies
- Other interested parties

Key dates

This consultation was published on **26 February 2021** and will close at 11:59pm on **18 April 2021**.

How to have your say

RESPOND ONLINE

To help us analyse the responses please use the online system wherever possible.

Visit www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay to submit your response.

OTHER WAYS TO RESPOND

If for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a PDF version of the consultation document and respond either via email or post.

If you are not responding via the online survey, please can you ensure you provide:

- your name
- relevant contact details
- whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation, along with your role
- whether you would like your responses to be kept confidential within your response.

By email

Admissions.consult@stockport.gov.uk

By post

School Places, Admissions and Transport Team,
Upper Ground Floor
Stopford House
SK1 3XE

CONSULTATION

Following the resignation of Mrs Alison Marshall, Headteacher at Nevill Road Infant School, we have taken this opportunity to embrace our commitment to engage with schools and local communities about how we achieve our vision for our children and young people.

We believe that unifying Nevill Road Infant School and Nevill Road Junior School into a single primary school will enhance the offer provided by both schools.

The coming together of both schools will contribute the following to our shared vision of the children and young people of Bramhall:

- Single School Leadership Team and Governing Body with the strategic overview of the School's 2-11 provision
- Consistency, continuity, and familiarity in
 - Ethos, and approach to learning
 - Pastoral care
 - Curriculum
- Opportunities for existing staff to professionally develop across the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Rationale

Leadership and vision

- A single governing body and one agreed vision and set of values to continue to drive up standards and promote continuity and progression
- Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school would benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They would know and understand how the school works and will not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child gets older

Transition and supporting pupils' progress

- One school would allow for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school and will provide better capacity for sustained improvement
- Removal of the need to change a school at the transition point between Key Stages 1 and 2 would eliminate the achievement 'dip' that can often be experienced at this time and any anxiety felt by pupils.
- Tracking of pupil progress and early intervention would significantly be enhanced for those pupils moving between Key Stages 1 and 2 and SEND children.
- Expectations for behaviour and learning would be more consistent than if the schools were operating in two separate ways

- Pupils would have greater opportunities to access aspects of the curriculum which might otherwise be denied to them because of the phase in which they are working. Some pupils in Key Stage 1 might be ready to access aspects of the curriculum and staff in Key Stage 2 but this is difficult to achieve outside of an all through primary school

Sharing of resources / expertise and efficiency gains

- A better opportunity to build on the sharing of resources and expertise across Key Stages 1 and 2 which in turn will support an enriched curriculum.
- Enable the single governing body to make efficiencies in the running of the primary school (particularly in respect of leadership, finance, administration and caretaking but also in other areas such as pastoral care, IT, etc.).

Recruitment and retention of staff

- Unifying both schools would be likely to lead to a more effective policy of recruitment and retention of staff. Nationally, there are significantly more primary schools than infant and junior schools, and teaching staff and non-teaching staff find that posts in primary schools are more attractive than posts in infant and junior schools as they offer better career development opportunities.
- A larger school, covering the full primary age range, offers improved opportunities to develop staff which in turn aids the retention of staff.
- Expertise can be targeted across the primary age range enabling senior leaders to more effectively deploy staff

Role models / social development of pupils

- Opportunities for children to work across Key Stages 1 and 2 and support each other. 4 year olds will not be educated alongside 11 year olds, but pupils will have the opportunity to interact with different aged children. This can include older pupils having some appropriate pastoral responsibilities for younger children or supporting them with reading e.g., reading buddies

Consultation Questions

1. Do you support the proposed change to Nevill Road Infant School and Nevill Road Junior School?

Yes

No

Don't know

If you do not support the proposed change, or don't know, please explain why and any suggestions you have for an alternative proposal

2. Do you agree that a single leadership team can provide greater continuity and consistency to education and learning, as opposed to two separate leadership teams?

Yes

No

Don't know

If you do not agree or don't know, please explain why and any suggestions you have for an alternative proposal

3. Do you agree that by providing more development opportunities to staff across all Key Stages that they may be able to provide better learning experience/opportunities to children?

Yes

No

Don't know

If you disagree or don't know, can you suggest alternative proposal or provide further feedback?

4. Do you think the Infant and Junior School currently meet the needs of its local community?

Completely

Mostly

To some extent

Not at all

Don't know

5. In what ways does it / does it not meet local needs?

NEXT STEPS

Stage 1 - Publication

After consultation, the views expressed will be taken into account before a decision is made about whether to formalise the proposal.

Proposals for a new school often need to be subject to a competition to find a provider who will decide on the ethos and day-to-day running of the school. This is known as the Free School Presumption process. Under certain circumstances, however, it is unnecessary to follow this process. As the legal proposer of the new primary school the Council will apply for this permission.

If the Council's Cabinet and the Secretary of State agree, the Council will publish statutory notices to create a new primary school and close the existing infant and junior schools.

Stage 2 – Representation

If statutory notices are published, there will be a four week period during which people can make comments or objections about the proposal.

Stage 3 – Decision

After the representation period, all responses received will be considered and a final decision will be made on whether to implement the proposal.

Stage 4 – Implementation

If the decision is made to implement the proposal, the Governing Boards will work together with the Council to ensure a smooth transition for staff, parents and pupils. A Temporary Governing Board will be established to oversee the transition.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When would the new primary school be established?

If the proposal is agreed, it is hoped that a single primary school would be established by 1st September 2021.

Why change? How would the new school benefit my child?

A single school education has the benefit of providing continuity for your child.

The combined knowledge and skills of the staff means greater opportunities for individual teachers to improve their expertise, which in turn will benefit the learning opportunities for your child.

A single school education can bring consistency to teaching and learning throughout their primary school life.

Won't the new school be too big? - I'm worried my child will be lost or overwhelmed

It may sound big, but it is only the same size as the current Infant and Junior Schools combined.

Would there be any disruption to my child's education?

The Council will work together with the staff, governors and parents/carers to ensure that this is kept to an absolute minimum. Careful planning with the full co-operation of all parties can avoid most disruption and many children are likely to see it as an adventure and something exciting to look forward to.

Would the staff be the same?

There is bound to be some staff movement at any time during a school year, however, staff at the infant and junior schools will be transferred to the new primary school. The temporary governing body will decide the staffing structure for the primary school and will ring-fence posts to staff in the existing infant and junior schools.

Who would be on the temporary governing body?

The temporary Governing Body will be made up from members of the Governing Bodies of the Infant and Junior schools.

Would I have to buy a new school uniform?

This will be decided by the temporary governing body however they will be mindful of the costs of any immediate change.

Would we get a new school building?

No. There are no plans for a new building, but the school may need to make small changes to the space that is currently used to make sure it is used to its best potential.