



Statutory Proposal to Amalgamate Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School

Introduction

Hillingdon Council are undertaking a formal consultation on the proposed amalgamation of Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School to form a single Primary School. In order to amalgamate and comply with statutory guidance, it is proposed that Harefield Infant School would technically close, with Harefield Junior School extending its age range to accommodate all Primary aged children from the two schools within the same buildings.

Public Notice

Notice is given in accordance with section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that the London Borough of Hillingdon is proposing to discontinue (close) Harefield Infant School with effect from 31st March 2026.

Notice is given in accordance with section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that the London Borough of Hillingdon is proposing to make prescribed alterations to Harefield Junior School with effect from 1st April 2026. The prescribed alterations proposed are:

- Extend the age range of Harefield Junior School to accommodate pupils from Nursery to Year 6.
- Increase the total pupil numbers at Harefield Junior School to 420 pupils.

Contact Details:

Name and address of Local Authority (LA):

London Borough of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

Name, address and category of schools proposed to be amalgamated:

Harefield Infant School, High Street, Harefield, UB9 6BT, URN: 102382 (Community School)

Harefield Junior School, Park Lane, Harefield, UB9 6BJ, URN: 102381 (Community School)

This proposal is published following the Department for Education (DfE) Statutory Guidance (March 2025) Making Significant Changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools and Opening and Closing Maintained schools (October 2024).

Type of Proposal

This is the proposed closure of Harefield Infant School and the expansion of the age range of Harefield Junior School to create a primary school which will include pupils from the Infant and Junior schools.

Proposal

The London Borough of Hillingdon are consulting on a proposal for the two schools to amalgamate to form a single, two-form entry community primary school, with a total published pupil number of 420, with effect from 1st April 2026. The new primary school would continue to offer nursery provision, and therefore the age range would be from 3 to 11 year-olds, and would include existing pupils from the Infant and Junior schools.

The process of amalgamation is a technical process to join 2 schools together and in order to conduct the process in a legally compliant manner, the Council are required to use appropriate technical language. However, it is important to note that:

- **No buildings or property at the school sites will be closed, removed, developed or sold as a result of the proposed amalgamation**
- No children will be displaced as a result of the proposed amalgamation
- There will not be a change in pupil numbers as a result of the proposed amalgamation
- Children will continue to be educated at the same site
- When we refer to the closure of Harefield Infant school, it is purely a technical change, and the pupils, staff and buildings will not be affected as a result of this proposal

Proposer

The proposers for the proposed closure of Harefield Infant School and the proposed expansion of the age range of Harefield Junior School are Hillingdon Council.

Implementation Date

It is proposed that Harefield Infant School would technically close on 31st March 2026 and Harefield Junior School will expand to become a Primary school on the existing sites with effect from 1st April 2026.

Reason for amalgamation

Hillingdon Council see a range of benefits in combining the existing schools into a new primary school through the proposed statutory amalgamation process, which includes:

- A consistent approach to the ways in which children are taught and supported, recognising the current strengths of both schools.
- Increased opportunities for children in all key stages to come together for pastoral, social, and creative activities.
- Consistency of parental involvement throughout the primary phase of education by having the ability to foster longer-term relationships with families within one school.
- Communication between school and parents will be simplified, especially for parents with children in both schools. It would remove any duplication and ensure a joined-up approach for events, training and other matters.
- Removes the need for parents to apply for a place at the Junior School as children would automatically continue their education as part of one Harefield Primary school.

- Increased career development opportunities for staff through the sharing of a wider range of expertise and the possibility to gain experience and an understanding of all Primary Key Stages.
- Greater opportunity for cost effectiveness through economies of scale e.g. in purchasing, ensuring the best provision possible for the children.

Both Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School are community maintained schools located in the Harefield Village ward and were both graded 'Good' at their last Ofsted Inspection. Harefield Infant School was inspected in March 2023 and maintained its grade from the full inspection in December 2012, and Harefield Junior School was inspected in October 2023 and improved its grade from "Requires Improvement" from the full inspection in September 2019.

Both of these schools are located adjacent to each other and effectively share one site. As they are community maintained schools, this means they are both maintained by Hillingdon Council and the Council owns the buildings and the land.

Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School have been in a federation since October 2018. This means that, although they are legally two separate schools, they operate in many ways as one school. There is one federated Governing Board that oversee both schools, one Executive Headteacher, and one Head of School for both schools.

The [Hillingdon Infant and Junior Amalgamation Policy](#), September 2022, states that "The London Borough of Hillingdon will require Governing Bodies of all separate infant and junior schools to consider amalgamating their two linked schools when one or more of the following 'trigger circumstances' occur, unless there are compelling and overriding reasons"

a) A headteacher vacancy arises in either or both schools.

b) Total pupil numbers in either school are 25% or more below the Published Admission Number (PAN).

c) Ofsted inspection in one of the schools identifies a 'Requires Improvement' judgement.

d) One or both of the schools cannot set a balanced budget or has financial problems.

e) One or both of the schools involved is judged to be a 'School causing concern' by the London Borough of Hillingdon.

f) One or both schools have PANs or are recruiting at below two forms of entry – making the individual schools relatively small and at risk of becoming unviable within the Hillingdon funding context.

g) Other pressures whereby the educational provision would be improved through amalgamation such as provision of SEN support, staff recruitment and retention or issues linked to the buildings.

The birth rate in Hillingdon has been steadily declining since 2016, which has impacted primary aged pupil numbers across the Borough. The combined pupils on-roll at Harefield Infant and Harefield Junior Schools have decreased over the past 6 Spring census returns as noted in the tables below, and meet the triggers b & f listed above, despite the Published

Admission Number (PAN) of the schools being reduced by 1 form of entry (FE) (30 pupils) in 2023 / 24.

The PAN of a school is determined by their admission arrangements and, all admission authorities must set an admission number for each 'relevant age group' which would refer to the age group at which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school e.g. reception and Year 3. This would not include pre-statutory nursery numbers.

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

Harefield Infant School

Harefield Infant School is a 2FE maintained community infant school with 134 pupils on roll, for pupils aged 3 to 7 as per the January 2025 Census.

Harefield Infant School						
Census	Whole School PAN	Pupils on Roll				% Vacancies
		R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Total on Roll	
Jan-20	270	75	64	71	210	22%
Jan-21	270	55	67	63	185	31%
Jan-22	270	51	57	62	170	37%
Jan-23	270	62	52	54	168	38%
Jan-24	180	36	59	45	140	22%
Jan-25	180	39	35	60	134	26%

Harefield Junior School

Harefield Junior School is a 2FE maintained community junior school with 201 pupils on roll, for pupils aged 7 to 11 as per the January 2025 Census.

Harefield Junior School							
Census	Whole School PAN	Pupils on Roll					% Vacancies
		Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total on Roll	
Jan-20	360	71	85	54	69	279	23%
Jan-21	360	67	66	82	53	268	26%
Jan-22	360	58	61	65	82	266	26%
Jan-23	360	63	53	55	66	237	34%
Jan-24	240	48	62	52	55	217	10%
Jan-25	240	43	47	60	51	201	16%

There is no boarding provision at either school, which are both are co-educational.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The proposal to amalgamate the schools has been put forward by the LA for the long-term benefit of children currently attending the schools, and those who will attend in the future. Academic research highlights the benefits of amalgamating infant and junior schools in relation to continuity of education and educational outcomes. The amalgamation of the Harefield Schools will support a cohesive and continuous

educational journey, underpinned by a unified curriculum, consistent teaching methodologies, and aligned pastoral support. This integrated approach promotes collaboration, and the sharing of best practices, ensuring pupils experience a smooth and confident progression from the early years through to Year 6.

Displaced pupils

This proposal is to amalgamate the two schools, and therefore no pupils would be displaced. From 1st April 2026, pupils currently at Harefield Infant School would have places at the expanded Harefield Junior School (which would become the Primary school). Current pupils in Year 2 would automatically transition to Year 3.

Impact on the community

Both Harefield Infant and Harefield Junior Schools serve the same geographical area and are located adjacent to each other and effectively share one site. The proposed amalgamation of Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School will not displace any pupils, or have any impact on travel, and will therefore have no impact on the community. The proposal will provide certainty of progression to the junior phase and offer an all-through primary education.

Rural primary schools

Both Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School are considered rural schools. There is a presumption against the closure of rural schools, however this does not apply where a rural infant and junior school on the same site are being closed to establish a new primary school (amalgamation).

Balance of denominational provision

Not applicable.

Early Years provision

It is intended that the current nursery at Harefield Infant School would continue to operate as part of the primary school, and the proposed age-range change of Harefield Junior School includes the nursery provision. There would be no change for children in the current setting, therefore, the provision would continue to be accessible and convenient for local families.

Sixth Form provision

Not applicable.

Effect on other Educational Establishments

There will be little to no impact on other educational establishments as current pupils from Harefield Infant School will automatically continue their educational journey into Key Stage 2 if the proposal for amalgamation is approved. For the last 3 years, 99% children attending the Infant school secured places at the Junior school, so it is likely that there will minimal, or no impact on surrounding schools. However, parents have the right to apply for a place at an alternative school if they wish, in line with all other schools.

Special Educational Needs

The schools do not provide a specialist resource provision (SRP), or a Designated Unit (DU) recognised by the local authority as being reserved for children with special educational needs. Children with special educational needs will continue to receive the same high levels of support in the primary school.

Travel

Both Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School are located adjacent to each other and effectively share one site so there will be no travel implications.

Financial implications

The Designated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block Funding represents the majority of funding for schools within Hillingdon, although each school may receive additional DSG funding or Grants.

Both schools combined funding is approximately £2,231k funding per year. If the proposal is approved, this would mean that following financial year (2027/28) after amalgamation the amount received would be £2,183k and the second financial year (2028/29) funding would be £2,075k. The figures above and detailed in the table below are based on the assumption that the number of pupils remains constant.

DSG Schools Block Funding	2026/27 Financial Year	2027/28 Financial Year	2028/29 Financial Year
Harefield Infant School funding	£901k	£852k	£745k
Harefield Junior School funding	£1,330k	£1,330k	£1,330k
Combined Harefield Schools funding	£2,231k	£2,183k	£2,075k

It is important to note that other DSG funding e.g. Early Years funding (EYSFF), Pupil Premium and other Grants paid to the school may be affected in future years, however these are based on pupil numbers and would not be affected by amalgamation (these would be depending upon the grant conditions, guidance and specific calculations).

If the schools amalgamate, the combined school will only be eligible for one lump sum (an allocation from the Dedicated Schools Grant provided to individual schools to support fixed costs that is currently £159,662 a year – based on the budget for 2025/26) in the future.

As detailed in the [Schools operational guide: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#), “where schools amalgamate after 1 April 2025, the new school will receive funding equivalent to the formula funding of the closing schools added together for the appropriate proportion of the year. This means that they receive the combined lump sums for the remainder of the year and 70% of the second lump sum in the following year. Local authorities can apply to provide a second year of protection. This needs to be discussed and agreed with Schools Forum.”

The financial implication of the amalgamation of the two schools will be the eventual loss of the lump sum income usually available per school. The school can however, benefit from better economies of scale which could mitigate the impact of this loss.

Once the school receive their budget, they decide how this is allocated across the school, and what the funding is spent on.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved

There are no direct project costs other than the costs of following the statutory process for school alterations and closures.

Process for making representations (objections and comments)

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, from Wednesday 18th June 2025 to Wednesday 30th July 2025, any person may object to, support, or make comments on the proposal. During this time, any person can send written representation to the Council directly to have their views on the proposals taken into consideration by the decision maker.

You can respond to the proposal by:

- Completing the online questionnaire by visiting the consultation page www.hillingdon.gov.uk/have-your-say
- Emailing schoolplaceplanning@hillingsdon.gov.uk.
- Submit a written response to: School Place Planning Team, London Brough of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, 2W, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

All consultation responses must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 30th July 2025.

The consultation will involve a drop-in session for anyone affected by the proposal where Officers will be on hand to answer questions in person and to explain the proposal, as necessary. This opportunity will be also offered virtually for stakeholders to attend if that is more convenient.

Information Session Details

Date	Time	Venue	Attendees
Thursday 26 th June 2025	2:00pm – 3:00pm (parents/carers/ residents)	Harefield Junior School Hall, Park Lane, Harefield, UB9 6BJ	Drop-in session – Public meeting
Thursday 26 th June 2025	4:00pm – 5:00pm (staff members)	Harefield Junior School Hall, Park Lane, Harefield, UB9 6BJ	Drop-in session – Staff meeting
Wednesday 2 nd July 2025	12:30 to 1:30pm (parents/carers/ residents)	Virtual meeting – click here to join	Drop-in session – Public meeting

Wednesday 2 nd July 2025	6:00pm – 7:00pm (parents/carers/ residents)	Virtual meeting – click here to join	Drop-in session – Public meeting
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Decision

Hillingdon Local Authority will be the decision maker. They must satisfy themselves that an appropriate fair and open local consultation has been carried out. The Local Authority Cabinet will decide on the proposal within two months of the closure of the consultation period.

When the decision has been taken, the Local Authority will publish the outcome of the decision on their website and communicate the outcome to relevant stakeholders in writing.

A copy of this consultation is also available at:

- [Harefield Infant School website](#)
- [Harefield Junior School website](#)

Alternatively, you can make contact with the Council or the schools through email or postal addresses below to request a hard copy of the consultation documents.

Email:

- School Place Planning Team, Hillingdon Council - schoolplaceplanning@Hillingdon.gov.uk
- Harefield Infant and Harefield Junior School Federated Governing Body - office@harefieldinfant.com

Writing to:

- School Place Planning Team, London Borough of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, 2W, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW