



Proposal to amalgamate Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School

**Consultation period:
Monday 17th March 2025 to
Thursday 17th April 2025**

Introduction

Hillingdon Council are proposing to undertake a formal consultation on the future of Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School to form a single Primary School. To start this process the local authority is conducting a stage one/ pre-publication consultation (referred to as the consultation) in line with statutory guidance, to gather the views of staff, families, local residents and any other stakeholders.

Why are we proposing the change?

Hillingdon Council are seeking your views on a proposal to amalgamate (also referred to as merging) Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School. This represents a great opportunity to bring two good schools, that currently share:

- A Federated Governing Body
- An Executive Headteacher
- A Head of School
- A Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo)
- A School Business Manager
- A Site Manager
- A Caretaker
- The same colour uniform
- School Policies: Anti Bullying, Attendance, Behaviour, Charging and remissions, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Complaints, Equalities Objectives and information, Personal, Social and Health Education, Special Education Needs and Disabilities and Uniform Policy

The new primary school would have a positive foundation as both schools have existing strengths, good practice and already work closely together as one school to serve their local community.

The proposal is that Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School are amalgamated to form a single Primary School from 1st January 2026. The newly formed Primary School would continue to use the existing buildings and site as the Infant and Junior schools. The amalgamated school would continue to provide 420 places in Reception to Year 6 (60 per year group) for children aged from 3 to 11 years old.

What would be the name of the school?

The proposed new name of the primary school would be Harefield Primary School.

What are some of the advantages of amalgamation?

The Council see significant advantages in combining the existing schools into a new primary school. Both schools have already been working closely together under a federated

governing body and many other shared resources as outlined above. There are some additional benefits to amalgamating Infant and Junior schools including:

- 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 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

How would an amalgamation be implemented?

In order to amalgamate the two Harefield Schools it is proposed to close one school and expand the age range of the other school. It is proposed that Harefield Infant School will close and Harefield Junior School would expand its age from 3 to 11 years olds. The new school would then be one Primary School. The combined school would retain the same DfE number as the current Junior School.

What would an amalgamated school look like?

Harefield Junior School would increase the age range of children it accepts from 3- 11 years old (Year 3 - Year 6) and would then change its name to Harefield Primary School to reflect that it educates a wider age range. At the same time Harefield Infant School would formally close. Harefield Primary School would provide 60 place per year group and a total of 420 places. All children on roll at the Harefield Infant School at the point of amalgamation would continue as pupils of Harefield Primary School. The school is already operating as one school in many areas as outlined above.

Admissions

If the proposal is agreed and both schools amalgamate, the following would apply:

- Children at Harefield Infant School will automatically be enrolled at the newly amalgamated school.
- Children who have applied for Reception places at Harefield Infant School for September 2026 would be offered places through the standard admissions process, using the schools current agreed Admission's Policy.
- Children who have applied to transfer from Harefield Infant School to Harefield Junior School for September 2026 will automatically have a place at the Junior School.

Will there be any changes to the size of the school and the school buildings?

No, the size of the school and school buildings will remain exactly the same. The proposed Primary school will have a *published admission number* equal to the sum of the current Infant, Nursery and Junior schools' numbers. Therefore there would be **no change to the capacity** of the proposed amalgamated Primary school if the decision were made to proceed.

Who will be the governors of the primary school?

If amalgamation does go ahead, then the existing Federated Governing Board would remain in place. If vacancies exist for new governors, they would be recruited following the same process that is currently in place.

The consultation process

The consultation will start on Monday 17th March 2025 at 9:00am and will end on Thursday 17th April 2025 at 5:00pm. The closing date for online responses is Thursday 17th April 2025 at 5:00pm and any hard copies returned by hand or post must be submitted to The London Borough of Hillingdon office by 5:00pm Thursday 17th April 2025.

How can I make comments about the proposals?

Parents, carers, staff, governors and members of the public are invited to share their views by responding to the consultation by any of the following; completing the on-line consultation form, writing directly to the Council, attending an on-line event, and/or attending a face-to-face event during the consultation period as set out below:

- Parents, carers, staff, governors and members of the public are invited to send their comments by replying using the online survey available at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/have-your-say
- You can also use the response form (or any other written format) at the end of this document to record your views. It can be sent to:

London Borough of Hillingdon

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

or emailed to: schoolplaceplanning@hillingdon.gov.uk

Face to Face drop-in Sessions		
Location	Date/Time	Session
Harefield Library Park Lane Village Centre Park Lane, Harefield, UB9 6BJ	Wednesday 26 th March 2025 2:00pm – 3:00pm (public meeting) 4:30pm – 5:30pm (staff members)	Drop in – Question and Answer
On-Line drop-in session		
Location	Date/Time	Session
Microsoft Teams Join the meeting now	Tuesday 25 th March 5:00pm – 6:00pm (all stakeholders)	On-line - Question and Answer

Comments made at the meetings will be recorded in written format and will contribute to the consultation outcomes.

How will the decision about the proposed amalgamation and expansion of the schools be made?

After the consultation is complete, all the responses regardless of whether they are comments in support of the proposal, objections, or other suggestions will be collated and considered by the Council. Officers will have regard to the information and feedback and consider whether to request approval to progress to a statutory proposal being published to amalgamate the two schools. If agreed, this process will then commence with the issuing of a Public Notice and the statutory proposal. The representation period will last for four weeks during which time a formal consultation will take place.

Following this formal consultation, Officers will present the feedback from the consultation to the Children, Families and Education Select Committee for review, and then to Hillingdon Council Cabinet to make a final decision on whether the schools should amalgamate and the date of when this should happen. If Hillingdon Cabinet decides not to accept a recommendation to amalgamate, the schools will continue as separate infant and junior schools.

Guidance for the amalgamation process

The proposal would follow two separate guidance processes: [Opening and closing maintained schools](#) and [Making significant changes \('prescribed alterations'\) to maintained schools](#).



INFORMAL CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Proposal to Amalgamate Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School

The proposal is to bring together Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School to form a single 2 form-entry Primary School from 1st January 2026. The newly formed Primary School would use the existing buildings and site as the current schools.

We are keen to hear your views about the proposal. and would be grateful if you would spend a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. Responses must be submitted to London Borough of Hillingdon, 2W - School Place Planning Team, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW by 5pm Thursday 17th April 2025 and are anonymous.

You can also complete the form online available at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/have-your-say where responses must be received by

1. Do you agree with the proposal to amalgamate Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School to form a single two-form Primary School?

Please circle as appropriate

YES / NO / Don't know

2. If you agree with the proposal, please say why you think it is a good idea:

3. If you disagree with the proposal or 'don't know', please provide details why:

4. Prior to reading this proposal were you aware that Harefield Infant School and Harefield Junior School, were two separate schools?

YES / NO

5. If you have any other comments, issues or questions, or have any other suggestions, please advise them here.

The following questions are about you and are optional. Your answers will be kept in strict confidence and not shared with any third party.

6. Are you completing this questionnaire as (tick or cross next to the relevant answer):

- A parent/carer/guardian
- A staff member
- A local resident
- Prefer not to say
- Other
- Blank

7. How many children under the age of 18 live in your household?

8. Which school(s) does your child(ren) currently attend?