

Information Session – Possible proposal to amalgamate Harefield Infant and Junior Schools

Tuesday 25th March
Wednesday 26th March



Harefield schools Values

Happiness-spreading joy to those around us;

Compassion-caring and being kind to all;

Respect-treating others as we like to be treated;

Teamwork-working well with everyone.



Informal Consultation

“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.”



Why?

- **Harefield Infants and Juniors operate as 1 school already**
- **Joint Governing Body, 1 Headteacher (John Downs), 1 Executive Headteacher (Arjinder Sunner), joint staff across 2 sites**
- **Formalise arrangements**
- **In line with Amalgamation policy**

Headlines

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No land or building will be sold• No financial saving for the Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No day-to-day change for pupils or parents• Same staff, same high-quality education |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No pupils displaced, no pupils forced to move, no pupils denied a school place• 420 school places (PAN of 60)• No need to apply for place in Year 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No decision made yet• All viewpoints considered before deciding to propose amalgamation |



Benefits

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A more consistent approach to teaching and learning for children, building on the strengths of both schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easier communication with parents, less need for duplication |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A seamless all through school experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater opportunities for cost efficiencies over time |



Financial Implications

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No financial savings for the Borough | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction in lump sum funding after Year 2 (Full funding Year 1, 70% funding Year 2) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Savings over time from efficiencies will offset that funding | |



Financial Implications

| Annual Funding | Harefield Infant school | Harefield Junior school | Total |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | FY24/25 | FY24/25 | FY24/25 |
| | 888,735 | 1,309,585 | 2,198,320 |

| Current Surplus | Harefield Infant school | Harefield Junior school | Total |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | FY 2023 / 24 | FY 2023 / 24 | FY 2023 / 24 |
| | 70,871 | 233,343 | 304,214 |

| | Harefield Infant | Harefield Junior | Total | | | 70% | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Formula Budget | FY25/26 | FY25/26 | FY25/26 | | FY25/26 | FY26/27 | FY27/28 |
| Lump Sum | £159,662 | £159,662 | £319,324 | | £319,324 | £223,527 | £159,662 |

* Please note that these figures are based on current funding model.



Amalgamation Policy

“Each infant and junior school governing body is asked to discuss this policy and plan their own route towards full amalgamation. For some this may be some years ahead, though others may be pushed by circumstances”

“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”

“Progress towards amalgamation will be presumed unless the educational advantages set out in this policy would not be delivered by combining the two schools.”

- Policy dated September 2022
- Further engagement with all Infant and Junior schools from June 2024



Amalgamation Policy

Total pupil numbers in either school are 25% or more below the Published Admission Number (based on January census).

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.

| 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 | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|------|------|------|---------------|-------------|
| 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% |

PAN reduction from 3 Forms of Entry (FE) to 2FE took effect September 2023



Next Steps

- **Stage One: Prepublication consultation** – Local Authority are gathering the views of local residents, following conclusion decision on whether to proceed to formal consultation will be made

If decision was made to proceed to **Stage Two: Publication consultation**

- **Stage Two: Publication**, public notice and full consultation proposal will be published
- **Stage Three: Representation**, 4 week statutory consultation with further information sessions (face to face and virtual) would be arranged during this period
- **Stage Four: Decision**, Proposal would be submitted to Cabinet to review and make a formal decision on the proposed Amalgamation
- **Stage Five: Implementation**, if proposal is agreed by Cabinet then schools will amalgamate on the date outlined in the proposal



Have your say

Parents, carers, staff, governors and members of the public are invited to share their views by responding to the pre-publication / stage one consultation by any of the following; completing the on-line consultation form, writing directly to the Council, or attending an on-line 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@hillington.gov.uk

