



Formal (Stage Two) Proposal to Amalgamate Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School

**Consultation Period:
Wednesday 25th February 2026 to
Wednesday 25th March 2026**

Introduction

Hillingdon Council are undertaking a formal consultation on the proposed amalgamation of Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School to form a single Primary School. In order to amalgamate and comply with statutory guidance, it is proposed that Whitehall Infant School would (technically) close, with Whitehall 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 (technically close) Whitehall Infant School with effect from 31st August 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 Whitehall Junior School with effect from 1st September 2026. The prescribed alterations proposed are:

- Extend the age range of Whitehall Junior School to accommodate pupils from Nursery to Year 6.
- Increase the total pupil numbers at Whitehall Junior School to 630 pupils, (Reception to Year 6) in order to form the new primary school

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:

Whitehall Infant School, Cowley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2LX, URN: 102411
(Community School)

Whitehall Junior School, Cowley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2LX, URN: 102399
(Community School)

This proposal is published following the Department for Education (DfE) Statutory Guidance (August 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 Whitehall Infant School and the expansion of the age range of Whitehall 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, three-form entry community primary school, with a total published pupil number of 630 (from Reception to Year 6), with effect from 1st September 2026.

The proposed process involves the following steps:

- Closing (technically) Whitehall Infant School and all pupils, staff, land, buildings and equipment would become part of Whitehall Junior School (which would become a Primary school) from 1st September 2026
- Extending the age range of Whitehall Junior School from Years 3 to 6, to Nursery to Year 6 (and changing its name to a Primary school to reflect the full primary age range) with effect from 1st September 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 Whitehall 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 Whitehall Infant School and the proposed expansion of the age range of Whitehall Junior School are Hillingdon Council.

Implementation Date

It is proposed that Whitehall Infant School would (technically) close on 31st August 2026 and Whitehall Junior School will expand to become a Primary school on the existing sites with effect from 1st September 2026.

Reason for amalgamation

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

- 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 Whitehall 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 Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School are community maintained schools located in the Uxbridge ward and were both graded 'Good' at their last Ofsted Inspection. Whitehall Infant School was inspected in November 2024 and maintained its grade from the full inspection in March 2015, and Whitehall Junior School was inspected in June 2023 and maintained its grade from the full inspection in September 2014.

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. The Local Authority is also responsible for determining the school admission arrangements 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.
- 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.

Following the announcement that the Headteacher of Whitehall Infant School would be retiring in August 2026, the schools met trigger A as listed above. Initial discussions were then held with both governing bodies to outline and explore the potential for amalgamation.

The potential of amalgamating Infant and Junior schools in line with the amalgamation policy, has been discussed with schools over the last few years at various collective and individual meetings, and schools have been made aware that the Council would propose this solution under the appropriate circumstances.

Both schools have been affected by the ongoing decline in the birth rate across Hillingdon, which has resulted in Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School reducing their Published Admissions Numbers from 120 (4FE) to 90 (3FE) from September 2025.

Whitehall Infant School

Whitehall Infant School						
Census	Whole School PAN	Pupils on Roll				% Vacancies
		R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Total on Roll	
Oct-20	360	93	115	86	294	18%
Oct-21	360	100	96	114	310	14%
Oct-22	360	100	107	95	302	16%
Oct-23	360	90	99	102	291	19%
Oct-24	360	87	102	98	287	20%
Oct-25	330	86	88	105	279	15%

*The October 25 figure shows a reduction of 30 in the PAN, as PAN changes only take effect in the year of entry, which in this case, is Reception

Whitehall Junior School

Whitehall Junior School							
Census	Whole School PAN	Pupils on Roll				Total on Roll	% Vacancies
		Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6		
Oct-20	480	103	87	104	88	382	20%
Oct-21	480	86	99	87	106	378	21%
Oct-22	480	116	88	93	88	385	20%
Oct-23	480	90	115	89	90	384	20%
Oct-24	480	109	87	118	85	399	17%
Oct-25	450	96	110	91	122	419	7%

*The October 25 figure shows a reduction of 30 in the PAN, as PAN changes only take effect in the year of entry, which in this case, is Year 3.

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 Whitehall 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 September 2026, pupils currently at Whitehall Infant School would have places at the expanded Whitehall Junior School (which would become the Primary school). Current pupils in Year 2 would automatically transition to Year 3.

Impact on the community

Both Whitehall Infant and Whitehall Junior Schools serve the same geographical area and are located adjacent to each other and effectively share one site. The proposed amalgamation of Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall 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

Not applicable.

Balance of denominational provision

Not applicable.

Early Years provision

It is intended that the current nursery at Whitehall Infant School would continue to operate as part of the primary school, and the proposed age-range change of Whitehall 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 Whitehall 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 Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School are located adjacent to each other and effectively share one site so there will be no travel implications.

Financial implications

The Dedicated 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 £4,624k funding per year. If the proposal is approved, this would mean that following financial year (2027/28) after amalgamation the amount received would be £4,575k and the second financial year (2028/29) funding would be £4,459k. 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 (2 lump sums)	2027/28 Financial Year (1 lump sum + 70% of second lump sum)	2028/29 Financial Year (1 lump sum)
Whitehall Infant School funding	£1,912k	£1,863k	£1,747k
Whitehall Junior School funding	£2,712k	£2,712k	£2,712k
Combined Whitehall Schools funding	£4,624k	£4,575k	£4,459k

* Early Years Funding is not included in the figures above

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 £165,436 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.”

Amalgamating the two schools will ultimately result in the loss of one of the lump-sum funding allocations that each school currently receives. However, the combined school may achieve improved economies of scale, including savings from needing only one headteacher, which could help offset the impact of this funding reduction.

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 four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, from 9am on Wednesday 25th February 2026 to 5pm on Wednesday 25th March 2026, 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 schoolamalgamations@hillington.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 25th March 2026.

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
Tuesday 3 rd March 2026	1:45 to 2:45pm (parents/carers/ residents)	Whitehall Junior School Hall, Cowley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2LX	Drop-in session – Public meeting
Tuesday 3 rd March 2026	3:30pm – 4:30pm (staff members)	Whitehall Infant School Hall, Cowley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2LX	Drop-in session – staff meeting
Monday 9 th March 2026	12:30pm – 13:30pm (parents/carers/ residents)	Virtual meeting – click here to join	Drop-in session – Public meeting
Monday 9 th March 2026	5:00pm – 6:00pm (parents/carers/ residents)	Virtual meeting – click here to join	Drop-in session – Public meeting

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:

- [Whitehall Infant School website](#)
- [Whitehall 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 – schoolamalgamations@hillingdon.gov.uk
- Whitehall Infant School - Office@mail.whitehallinf.org
- Whitehall Junior School - Office@whitehalljunior.org

Writing to:

- School Place Planning Team, London Brough of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, 2W, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW
- Whitehall Infant School, Cowley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2LX
- Whitehall Junior School, Cowley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2LX