

## **NOTICE TO DISCONTINUE WESTON PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL AND CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF WESTON PARK INFANT SCHOOL**

### **Weston Park Junior School – Discontinuance**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of Weston Park Junior School, (Foundation School), Weston Lane, Southampton, SO19 9HL intends to discontinue Weston Park Junior School, (Foundation School), Weston Lane, Southampton, SO19 9HL on 31 December 2012.

Statutory consultation requirements have been complied with. In particular, a consultation document was distributed to all pupils and members of staff at Weston Park Infant, Weston Shore Infant, and Weston Park Junior. Copies were also sent to local secondary schools, libraries and pre-schools/nursery's. Details were published on the Southampton City Council website. All headteachers in the city and other key stakeholders (e.g. local MP's, union representatives and the local Dioceses) were informed via email. A consultation drop in session was held at Weston Park Junior School on 8 May 2012. The consultation period ran from 17 April until 29 May, giving people 6 weeks to respond.

No pupils will be displaced if this proposal is taken forward as the pupils currently at Weston Park Junior School will be automatically transferred to the expanded Weston Park Infant School which will become a primary school under the linked proposals set out below. Pupils from Weston Park Infant and Weston Shore Infant will continue to be able to access Key Stage 2 places at the primary school on the existing Weston Park Infant and Junior site.

An additional 30 places will be available in Year 3 (creating a total of 120 Year 3 Places as opposed to 90 Year R places) to ensure that pupils from Weston Shore Infant (which, along with Weston Park Infant, currently feeds into Weston Park Junior) will continue to have access to Key Stage 2 Places in the local area.

Key Stage 2 pupils would continue to attend school on the same site and in the same buildings, as an all through primary school rather than a separate Junior school. There will be no displacement of pupils under these proposals and therefore no additional transport arrangements will be required.

This proposal is linked with that put forward by the Governing Body of Weston Park Infant School to increase the age range of the school from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds. The closure of Weston Park Junior School and the change of age range and expansion of the Weston Park Infant school would result in the creation of an all through primary school.

### **Weston Park Infant School – change of age range and expansion**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of Weston Park Infant School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Weston Park Infant School (Foundation School), Newtown Road, Southampton, SO19 9HX to change the age range from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and expand in Year 3 from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

The Governing Body are proposing to change the age range of the infant school from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds and expand the intake at year 3 to accommodate Weston Shore Infant School pupils. This (linked with the proposal of Weston Park Junior School to discontinue) would result in the formation of a primary school on the existing Weston Park Infant and Junior school site.

The current capacity of Weston Park Infant School is 270. The proposed capacity of the primary school would be 750. The current admission number for the school for Year R is 90 and the proposed admission number for Year R will be 90.

The proposal to change the age range will be implemented by the Governing Body from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and the proposal to expand Year 3 by 30 pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013, the school will continue to admit up to 90 children to year R and will admit an additional 30 pupils to Year 3. The additional places will provide pupils from Weston Shore Infant with an opportunity to continue accessing Key Stage 2 places in the local area.

The new primary school would continue to operate on the same site and in the same buildings as the existing infant and primary schools.

This Notice is an extract of the complete proposals. A copy of the complete proposals can be obtained by writing to Weston Park Infant & Junior Consultation, Children's Services & Learning, Southampton City Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Southbrook Rise, Millbrook Road East, Southampton, SO15 1YG, emailing [Infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:Infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk) or visiting [http://www.southampton.gov.uk/learning/schools/weston\\_park\\_schools.aspx](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/learning/schools/weston_park_schools.aspx).

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these linked proposals, any person may object to or make comments on either or both of the proposals by sending them to Weston Park Infant & Junior Consultation, Children's Services & Learning, Southampton City Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Southbrook Rise, Millbrook Road East, Southampton, SO15 1YG or emailing: [Infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:Infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk).

Signed:  
(Chair of Governors of Weston Park Junior School)

Signed:  
(Chair of Governors of Weston Park Infant School)

Dated: 11 June 2012

Explanatory Notes:

Proposed admissions arrangements from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 for the new primary school will be as follows:

The Governors will continue to admit up to 90 children to Year R

The Governors will admit up to 30 children into year 3 above those already on the roll of the school in year 2 who will naturally progress in to year 3.

The additional 30 Year 3 places being made available, is to ensure that pupils from Weston Shore Infant School continue to have access to Key Stage 2 places in the local area.

## PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

### **Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

#### **In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details**

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

Weston Park Infant School (Foundation School), Newtown Road, Southampton, SO19 9HX

#### **In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school .

N/A

#### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The proposal to change the age range will be implemented by the Governing Body from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and the proposal to expand Year 3 by 30 pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

#### **Objections and comments**

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
  - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

- a) objections or comments should be sent to the Local Authority by no later than 23 July 2012.
- b) any objections should be sent to Weston Park Infant & Junior Consultation, Children's Services & Learning, Southampton City Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Southbrook Rise, Millbrook Road East, Southampton, SO15 1YG or email: [Infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:Infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk)

## Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The Governing Body are proposing to change the age range of the infant school from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds and expand the intake at year 3 to accommodate Weston Shore Infant School pupils. This (linked with the proposal of Weston Park Junior School to discontinue) would result in the formation of a primary school on the existing Weston Park Infant and Junior school site.

## School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current capacity of Weston Park Infant School is 270. The proposed capacity of the primary school would be 750.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The current year R PAN for Weston Park Infant School is 90 and this will not change. The current year 3 PAN for Weston Park Junior is 102.

30 additional Year 3 places will be made available at the new primary to ensure that that pupils from the current junior school's other local feeder school (Weston Shore Infant) will continue to have access to local Key Stage 2 places.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

The proposal to change the age range will be implemented by the Governing Body from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and the proposal to expand Year 3 by 30 pupils will be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

At present each year group has fewer pupils in it than the Published Admission Number for each year group. The Published Admission Number for each year group is 90.

As at May 2012, the school has 65 Year R pupils, 76 Year 1 pupils and 65 Year 2 pupils.

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

As at May 2012 there are 206 pupils on roll at the school.

### Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Weston Park Infant and Junior Schools are both foundation schools and member of the Southampton Education Trust. As a result, only the Governing Body (and not the Local Authority) has the authority to propose increasing the age range of the school. The proposal to change the age range will be implemented by the Governing Body from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and the proposal to expand Year 3 by 30 pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. It will be implemented with the full support of Southampton City Council.

### Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

The primary school will operate on the same site and buildings that are currently occupied by the existing infant and junior schools. These schools are on the same site and in adjacent buildings.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

N/A

### Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

N/A

- (b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

N/A

- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

N/A

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

N/A

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

N/A

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

N/A

### **Transfer to new site**

**9.** Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

N/A

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

N/A

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

N/A

- (d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

N/A

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

N/A

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

N/A

## Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

This proposal is linked with that put forward by the Governing Body of Weston Park Infant School to increase the age range of the school from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds. The closure of Weston Park Junior School and the change of age range and expansion of the Weston Park Infant school would result in the creation of an all through primary school.

The infant school is currently graded as Outstanding by Ofsted, while the junior school has been satisfactory for a number of years. An all through primary school could provide the opportunity to raise standards and achievement across all year groups.

## Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
  - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
  - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
  - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
  - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

- a) all staff and parents/pupils at Weston Park Infant, Weston Shore Infant, and Weston Park Junior, all headteachers in the city, local libraries pre-schools/nurseries, trade union representatives, local MP's and Councillors, Southampton City Council Staff, local Further Education Colleges, local Church of England & Catholic Dioceses, Portsmouth and Hampshire Local Authorities.
- b) N/A
- c) See Appendix 1
- d) See Appendix 2. The document was made available to all staff and parents/pupils at Weston Park Infant, Weston Shore Infant, and Weston Park Junior. Copies were also distributed to local secondary schools, libraries, nurseries/pre-schools. They could also be downloaded from the SCC website.

**Project costs**

**12.** A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

It is estimated that there will be no capital costs for this proposal as the primary school will continue to operate on the same site and in the same buildings as the existing infant and junior schools.

**13.** A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

N/A

**Age range**

**14.** Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

The current age range of the school is 4-7 year olds and the proposed age range will be 4-11 year olds.

**Early years provision**

**15.** Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

N/A

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

N/A

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

N/A



- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

N/A

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

N/A

### Changes to sixth form provision

**16.** (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

N/A

- (b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

N/A

- (c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

N/A

- (d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

N/A

**17.** Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

N/A

### Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

N/A

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

N/A

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

N/A

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

N/A

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

N/A

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

N/A

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

N/A

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

N/A

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

N/A

**19.** Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

N/A

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

N/A

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

N/A

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

N/A

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

N/A

### **Sex of pupils**

**21.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

N/A

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

N/A

**22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

N/A

### **Extended services**

**23.** If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

N/A

### **Need or demand for additional places**

**24.** If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

The current Year R PAN for Weston Park Infant School is 90. The Year R PAN for Weston Shore Infant School is 30. Both schools currently feed into Weston Park Junior School which has a PAN of 102.

The new primary school will have a Year PAN of 90. In addition to this, an extra 30 places will be made available in Year 3 to ensure that pupils from Weston Shore Infant School continue to have access to Key Stage 2 places in the local area.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

N/A

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

N/A

**25. If the proposals involve removing places—**

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

N/A

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

N/A

**Expansion of successful and popular schools**

**25A.** (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

N/A

## APPENDIX 1 – VIEWS OF PEOPLE CONSULTED

Relationship to school	Support or do not support proposal	Comment	Date received
Member of Staff – Infant	Support	Hope infant school maintains the high level of learning/standards	
Parent/carer - Infant	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Do not support		18.04.12
Parent/carer - Infant	Do not support		17.04.12
	Do not support	Think it a crazy idea. Juniors need to sort out bullying problems before taking on more	
Governor – Infant	Do not support		
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support	Brilliant. Go for it	18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	Very good idea	18.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior & Member of staff - Junior	Support		24.04.12
Member of staff - Junior	Support	I think changing the school into a primary during this period of economic restraint is sensible. I also think both schools could benefit and therefore improve progress. I am however concerned about the image of the junior school. I feel the consultation documents are putting the school in a negative light. If I had a child at this school I would be very concerned. Will any governors be transferred from the junior governing body to the new school governing body? (e.g. staff governors) I would worry that if this didn't happen the governors would mainly be interested in an infant department focus.	
Parent/carer – Junior	Support	Will make both schools excellent with ofsted.	18.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		26.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		23.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support	This is a positive move for this school.	18.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		18.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		
Member of staff – Junior	Support		19.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		17.04.12

Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		
Member of staff – Junior	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		23.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior & Local Resident	Support		19.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior & Local Resident	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	My 2 older boys went to an all through primary school (4-11) and it worked well and reduced the stress of worrying if your child will get a placement at their chosen junior schools	17.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		19.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		19.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	Great idea and it does not mean to change schools. Excellent!!!	
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support	Although I support the merger I must say that it is solely for the purpose of raising the Junior schools profile on the OFSTED ratings report. I am sceptical that any standards of achievement will be raised in the Junior school, but instead that it will have a detrimental effect on the grading that the Infant school achieves in the future.	20.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	Anything to improve the school is a great idea.	18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support	Excellent idea	
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	Am please the school will keep outstanding status. also please I won't have to apply for a junior school. I have two children go through a primary school and felt their education flowed better.	18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		29.05.12

**RE : Proposal to merge Weston Park Infant and Weston Park Junior Schools to form Weston Park Primary**

Response from the Chair of Governors at Weston Shore Infant School on behalf of the Governors

As Governors at Weston Shore Infant School, we want to see our children and all children in Weston being given the very best opportunities to achieve the very best they can throughout their learning journeys, building on the excellent start they receive in both of Weston's outstanding Infant schools. Whilst we can see some merit in the proposal, for the potential to improve the standards and achievement of Junior age children, we would like to make the following comments:

- Has there been any consideration given to consulting with Weston Shore Infant School parents and the community, whether they would like Weston Shore Infant School to become a primary? If not, why not?
- How will parents from Weston Shore Infant School be reassured and guaranteed that they will not feel disenfranchised and that their children will not be disadvantaged by the transition and induction arrangements for their children in Year 3, compared to those already in the Primary, and that it will not be perceived that children from Weston Shore are 'second class citizens'.
- Can parents and governors be reassured that there is no cause for concern over the future of Weston Shore Infant School due to this proposal; that the future of Weston Shore Infant School is not in jeopardy?
- Can parents and governors be reassured that there are no plans to increase the capacity of the Primary from Reception to Year 2 to the Year 3 – 6 capacity, in the near future or further down the line, say if eg numbers did drop a bit at Weston Shore due to some parents choosing an all through primary for their children for convenience or other reasons?

If the capacity was increased, this could seriously threaten the viability of Weston Shore Infant School, particularly if it was the Local Authority's view that they had put a significant investment into a new Primary School and that it would appear easy and cost effective for all primary aged children in Weston to be educated at one school.

The above question and comments need to be addressed in the context of the vital role that Weston Shore Infant School plays for the children and families in Weston, and in particular to the most vulnerable and deprived families, whom often live in the Tower Blocks and low rise blocks close to the school. The school is outstanding and highly valued in the community; its importance, and with SureStart on the same site supporting these children and families, cannot be underestimated. It is worth noting that despite the very high levels of deprivation etc at Weston Shore, the levels of attendance are broadly in line with national average and are well above the other two schools. The proximity of the school, the size of the school and the subsequent very strong sense of family and community contributes hugely to this, which in turn contributes to high levels of achievement and life chances for children (many of whom are very vulnerable and highly disadvantaged).

- Can parents and governors be reassured that future communications will be carefully assessed to explicitly address the parents of Weston Shore Infant School, as well as those at the 'merging' schools, showing the positives and allaying concerns?
- Can we presume that governors and parents at Weston Shore Infant School will be kept fully informed and fully consulted throughout this process and whatever the outcome?
- What arrangements, if any, will be put in place to allow Weston Shore Infant School (also with an outstanding rating and feeding our children in to the school), to positively affect standards and achievement, as our children and all those in Weston, progress through their learning journey in year groups 3 to 6 ?



## APPENDIX 2 – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Tuesday 17 April 2012

To:

Parents/carers, Staff, Governors, Trade Unions, Southampton City Council Councillors (Ward Members), Local Diocesan Authorities, Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Learning

### **Proposal to merge Weston Park Infant and Weston Park Junior Schools to form Weston Park Primary School**

The Governing Bodies of Weston Park Infant and Weston Park Junior Schools have voted to consult on a plan to create an all through primary school from the two existing schools.

The proposal is being put forward by the schools, in partnership with the Local Authority, for the following reasons:

- The infant school is currently graded as Outstanding by Ofsted, while the junior school has been satisfactory for a number of years. An all through primary school could provide the opportunity to raise standards and achievement across all year groups
- There is currently one headteacher working across both schools, who would become the Headteacher for the new primary school. This would provide staff and pupils with more stability.

#### **The Process**

To allow this to happen it is proposed that the junior school will close and the age range of the infant school will expand from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds, to create all through primary school on the same site. While the term closure is used, the only significant change to current arrangements is that the Governing Body of the junior school will cease to exist from the implementation date. The existing Governing Body of the infant school would become the Governing Body for the new primary.

The Executive Headteacher of the infant and junior schools would become the headteacher for the new primary school.

#### **Why not close the infant school instead or close both schools to create a brand new primary school?**

The aim of this proposal is to use the excellent standards and structures in place at the infant school to raise levels of achievement across all primary age year groups. The closure of the junior and expansion of the infant allows the latter to maintain its Outstanding Ofsted rating and positively affect standards and achievement throughout year groups 3 to 6.

If both schools were closed, a brand new school would be opened and run by an external provider which would lead to the infant school losing its current outstanding status.

The option that is being consulted on would be the best to maintain and improve on standards in both schools.

#### **What will it mean for pupils at the school?**

The main benefit for children at Weston Park Infant would be that they would not have to apply for a place at the junior school if they wanted one, they would simply progress from Year 2 to Year 3 at the end/beginning of the academic year.

Weston Park Junior School currently takes the majority of its pupils from Weston Park Infant and Weston Shore Infant. In order to ensure that Weston Shore Infant pupils still have access to local junior school places, the new primary school would admit up to 90 children to year R and an additional 30 places would be made available at Year 3 with priority given to

children from Weston Shore Infant. These children would still need to apply for a Year 3 place, in the same way that they currently do.

The primary school would continue to operate on the same site and in the same buildings as the existing infant and junior schools.

### **What will happen to staff at the schools?**

Both schools are foundation schools, which means the Governing Body (rather than the Local Authority) is the employer of school staff. Infant school staff will continue to be employed by the primary school Governing Body (which is the current infant Governing Body) and staff at the junior school will transfer so that they are employed by the Primary School Governing Body. This will be done by way of TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations) transfer.

The size of the newly expanded school will be broadly the same as the combined size of the current infant and junior schools. The staffing requirements will be similar, but a restructuring exercise will take place to ensure the maximum efficiency of staffing levels. All relevant parties, including trade unions, will be consulted on any staffing changes.

### **Timescales**

#### Pre-Statutory Consultation: 17 April 2012 – 29 May 2012

This first stage of consultation will give staff, pupils, parents and members of the community an opportunity to find out further information and comment on the proposals.

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The final decision will be made by the Local Authority in September 2012.

#### Implementation: September 2012 – January 2013

This period will be used to put arrangements in place and finalise staffing structures ahead of the formal opening of the new primary school in January 2013.

### **How can I get more information on the proposals?**

We are very interested in your views and would welcome any comments that you have on this proposal. You can respond to the consultation by completing and returning the response form on the final page of this document. You can send any comments to: Weston Park Infant School, Newtown Lane, SO19 9HX or Weston Park Junior School, Weston Lane, SO19 9HL. Or you can email: [Info@westonpark-inf.southampton.sch.uk](mailto:Info@westonpark-inf.southampton.sch.uk) or [Info@westonpark-jun.southampton.sch.uk](mailto:Info@westonpark-jun.southampton.sch.uk).

A consultation drop in session will be held in the junior school hall on Tuesday 8 May 2012 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. Representatives from both schools and the Local Authority will be in attendance so please feel free to come along if you would like to ask question or find out any further information.

## MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

### **Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

#### **Contact details**

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Weston Park Junior School (Foundation School), Weston Lane, Southampton, SO19 9HL

#### **Implementation**

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

Under this proposal the Junior School would close on 31 December 2012.

This proposal is linked with that put forward by the Governing Body of Weston Park Infant School to increase the age range of the school from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds. The closure of Weston Park Junior School and the change of age range and expansion of the Weston Park Infant school would result in the creation of an all through primary school. The proposal to change the age range of Weston Park Infant School will be implemented by the Governing Body from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and the proposal to expand Year 3 by 30 pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

#### **Consultation**

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

Statutory consultation requirements have been complied with. In particular, a consultation document was distributed to all parents/pupils and members of staff at Weston Park Infant, Weston Shore Infant, and Weston Park Junior. Copies were also sent to local secondary schools, libraries and pre-schools/nursery's. Details were published on the Southampton City Council website. All headteachers in the city and other key stakeholders (e.g. local MP's, union representatives and the local Dioceses) were informed via email. A consultation drop in session was held at Weston Park Junior School on 8 May 2012. The consultation period ran from 17 April until 29 May, giving people 6 weeks to respond.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

- a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted;and
- d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

e) all staff and parents/pupils at Weston Park Infant, Weston Shore Infant, and

Weston Park Junior, all headteachers in the city, local libraries pre-schools/nurseries, trade union representatives, local MP's and Councillors, Southampton City Council Staff, local Further Education Colleges, local Church of England & Catholic Dioceses, Portsmouth and Hampshire Local Authorities.

- f) N/A
- g) See Appendix 1
- h) See Appendix 2. The document was made available to all staff and parents/pupils at Weston Park Infant, Weston Shore Infant, and Weston Park Junior. Copies were also distributed to local secondary schools, libraries, nurseries/pre-schools. They could also be downloaded from the SCC website.

### **Objectives**

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The aim of the proposal is to create an all through primary school out of the existing infant and junior schools. This proposal is linked with that put forward by the Governing Body of Weston Park Infant School to increase the age range of the school from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds. If approved, the two set of proposals would result in the formation of an all through primary school on the existing Weston Park Infant & Junior site.

### **Standards and Diversity**

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

The infant school is currently graded as Outstanding by Ofsted, while the junior school has been satisfactory for a number of years. An all through primary school could provide the opportunity to raise standards and achievement across all year groups.

### **Provision for 16-19 year olds**

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

N/A

### **Need for places**

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

No pupils will be displaced if this proposal is taken forward as the pupils currently at Weston Park Junior School will be automatically transferred to the expanded Weston Park Infant School which will become a primary school under the linked proposals. Pupils from Weston Park Infant and Weston Shore Infant will continue to be able to access Key Stage 2 places at the primary school on the existing Weston Park Infant and Junior site.

Weston Park Junior currently has 2 feeder schools – Weston Park Infant and Weston Shore Infant. Pupils from the former will transfer directly from year 2 to year 3 with no application process required. Weston Shore pupils will need to apply for a place at the new primary. The new school will have a PAN of 90 for Year R and an additional 30 places will be made available at Year 3 with the admission criteria for year 3 giving preference to pupils from Weston Shore Infant. This will continue to allow pupils from Weston Shore Infant School pupils to have access to Key Stage 2 places in the local area.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

N/A

### **Current School Information**

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

Weston Park Junior School (as at May 2012) has 299 pupils on roll and has a net capacity of 432. Pupils are aged between 7 and 11 and it is a mixed sex school. It is a foundation school and a member of the Southampton Education Trust.

### **Displaced Pupils**

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

No pupils will be displaced if this proposal is taken forward as the pupils currently at Weston park Junior School will be automatically transferred to the expanded Weston Park Infant School which will become a primary school under the linked proposals set out below. Pupils from Weston Park Infant and Weston Shore Infant will continue to be able to access Key Stage 2 places at the primary school on the existing Weston Park Infant and Junior site.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

At present the Year 3 PAN of Weston Park Junior School is 102 and the Year R PAN of Weston Park Infant school is 90. The Year R PAN for the primary school will be 90 and an additional 30 places will be made available at Year 3 so that pupils from Weston Shore Infant can continue to access Key Stage 2 places in the local area.

### **Impact on the Community**

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

It is not anticipated that there will be any adverse impact on the local community. The

proposal will remove the requirement for Weston Park Infant school pupils to go through the application process for year 3 places at their neighbouring school as they will progress straight from year 2 to year 3. As explained above, Weston Shore Infant School (which currently feeds into Weston Park Junior) pupils will continue to have access to Key Stage 2 places in the local area.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

N/A

#### **Travel**

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

N/A

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

N/A

#### **Related Proposals**

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

This proposal is linked with that put forward by the Governing Body of Weston Park Infant School to increase the age range of the school from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds. The closure of Weston Park Junior School and the change of age range and expansion of the Weston Park Infant school would result in the creation of an all through primary school on the same site and in the same buildings as the existing infant and junior schools.

#### **Rural Primary Schools**

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
  - b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
  - c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase;
- and
- d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4)

N/A

#### **Maintained nursery schools**

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;

- b) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

N/A
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**Special educational provision**

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

N/A
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## APPENDIX 1 – VIEWS OF PEOPLE CONSULTED

Relationship to school	Support or do not support proposal	Comment	Date received
Member of Staff – Infant	Support	Hope infant school maintains the high level of learning/standards	
Parent/carer - Infant	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Do not support		18.04.12
Parent/carer - Infant	Do not support		17.04.12
	Do not support	Think it a crazy idea. Juniors need to sort out bullying problems before taking on more	
Governor – Infant	Do not support		
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support	Brilliant. Go for it	18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	Very good idea	18.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior & Member of staff - Junior	Support		24.04.12
Member of staff - Junior	Support	I think changing the school into a primary during this period of economic restraint is sensible. I also think both schools could benefit and therefore improve progress. I am however concerned about the image of the junior school. I feel the consultation documents are putting the school in a negative light. If I had a child at this school I would be very concerned. Will any governors be transferred from the junior governing body to the new school governing body? (e.g. staff governors) I would worry that if this didn't happen the governors would mainly be interested in an infant department focus.	
Parent/carer – Junior	Support	Will make both schools excellent with ofsted.	18.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		26.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		23.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support	This is a positive move for this school.	18.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		18.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		
Member of staff – Junior	Support		19.04.12
Member of staff – Junior	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		17.04.12



Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		
Member of staff – Junior	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		23.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior & Local Resident	Support		19.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior & Local Resident	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Junior	Support		
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	My 2 older boys went to an all through primary school (4-11) and it worked well and reduced the stress of worrying if your child will get a placement at their chosen junior schools	17.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		19.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support		
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		19.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	Great idea and it does not mean to change schools. Excellent!!!	
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support	Although I support the merger I must say that it is solely for the purpose of raising the Junior schools profile on the OFSTED ratings report. I am sceptical that any standards of achievement will be raised in the Junior school, but instead that it will have a detrimental effect on the grading that the Infant school achieves in the future.	20.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	Anything to improve the school is a great idea.	18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant & Junior	Support	Excellent idea	
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support	Am please the school will keep outstanding status. also please I won't have to apply for a junior school. I have two children go through a primary school and felt their education flowed better.	18.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		17.04.12
Parent/carer – Infant	Support		29.05.12

**RE : Proposal to merge Weston Park Infant and Weston Park Junior Schools to form Weston Park Primary**

## Response from the Chair of Governors at Weston Shore Infant School on behalf of the Governors

As Governors at Weston Shore Infant School, we want to see our children and all children in Weston being given the very best opportunities to achieve the very best they can throughout their learning journeys, building on the excellent start they receive in both of Weston's outstanding Infant schools. Whilst we can see some merit in the proposal, for the potential to improve the standards and achievement of Junior age children, we would like to make the following comments:

- Has there been any consideration given to consulting with Weston Shore Infant School parents and the community, whether they would like Weston Shore Infant School to become a primary? If not, why not?
- How will parents from Weston Shore Infant School be reassured and guaranteed that they will not feel disenfranchised and that their children will not be disadvantaged by the transition and induction arrangements for their children in Year 3, compared to those already in the Primary, and that it will not be perceived that children from Weston Shore are 'second class citizens'.
- Can parents and governors be reassured that there is no cause for concern over the future of Weston Shore Infant School due to this proposal; that the future of Weston Shore Infant School is not in jeopardy?
- Can parents and governors be reassured that there are no plans to increase the capacity of the Primary from Reception to Year 2 to the Year 3 – 6 capacity, in the near future or further down the line, say if eg numbers did drop a bit at Weston Shore due to some parents choosing an all through primary for their children for convenience or other reasons?

If the capacity was increased, this could seriously threaten the viability of Weston Shore Infant School, particularly if it was the Local Authority's view that they had put a significant investment into a new Primary School and that it would appear easy and cost effective for all primary aged children in Weston to be educated at one school.

The above question and comments need to be addressed in the context of the vital role that Weston Shore Infant School plays for the children and families in Weston, and in particular to the most vulnerable and deprived families, whom often live in the Tower Blocks and low rise blocks close to the school. The school is outstanding and highly valued in the community; its importance, and with SureStart on the same site supporting these children and families, cannot be underestimated. It is worth noting that despite the very high levels of deprivation etc at Weston Shore, the levels of attendance are broadly in line with national average and are well above the other two schools. The proximity of the school, the size of the school and the subsequent very strong sense of family and community contributes hugely to this, which in turn contributes to high levels of achievement and life chances for children (many of whom are very vulnerable and highly disadvantaged).

- Can parents and governors be reassured that future communications will be carefully assessed to explicitly address the parents of Weston Shore Infant School, as well as those at the 'merging' schools, showing the positives and allaying concerns?
- Can we presume that governors and parents at Weston Shore Infant School will be kept fully informed and fully consulted throughout this process and whatever the outcome?
- What arrangements, if any, will be put in place to allow Weston Shore Infant School (also with an outstanding rating and feeding our children in to the school), to positively affect standards and achievement, as our children and all those in Weston, progress through their learning journey in year groups 3 to 6 ?

## APPENDIX 2 – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Tuesday 17 April 2012

To:

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