



Proposal to merge Bitterne Park Infant and Bitterne Park Junior schools to form Bitterne Park Primary School

Southampton City Council (the local authority) is keen to provide all-through primary schools where possible for the benefit of pupils' education. If the opportunity arises, the local authority will investigate ways to establish all-through primary schools by merging existing co-located infant and junior schools. This is achieved by discontinuing one of the schools and broadening the age range of the remaining school.

Bitterne Park Infant School is currently without a head teacher; the previous post holder having left in December 2012. Consequently, the local authority is consulting on a proposal to discontinue the infant school and extend the age range of Bitterne Park Junior School, thus creating an all-through primary school.

While the term discontinue is used, this proposal is focused on merging and bringing together two schools.

The process

It is proposed that Bitterne Park Infant School would be discontinued, and the age range of pupils at Bitterne Park Junior School would expand from 7 - 11 year olds to 4 - 11 year olds, therefore providing for the lower age groups that previously attended the infant school. This would result in an all-through primary school on the same overall site.

While the term discontinue is used, the only significant change to current arrangements would be that the governing body of the infant school would be dissolved at the point of the merger, if the change is implemented. While legislation dictates that the remaining schools' governing body would become the governing body for the primary, in practice, members of the infant school governing body and the Interim Executive Board (which is similar to a governing body) will come together to form the governing body for the new primary.

To this end a steering group, made up of members of both schools' governing bodies and leadership teams, will be set up to ease the transition towards primary school status.

If the proposals are approved, the current head teacher of the junior school would become the head teacher of the new primary school.

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

Why not discontinue the junior school instead of the infant or discontinue both schools and create a brand new primary school?

The local authority favours all-through primary schools, as opposed to separate infant and junior schools, as there are educational benefits and the disruption associated with pupils' transition from infant to junior school is avoided. One method for creating a new primary school is to discontinue either the infant or junior and expand the age range of the other. Two situations in particular encourage the local authority to explore the option of merging schools:

1. When the governing bodies of co-located infant and junior schools seek support to establish a primary school; or
2. If a headship of a co-located infant or junior school becomes vacant.

In this specific circumstance, the second scenario has arisen. In view of the infant school head teacher vacancy, the proposal is to discontinue the school that does not have a head teacher, and to expand the school that has a head teacher in post, thereby ensuring continued leadership across both schools.

Another option would be to discontinue both schools and open a brand new primary school. This could be done by advertising for an external provider to come in and run the new primary school, thus withdrawing it from the control of the local authority. The Secretary of State's consent would need to be gained in order for this to happen. This option has been discounted because the preference is for the new school to be maintained by the local authority.

Alternatively, new legislation allows the local authority to do this if the new primary school is created from existing infant and junior schools. This option would involve removing both sets of head teachers and governing bodies. This option is not being considered because the authority would like to retain some of the leadership and governance structures that are currently in place at the schools.

What are the advantages of an all-through primary school?

They include:

- Coherence of curriculum from the early years foundation stage through to the end of key stage 2;
- Commonality of school policies;
- Sharing of resources; and
- Parents would no longer need to apply for a year three place at the junior school; they would simply progress from year two to year three at the beginning of the academic year.

What would happen to staff at the schools?

Both schools are community schools which means school staff are employed by the local authority. Staff at both schools would continue to be employed by Southampton City Council.

The size of the primary school would be the same as the combined size of the current infant and junior schools (i.e. 90 children in each year group). The staffing requirements would be similar, but a restructuring exercise may need to take place in order to avoid the duplication of roles. All relevant parties, including trade unions would be consulted about any potential staffing changes.

What will be the admissions arrangements for the primary?

Both schools are community schools and, as a result, have the same admissions arrangements. If there are more applications than there are places available at either school, Southampton City Council's Admissions Policies for Community Infant/Primary and Junior schools are applied. As the infant and junior school have broadly the same oversubscription criteria and the primary would be a community school, the existing Southampton City Council Admissions Policy would apply for the new primary.

What do the governing bodies of the schools think about the proposal?

The idea of merging the infant and junior schools to create a primary school was discussed with both schools' governing bodies, prior to the publication of the proposal. It was initially proposed that the junior school would discontinue and the infant school would be expanded. However, following further consideration it is now proposed that the junior school is expanded and the infant school is discontinued. This decision came about largely because the junior school has existing leadership arrangements in place.

The infant school's governing body has made it clear it favours the initial proposal (discontinuing the junior school and expanding the infant) due to the following:

- If the headteacher of the junior oversaw the transition and the governing body of the infant became the governing body of the primary, both schools would feel be equally recognised, respected and involved. This would result in a more equal partnership and demonstrate a sensitive handling of the situation; and
- Each pair of schools should be dealt with on an individual basis – i.e. it should not always be that the school without a head teacher should be the school that closes.

The Interim Executive Board (which is similar to a governing body) of Bitterne Park Junior School has expressed its support for a pre-statutory consultation on the development of a primary school. They have also said that they are keen, and committed to, working with the infant school governing body in the development of the primary school.

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Timescales

Pre-statutory consultation: 6 February 2013 – 27 March 2013

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

Statutory consultation: April 2013 – June 2013

If the local authority (after reviewing responses at the first stage of consultation) decides to proceed with the proposal, a formal notice would be published at both schools and in the local newspaper. A six week consultation period would follow.

Final decision: July 2013

It is likely a final decision on the proposal would be made by the local authority in July 2013.

Implementation: September 2013 – January 2014

This period would be used to put arrangements in place and finalise staffing structures ahead of the formal opening of the new primary school between September 2013 and January 2014.

How can I get more information on the proposal and have my say?

We are keen to hear your views on the proposal and welcome any comments you have at this stage. If you would like more information about the proposal before submitting your comments, please contact the council on the details below.

You can respond to the consultation by completing and returning the response form in this document or by emailing us your comments. Please send any comments to: Primary School Development Consultation, Children's Services and Learning, Infrastructure, Floor Four, One Guildhall Square, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or to Bitterne Park Infant or Junior School. Alternatively, you can email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

A consultation drop-in session will be held at Bitterne Park Infant School on Monday 18 March 2013 between 2.30pm and 3.30pm. Parents of pupils from both schools are welcome to attend. Representatives from the local authority will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

A separate consultation meeting for staff at both schools will be arranged shortly.

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Consultation response form on the proposed merger of Bitterne Park Infant and Bitterne Park Junior schools, to form an all-through primary school

Your views on the proposal are important to us. Please let us know what you think by completing the form below:

I am a (please tick the relevant box):


	Tick	School associated with
Parent/carer of a school child	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Parent/carer of a pre-school child	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Member of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Local Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Local Councillor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by merging Bitterne Park Infant and Bitterne Park Junior schools? (Please answer yes or no)

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by discontinuing Bitterne Park Infant School and extending the age range of pupils at Bitterne Park Junior School? (Please answer yes or no)

If you would like to leave any additional comments, please use the following page.

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Please return this form to: Primary School Development Consultation, Infrastructure, Children's Services and Learning, Floor Four One Guildhall Square, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or to Bitterne Park Infant or Junior School. You can also email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

Responses must be submitted by **Wednesday 27 March 2013**.



Proposal to merge Oakwood Infant and Oakwood Junior schools to form Oakwood Primary School

Southampton City Council (the local authority) is keen to provide all-through primary schools where possible for the benefit of pupils' education. If the opportunity arises, the local authority will investigate ways to establish all-through primary schools by merging existing co-located infant and junior schools. This is achieved by discontinuing one of the schools and broadening the age range of the remaining school.

The headteacher at Oakwood Infant School is retiring at the end of the academic year. Consequently, the local authority is consulting on a proposal to discontinue the infant school and extend the age range of Oakwood Junior School, thus creating an all-through primary school.

While the term discontinue is used, this proposal is about merging and bringing together two schools.

The process

It is proposed that Oakwood Infant School would be discontinued, and the age range of pupils at Oakwood Junior School would expand from 7 - 11 year olds to 4 - 11 year olds, therefore providing for the lower age groups, who previously attended the infant school. This would result in an all-through primary school on the same overall site.

While the term discontinue is used, the only significant change to current arrangements would be that the governing body of the infant school would be dissolved at the point of closure, if the change is implemented. The junior school governing body would become the governing body for the new primary school. It may also be possible for some of the infant school's existing governors to help govern the new primary too.

If the proposals are approved, the current head teacher of the junior school would become the head teacher for the new primary school.

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

Why not discontinue the junior school instead of the infant or discontinue both schools and create a brand new primary school?

The local authority favours all-through primary schools, as opposed to separate infant and junior schools, as there are educational benefits and the

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disruption associated with pupils' transition from infant to junior school is avoided. One method for creating a new primary school is to discontinue either the infant or junior and expand the age range of the other. Two situations in particular encourage the local authority to explore the option of merging schools:

3. When the governing bodies of co-located infant and junior schools seek support to establish a primary school; or
4. If a headship of a co-located infant or junior school becomes vacant.

In this specific circumstance, the second scenario has arisen. As the infant school is due to have a head teacher vacancy at the end of the year, the proposal is to close the school that does not have a head teacher, and to expand the school that has a head teacher in post, thereby ensuring continued leadership across both schools.

Another option would be to close both schools and open a brand new primary school. This could be done by advertising for an external provider to come in and run the new primary school, thus withdrawing it from the control of the local authority. The Secretary of State's consent would need to be gained in order for this to happen. This option has been discounted because the preference is for the new school to be maintained by the local authority.

Alternatively, new legislation allows the local authority to do this if the new primary school is created from existing infant and junior schools. This option would involve removing both sets of head teachers and governing bodies. This option is not being considered because the authority would like to retain some of the leadership and governance structures that are currently in place at the schools.

What are the advantages of an all-through primary school?

They include:

- Parents would no longer need to apply for a year three place at the junior school; they would simply progress from year two to year three at the beginning of the academic year;
- Coherence of curriculum from the early years foundation stage through to the end of key stage 2;
- Commonality of school policies; and
- Sharing of resources.

What would happen to staff at the schools?

The local authority is the employer of school staff and so staff of the primary school would continue to be employed by Southampton City Council.

The size of the primary school would be the same as the combined size of the current infant and junior schools (i.e. 60 children in each year group). The staffing requirements would be similar, but a restructuring exercise may need to take place in order to avoid the duplication of roles. All relevant parties,

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including trade unions, would be consulted about any potential staffing changes.

What will be the admissions arrangements for the primary?

Both schools have similar admissions arrangements. If there are more applications than there are places available at either school, Southampton City Council's Admissions Policies for Community Infant/Primary and Junior schools are applied. The existing Southampton City Council Admissions Policy would apply for the new primary.

What do the governing bodies of the schools think about the proposal?

Both governing bodies support a position where consultation begins on the basis of the school with the headship vacancy being closed, and the school with the incumbent head remaining open and extending its age range.

Timescales

Pre-statutory consultation: 6 February 2013 – 27 March 2013

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

Statutory consultation: April 2013 – June 2013

If the local authority (after reviewing responses at the first stage of consultation) decides to proceed with the proposal, a formal notice would be published at both schools and in the local newspaper. A six week consultation period would follow.

Final decision: July 2013

It is likely a final decision on the proposal would be made by the local authority in July 2013.

Implementation: September 2013 – January 2014

This period would be used to put arrangements in place and finalise staffing structures ahead of the formal opening of the new primary school between September 2013 and January 2014.

How can I get more information on the proposal and have my say?

We are keen to hear your views on the proposal and welcome any comments you have at this stage. If you would like more information about the proposal before submitting your comments, please contact the council on the details below.

You can respond to the consultation by completing and returning the response form in this document or by emailing us your comments. Please send any comments to: Primary School Development Consultation, Children's Services and Learning, Infrastructure, Floor Four, One Guildhall Square,

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Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or to Oakwood Infant or Junior school. Alternatively, you can email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

A consultation drop-in session will be held at Oakwood Infant School on Monday 11 March 2013 between 2.30pm and 4.00pm. Staff and parents of both schools are welcome to attend. Representatives from the LA will be in attendance so please feel free to come along if you would like to ask questions or find out more information.

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Consultation response form on the proposed merger of Oakwood Infant and Oakwood Junior schools, to form an all-through primary school

Your views on the proposal are important to us. Please let us know what you think by completing the form below:

I am a (please tick the relevant box):

	Tick	School associated with
Parent/carer of a school child		
Parent/carer of a pre-school child		
Governor		
Member of staff		
Local Resident		
Local Councillor		
Other (please specify)		

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by merging Oakwood Infant and Oakwood Junior schools? (Please answer yes or no)

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by discontinuing Oakwood Infant School and extending the age range of pupils at Oakwood Junior School? (Please answer yes or no)

If you would like to leave any additional comments, please use the following page.

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Please return this form to: Primary School Development Consultation, Infrastructure, Children's Services and Learning, Floor Four One Guildhall Square, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or Oakwood Infant or Junior School. You can email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

Responses must be submitted by **Wednesday 27 March 2013**.



Proposal to merge Tanners Brook Infant and Tanners Brook Junior schools to form Tanners Brook Primary School

Southampton City Council (the local authority) is keen to provide all-through primary schools where possible for the benefit of pupils' education. If the opportunity arises, the local authority will investigate ways to establish all-through primary schools by merging existing co-located infant and junior schools. This is achieved by discontinuing one of the schools and broadening the age range of the remaining school.

The headteacher at Tanners Brook Junior School is retiring and due to leave the school at the end of the academic year. Consequently, the local authority is consulting on a proposal to discontinue the junior school and extend the age range of Tanners Brook Infant School, thus creating an all-through primary school.

While the term discontinue is used, this proposal is about merging and bringing together two schools.

The process

It is proposed that Tanners Brook Junior School would be discontinued, and the age range of pupils at Tanners Brook Infant School would expand from 4 - 7 year olds to 4 - 11 year olds, therefore taking on the older age groups, who previously attended the junior school. This would result in an all-through primary school on the same overall site.

While the term discontinue is used, the only significant change to current arrangements would be that the governing body of the junior school would be dissolved at the point of closure, if the change is implemented. The infant school governing body would become the governing body for the new primary school. It may also be possible for some of the junior school's existing governors to help govern the new primary too.

If the proposals are approved, the current head teacher of the infant school would become the head teacher for the new primary school.

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

Why not discontinue the infant school instead of the junior or discontinue both schools and create a brand new primary school?

The local authority favours all-through primary schools, as opposed to separate infant and junior schools, as there are educational benefits and the

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disruption associated with pupils' transition from infant to junior school is avoided. One method for creating a new primary school is to discontinue either the infant or junior and expand the age range of the other. Two situations in particular encourage the local authority to explore the option of merging schools:

5. When the governing bodies of co-located infant and junior schools seek support to establish a primary school; or
6. If a headship of a co-located infant or junior school becomes vacant.

In this specific circumstance, the second scenario has arisen. As the junior school is due to have a head teacher vacancy at the end of the year, the proposal is to discontinue the school that does not have a head teacher, and to expand the school that has a head teacher in post, thereby ensuring continued leadership across both schools.

Another option would be to discontinue both schools and open a brand new primary school. This could be done by advertising for an external provider to come in and run the new primary school, thus withdrawing it from the control of the local authority. The Secretary of State's consent would need to be gained in order for this to happen. This option has been discounted because the preference is for the new school to be maintained by the local authority.

Alternatively, new legislation allows the local authority to do this if the new primary school is created from existing infant and junior schools. This option would involve removing both sets of head teachers and governing bodies. This option is not being considered because the authority would like to retain some of the leadership and governance structures that are currently in place at the schools.

What are the advantages of an all-through primary school?

They include:

- Coherence of curriculum from the early years foundation stage through to the end of key stage 2;
- Commonality of school policies;
- Sharing of resources; and
- Parents would no longer need to apply for a year three place at the junior school; they would simply progress from year two to year three at the beginning of the academic year.

What would happen to staff at the schools?

Both schools are community schools which means the local authority is the employer of school staff. Staff at both schools would continue to be employed by Southampton City Council.

The size of the primary school would be the same as the combined size of the current infant and junior schools. The staffing requirements would be similar, but a restructuring exercise may need to take place in order to avoid the

duplication of roles. All relevant parties, including trade unions, would be consulted about any potential staffing changes.

What will be the admissions arrangements for the primary?

Both schools are community schools and, as a result, have the same admissions arrangements. If there are more applications than there are places available at either school, Southampton City Council's Admissions Policies for Community Infant/Primary and Junior schools are applied. As the infant and junior school have broadly the same oversubscription criteria and the primary would be a community school, the existing Southampton City Council Admissions Policy would apply for the new primary.

What do the governing bodies of the schools think about the proposal?

The governing body of Tanners Brook Infant School support the proposal to create an all through primary, although they do have some concerns regarding funding, the future size of the school and the support that would be available. Their preference is for the current head teacher of the infant school to become the head teacher of the primary, as per the proposal that is being put forward.

The Governing Body of Tanners Brook Junior have some concerns over the proposal, particularly with regards to the timing, the speed with which it is moving forward, the benefits of the proposal in its current form (i.e. the closure of the junior and expansion of the infant) and future leadership arrangements.

Timescales

Pre-statutory consultation: 6 February 2013 – 27 March 2013

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

Statutory consultation: April 2013 – June 2013

If the local authority (after reviewing responses at the first stage of consultation) decides to proceed with the proposal, a formal notice would be published at both schools and in the local newspaper. A six week consultation period would follow.

Final decision: July 2013

It is likely a final decision on the proposal would be made by the local authority in July 2013.

Implementation: September 2013 – January 2014

This period would be used to put arrangements in place and finalise staffing structures ahead of the formal opening of the new primary school between September 2013 and January 2014.

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How can I get more information on the proposal and have my say?

We are keen to hear your views on the proposal and welcome any comments you have at this stage. If you would like more information about the proposal before submitting your comments, please contact the council on the details below.

You can respond to the consultation by completing and returning the response form in this document or by emailing us your comments. Please send any comments to: Primary School Development Consultation, Children's Services and Learning, Infrastructure, Floor Four, One Guildhall Square, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or Tanners Brook Infant or Junior School. Alternatively, you can email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

A consultation drop-in session will be held in the hall at Tanners Brook Junior School on Thursday 28 February 2013 between 3.15pm and 4.00pm. Staff and parents of both schools are welcome to attend. Representatives from the LA will be in attendance so please feel free to come along if you would like to ask questions or find out more information.

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Consultation response form on the proposed merger of Tanners Brook Infant and Tanners Brook Junior schools, to form an all-through primary school.

Your views on the proposal are important to us. Please let us know what you think by completing the form below:

I am a (please tick the relevant box):


	Tick	School associated with
Parent/carer of a school child		
Parent/carer of a pre-school child		
Governor		
Member of staff		
Local Resident		
Local Councillor		
Other (please specify)		

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by merging Tanners Brook Infant and Tanners Brook Junior schools? (Please answer yes or no)

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by discontinuing Tanners Brook Junior School and extending the age range of pupils at Tanners Brook Infant School? (Please answer yes or no)

If you would like to leave any additional comments, please use the following page.

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Please return this form to: Primary School Development Consultation, Infrastructure, Children's Services and Learning, Floor Four One Guildhall Square, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or Tanners Brook Infant or Junior School. You can email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

Responses must be submitted by **Wednesday 27 March 2013**.



Proposal to merge Valentine Infant and Heathfield Junior Schools to form Valentine/Heathfield Primary School

Southampton City Council (the local authority) is keen to provide all-through primary schools where possible for the benefit of pupils' education. If the opportunity arises, the local authority will investigate ways to establish all-through primary schools by merging existing co-located infant and junior schools. This is achieved by discontinuing one of the schools and broadening the age range of the remaining school.

Valentine Infant and Heathfield Junior schools federated in November 2012 and now one governing body operates across both schools. The Chair of Governors asked if the Local Authority would consider consulting on a proposal to discontinue the junior school and extend the age range of the infant school, thus creating an all through primary school, alongside proposals to merge other co-located infant and junior schools in the city. It makes sense for the proposal for Valentine and Heathfield to be consulted on at the same time as other merger proposals.

While the term discontinue is used, this proposal is about merging and bringing together two schools.

The process

It is proposed that Heathfield Junior School would be discontinued, and the age range of pupils at Valentine Infant School would expand from 4 - 7 year olds to 4 - 11 year olds, therefore providing for the older age groups, who previously attended the junior school. This would result in an all-through primary school on the same overall site.

While the term discontinue is used, the most significant change would be a reorganisation of the senior management structure. There is currently one governing body operating across both the infant and junior and this would be the governing body for the primary.

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

Why not discontinue the infant school instead of the junior or discontinue both schools and create a brand new primary school?

The local authority favours all-through primary schools, as opposed to separate infant and junior schools, as there are educational benefits and the disruption associated with pupils' transition from infant to junior school is avoided. One method for creating a new primary school is to discontinue

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either the infant or junior and expand the age range of the other. Two situations in particular encourage the local authority to explore the option of merging schools:

7. When the governing bodies of co-located infant and junior schools seek support to establish a primary school; or
8. If a headship of a co-located infant or junior school becomes vacant.

In this instance, the first option has arisen as the governing body have asked if the local authority could explore the option of creating a primary from the existing infant and junior schools. The decision on which school to discontinue and which to expand is based on the performance of the two schools. The junior has been graded as satisfactory/inadequate for its last three Ofsted inspections, while the infant has been graded as good/outstanding. It is therefore proposed that the junior would discontinue and the infant expands.

Another option would be to close both schools and open a brand new primary school. This could be done by advertising for an external provider to come in and run the new primary school, thus withdrawing it from the control of the local authority. The Secretary of State's consent would need to be gained in order for this to happen. This option has been discounted because the preference is for the new school to be maintained by the local authority.

Alternatively, new legislation allows the local authority to do this if the new primary school is created from existing infant and junior schools. This option would involve removing both sets of head teachers and governing bodies. This option is not being considered because the authority would like to retain some of the leadership and governance structures that are currently in place at the schools.

What are the advantages of an all-through primary school?

They include:

- Coherence of curriculum from the early years foundation stage through to the end of key stage 2;
- Commonality of school policies;
- Sharing of resources; and
- Parents would no longer need to apply for a year three place at the junior school; they would simply progress from year two to year three at the beginning of the academic year.

What would happen to staff at the schools?

Both schools are community schools which means the local authority is the employer of school staff. Staff at both schools would continue to be employed by Southampton City Council.

The size of the primary school would be the same as the combined size of the current infant and junior schools. The staffing requirements would be similar, but a restructuring exercise may need to take place in order to avoid the

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duplication of roles. All relevant parties, including trade unions, would be consulted about any potential staffing changes.

What will be the admissions arrangements for the primary?

Both schools are community schools and, as a result, have the same admissions arrangements. If there are more applications than there are places available at either school, Southampton City Council's Admissions Policies for Community Infant/Primary and Junior schools are applied. As the infant and junior school have broadly the same oversubscription criteria and the primary would be a community school, the existing Southampton City Council Admissions Policy would apply for the new primary.

Timescales

Pre-statutory consultation: 6 February 2013 – 27 March 2013

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

Statutory consultation: April 2013 – June 2013

If the local authority (after reviewing responses at the first stage of consultation) decides to proceed with the proposal, a formal notice would be published at both schools and in the local newspaper. A six week consultation period would follow.

Final decision: July 2013

It is likely a final decision on the proposal would be made by the local authority in July 2013.

Implementation: September 2013 – January 2014

This period would be used to put arrangements in place and finalise staffing structures ahead of the formal opening of the new primary school between September 2013 and January 2014.

How can I get more information on the proposal and have my say?

We are keen to hear your views on the proposal and welcome any comments you have at this stage. If you would like more information about the proposal before submitting your comments, please contact the council on the details below.

You can respond to the consultation by completing and returning the response form in this document or by emailing us your comments. Please send any comments to: Primary School Development Consultation, Children's Services and Learning, Infrastructure, Floor Four, One Guildhall Square, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or Valentine Infant or Heathfield Junior School. Alternatively, you can email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

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A consultation drop-in session will be held in the dining hall at Heathfield Junior School on Thursday 7 March 2013 between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. Staff and parents of both schools are welcome to attend. Representatives from the LA will be in attendance so please feel free to come along if you would like to ask questions or find out more information.

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Consultation response form on the proposed merger of Valentine Infant and Heathfield Junior schools, to form an all-through primary school.

Your views on the proposal are important to us. Please let us know what you think by completing the form below:

I am a (please tick the relevant box):

	Tick	School associated with
Parent/carer of a school child		
Parent/carer of a pre-school child		
Governor		
Member of staff		
Local Resident		
Local Councillor		
Other (please specify)		

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by merging Valentine Infant and Heathfield Junior schools? (Please answer yes or no)

and

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by discontinuing Heathfield Junior School and extending the age range of pupils at Valentine Infant School? (Please answer yes or no)

If you would like to leave any additional comments, please use the following page.

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Please return this form to: Primary School Development Consultation, Infrastructure, Children's Services and Learning, Floor Four One Guildhall Square, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or Valentine Infant or Heathfield Junior School. You can email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

Responses must be submitted by **Wednesday 27 March 2013**.



Proposal to merge St Monica Infant and St Monica Junior Schools to form St Monica Primary School

Southampton City Council (the local authority) is keen to provide all-through primary schools where possible for the benefit of pupils' education. If the opportunity arises, the local authority will investigate ways to establish all-through primary schools by merging existing linked infant and junior schools. This is achieved by discontinuing one of the schools and broadening the age range of the remaining school.

After a long and distinguished career with the local authority, the headteacher at St Monica Junior School is retiring and due to leave the school at the end of the academic year. Consequently, the local authority is consulting on a proposal to discontinue the junior school and extend the age range of St Monica Infant School, thus creating an all-through primary school.

Although the word discontinue is used, this proposal is about merging and bringing together two schools.

The process

It is proposed that St Monica Junior School would be discontinued, and the age range of pupils at St Monica Infant School would expand from 4 - 7 year olds to 4 - 11 year olds, therefore taking on the older age groups, who attend the junior school. This would result in an all-through primary school on the same overall school sites.

While the term discontinue is used, the only significant change to current arrangements would be that the governing body of the junior school would be dissolved at the point of closure, if the change is implemented. The infant school governing body would become the governing body for the new primary school. The LA strongly recommends that the governing body reconstitutes and that the new primary governing body comprises of governors from both schools.

If the proposals are approved, the current headteacher of the infant school would become the headteacher for the new primary school.

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

Why not discontinue the infant school instead of the junior or discontinue both schools and create a brand new primary school?

The local authority favours all-through primary schools, as opposed to separate infant and junior schools, as there are educational benefits and the disruption associated with pupils' transition from infant to junior school is avoided. One method for creating a new primary school is to discontinue either the infant or junior and expand the age range of the other. Two situations in particular encourage the local authority to explore the option of merging schools:

9. When the governing bodies of linked infant and junior schools seek support to establish a primary school; or
10. If a headship of a linked infant or junior school becomes vacant.

In this specific circumstance, the second scenario has arisen. As the junior school is due to have a headteacher vacancy at the end of the year, the proposal is to discontinue the school that does not have a headteacher, and to expand the school that has a headteacher in post, thereby ensuring continued leadership across both schools.

Another option would be to discontinue both schools and open a brand new primary school. This could be done by advertising for an external provider to come in and run the new primary school, thus withdrawing it from the control of the local authority. The Secretary of State's consent would need to be gained in order for this to happen. This option has been discounted because the preference is for the new school to be maintained by the local authority and also because the competition process is lengthy.

New legislation allows the local authority to open a new primary school if it is created through closing existing LA maintained infant and junior schools. This option would involve removing both sets of headteachers and governing bodies. This is not being considered because the authority would like to retain some of the leadership and governance structures that are currently in place at the schools.

What are the advantages of an all-through primary school?

They include:

- Coherence of curriculum from the early years foundation stage through to the end of key stage 2;
- Commonality of school policies;
- Sharing of resources; and
- Parents would no longer need to apply for a year three place at the junior school; they would simply progress from year two to year three at the beginning of the academic year.

What would happen to staff at the schools?

Both schools are community schools which means the local authority is the employer of school staff. Staff at both schools would continue to be employed by Southampton City Council.

The size of the primary school would be the same as the combined size of the current infant and junior schools. The staffing requirements would be similar, but a restructuring exercise may need to take place in order to avoid the duplication of roles. All relevant parties, including trade unions, would be consulted about any potential staffing changes.

What will be the admissions arrangements for the primary?

Both schools are community schools and, as a result, have the same admissions arrangements. If there are more applications than there are places available at either school, *Southampton City Council's Admissions Policies for Community Infant/Primary and Junior Schools* are applied. As the infant and junior school are both community schools and have broadly the same oversubscription criteria, the existing Southampton City Council Admissions Policy would apply for the new primary.

What do the governing bodies of the schools think about the proposal?

“St Monica Infant’s full governing body endorses the local authority proposal that our school be included in the Primary School consultation to integrate with St Monica Junior to explore all possible benefits and gain the views of the community. The constant drive of our school to getting better for all will continue unabated.”

“The governors of St Monica Junior School are saddened by the departure of Angela Paris after many years of quality leadership of the school, however we wish her well in her well earned retirement. We consider that the proposal to combine with St Monica Infant School is worthy of significant consideration and consultation and therefore support the local authority’s proposal to begin such a process. It is in many ways a natural progression from the excellent collaborative work that has gone on between the two schools in the last few years in particular. We are however mindful of the great significance of the proposal and wish to ensure that the process and outcome will build on the excellent ethos and improving standards of the junior school. To this end the governors are committed to working with the governors of the infant school to ensure the best possible education for the community both current and future.”

Timescales

Pre-statutory consultation: 27 February 2013 to 10 April 2013

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

Appendix 1 – Consultation Documents

Statutory consultation: April 2013 – June 2013

If the local authority (after reviewing responses at the first stage of consultation) decides to proceed with the proposal, a formal notice would be published at both schools and in the local newspaper. A six week consultation period would follow.

Final decision: July 2013

It is likely a final decision on the proposal would be made by the local authority by July 2013.

Implementation: September 2013 – January 2014

This period would be used to put arrangements in place and finalise staffing structures ahead of the formal opening of the new primary school between September 2013 and January 2014.

How can I get more information on the proposal and have my say?

We are keen to hear your views on the proposal and welcome any comments you have at this stage. If you would like more information about the proposal before submitting your comments, please contact the council on the details below.

You can respond to the consultation by completing and returning the response form in this document or by emailing us your comments. Please send any comments to: Primary School Development Consultation, Children's Services and Learning, Infrastructure, Floor Four, One Guildhall Square, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or to St Monica Infant or Junior School. Alternatively, you can email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

Consultation drop-in sessions will be held in the hall at St Monica Infant School on Tuesday 12 March 2013 between 3.15pm and 4.00pm, and in the hall at St Monica Junior School on Wednesday 20 March 2013 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. Parents of both schools are welcome to attend either session. Representatives from the LA will be in attendance so please feel free to come along if you would like to ask questions or find out more information.

Appendix 1 – Consultation Documents

Consultation response form on the proposed merger of St Monica Infant and St Monica Junior Schools, to form an all-through primary school.

Your views on the proposal are important to us. Please let us know what you think by completing the form below:

I am a (please tick the relevant box):

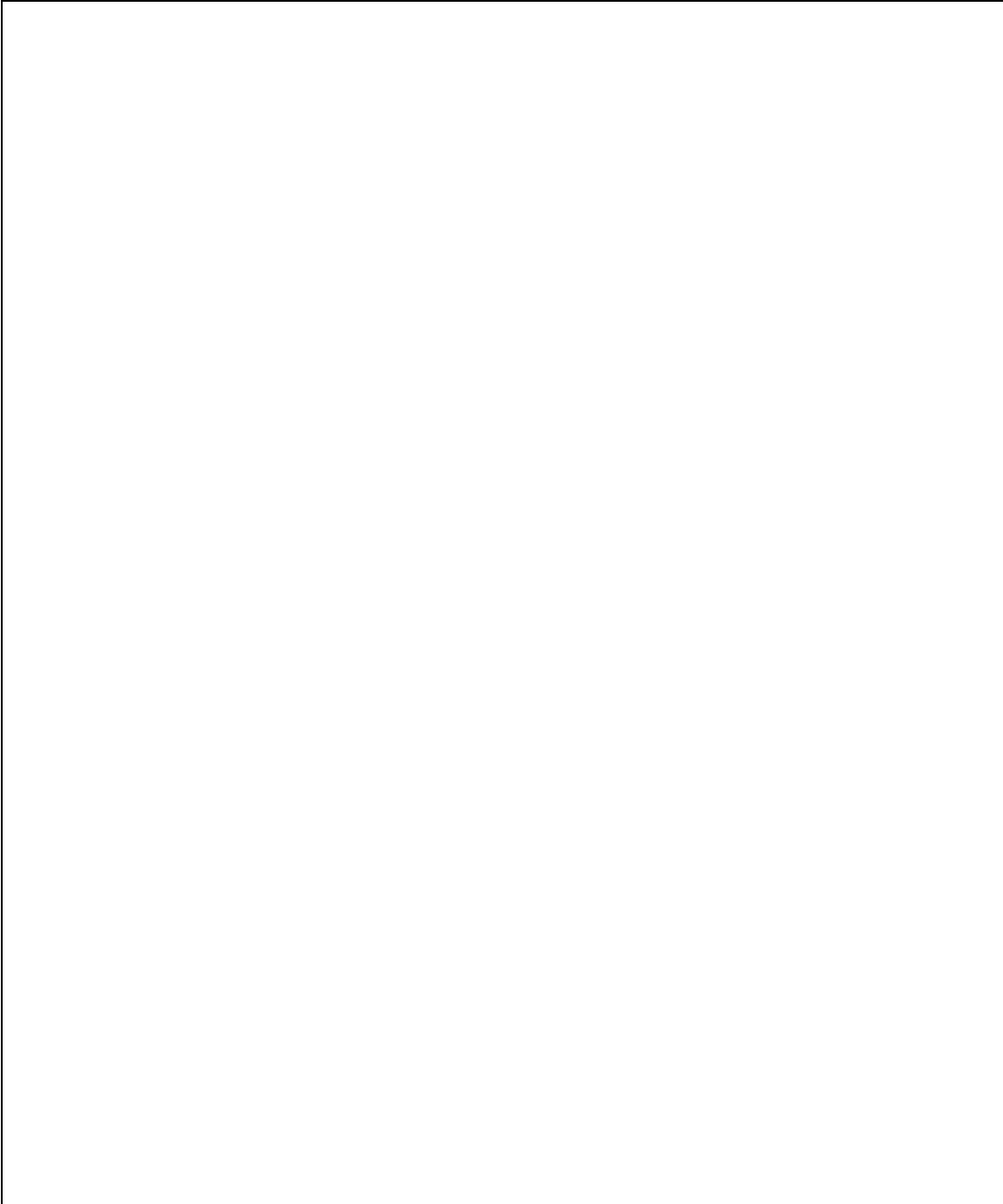
	Tick	School associated with
Parent/carer of a school child		
Parent/carer of a pre-school child		
Governor		
Member of staff		
Local Resident		
Local Councillor		
Other (please specify)		

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by merging St Monica Infant and St Monica Junior Schools? (Please answer yes or no)

Do you support the proposal to create an all-through primary school by discontinuing St Monica Junior School and extending the age range of pupils at St Monica Infant School? (Please answer yes or no)

If you would like to leave any additional comments, please use the following page.

Appendix 1 – Consultation Documents



Please return this form to: Primary School Development Consultation, Infrastructure, Children's Services and Learning, Floor Four, One Guildhall Square, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY or to St Monica Infant or Junior School. You can email your comments to infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk.

Responses must be submitted by **Wednesday 10 April 2013**.