



Possible Amalgamation of
Hunderton Infants and Junior Schools to form
a new all-through primary school on the current
school site

A Public Consultation Document
Spring 2005

In this paper there is information to help you understand the issues. Public meetings have been arranged when officers from the Local Education Authority will be available to explain about the proposal and answer questions.

Junior School	Infants School
Date:	Date:
Time:	Time:
Venue:	Venue:

1. Introduction

At the end of the summer term 2004 the Headteacher of the Infants School retired. Since then there has been discussion with both Governing Bodies as to the possibility of the schools amalgamating to form a new all-through primary school with an annual admission of 90 pupils.

Governors of both schools have had meetings with senior management of the Education Directorate, and support the principle of amalgamation on the understanding that it coincides with building remodelling.

2. Benefits of an all-through primary school

The LEA is committed to raising education standards. The educational advantage from all-through primary schools in modern buildings provides a further opportunity for the governors and staff to work towards the raising of standards. The educational advantages can be summarised by:

- a. Whole school planning across both Key Stages 1 and 2, offering greater curriculum continuity for children and staff;
- b. With the children remaining in the same school for their primary years, continuity and progression for children's learning are easier to achieve, particularly pupils with SEN (Special Educational Needs).
- c. Clearer rules for children with common policies and expectations from 4 through to 11;
- d. Removal of uncertainty as parents also not have to apply for a place at the Junior School;
- e. Greater staff flexibility offering a breadth of expertise across the whole curriculum, fuller career opportunities for staff working across the whole primary phase.

3. Proposed Timetable for this change

If the proposed change were to go ahead, the two existing schools could cease at the end of August, 2006. A new single all-through primary school, on the same site, and with a new governing body, would open on 1st September, 2006.

The new school could be created in 3 ways.

1. Both schools could be closed and a new school opened.
2. The Infants' school could be expanded to accommodate the additional pupils and the Junior School would close;
3. The Junior school could be expanded to accommodate the additional pupils and the Infants' school would close.

The Council and Governors of both schools supports the first option as it offers fairness and transparency for everyone involved.

A new temporary Governing Body made up of Governors from the two existing schools would be formed in the Autumn of 2005 to make the decisions in preparation the new school.

Staff would be supported through this change to minimise disruption and ensure a smooth transition. For teaching and other classroom staff the change would be relatively straightforward, as the two schools cater for different age ranges and casting roles would continue.

Pupils in the existing two schools, who would still be in primary education from September, 2005 or September, 2006 would **automatically** be offered a place in the new school.

4. Future size of the new all-through primary school

Currently both schools can admit up to 90 pupils in each year group. The following table provides details of current and projected future numbers.

Hunderton Infants						
	Admission Number	Reception	Yr 1	Yr 2	Total	School Capacity
January 2004	90	63	66	68	197	270
April 2004	90	65	63	67	195	270
September 2004	90	46	65	61	172	270

Hunderton Junior							
	PAN	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total	School Capacity
January 2004	90	85	72	77	70	304	360
April 2004	90	86	69	77	68	300	360
September 2004	90	59	89	71	78	297	360

Forecast numbers in Reception Class

Reception	2005	2006	2007	2008
Summer	82	73	75	84

Based on known children data supplied October, 2003 and historic intake trends.

5. Other Issues

o Nursery

It is recommended that the 26 places nursery unit continue as part of the new all-through primary school.

o Accommodation

It is proposed that a new 3 form entry school be built on the existing site. Construction could start in April, 2006 with a view that all accommodation would be completed by September, 2007. Provision will take into account the existing community rooms and Children's Centre accommodation.

6. **Expressing your views**

Your views are sought in two ways during this initial consultation period.

1. By sending in a response to the Council. While this is not a 'ballot', it will enable your views to be presented to the Cabinet of the council and then to the School Organisation Committee.
2. By attending one of the public meetings, at which your questions and comments will be invited and answered.

Meetings are also being held separately for the staff and governing bodies of the two schools. These are being held on the same day as the public meetings at different times. At the Infants School the time would be 4.00 p.m. for staff and 5.30 p.m. for governors; and at the Junior School – 3.30 p.m. for staff and 5.00 p.m. for governors.

Responses should be sent to:

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Hereford

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Or email to: gsalmon@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Council will consider the comments received during this initial consultation, before deciding whether or not to issue statutory notices formally proposing the amalgamation. . This period of statutory notice allows a further period for any objections to be raised.

7. **People and Organisations being consulted**

Copies of this document are being sent to:

Parents and carers of pupils at Hunderton Infants' and Junior schools

Staff and Governors of the schools

Governing Bodies of all the other schools in Hereford City

Diocesan Education Boards

Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership

Members of the Cabinet

Member of Parliament

Local Councillors

Association of Governors and Professional Associations

This document is available on the Council's website. Printed copies are available on request.