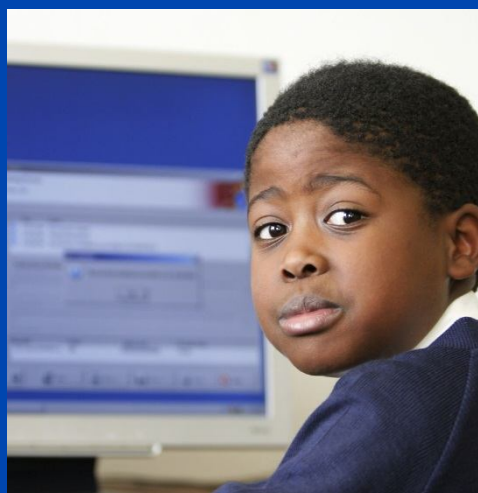


Consultation on the amalgamation of Luton Infant and Junior schools

Appendix 3

4 February to 24 March 2019



Raising achievement through quality learning environments

Amalgamation of Luton Infant School, Alexandra Road, Chatham, ME4 5AP and Luton Junior School, Luton Road, Chatham ME4 5AW

This document is designed to:

- Notify you of Medway Council's proposal to amalgamate Luton Infant School and Luton Junior School. This will result in a single primary school.
- Explain why this change is being proposed
- Invite your comments on this proposal
- Inform you of, and invite you to, public drop-in meetings to be held at Luton Infant School on Monday 11 February 2019 from 2:30-4:00pm, and Luton Junior School on Tuesday 5 March 2019 from 2:30-4:30pm

The statutory process

The Department for Education (DFE) has set out the requirements and processes for amalgamating and making changes to maintained schools in the guidance 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools.', and 'Opening and closing maintained schools'

The purpose of the guidance is to ensure that local authorities do not take decisions that will have a negative impact on other schools in the area, and that changes can be implemented quickly and effectively where there is a strong case for doing so. It is also expected that, where possible, additional new places will only be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding'.

The guidance also sets out the processes required to implement this proposal, and this consultation period is the first stage in that process.

Why is there a need to amalgamate Luton Infant and Luton Junior schools?

Currently, Luton Infants and Juniors are two separate schools. This means that pupils at the infants have to apply for a place at the juniors. The transition from one school to another can cause disruption for pupils, as there can be differences in approaches to teaching and learning.

If the Luton schools amalgamate, pupils will benefit from a seamless transition through the school, and parents will not need to apply for a place at the junior school. As one school, pupils will benefit from consistent education plans, curriculums, and policies. This will allow teachers to monitor pupils' progress more consistently. Appropriate interventions can be put in place at an early stage enabling the pupils to realise their potential to the fullest.

Amalgamation will allow the school to be more financially efficient. It will have a single budget, and will be able to buy supplies and services as a single school.

The amalgamation proposals and process

The process of amalgamation is made up of three legal changes, either;

The **Extension of the age range at one school, the Enlargement of the premise at the same school** and the technical **closure of** the other;

Or the **closure of both** schools separately and the **creation of a new** school

Luton Juniors currently takes children from age 7 to age 11, and Luton infants 3 to 7. At the point of implementation, a primary school is created with an age range 3 to 11. All pupils currently at the two schools will be guaranteed a place at the new primary school, which will be renamed as Luton Primary and Nursery School.

The capacity of the two schools is 630 pupils and this will be no different as a primary school. As no pupils are being displaced, and no additional pupils added, there is not expected to be a negative impact upon any local schools.

The next stages

Following the seven-week consultation period, Medway Council's Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee may ask to see a report on the responses and comments to this proposal, which would be presented to them at the next available opportunity.

Medway Council's Cabinet will consider the responses to this consultation and the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. They may then decide not to proceed with the proposal, or to authorise a four-week period of statutory representation when formal notices will be published to give interested stakeholders the opportunity to formally object or comment.

If there are no objections to the statutory notice period, Medway Council can decide to go ahead with the proposals. If there are one or more objections Medway Council, as Schools Commissioner under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, will consider the objections before determining the outcome.

Next steps – timings subject to change as necessary

Consultation period	4 February to 24 March 2019
Drop-in meeting at Luton Infant School	Monday 11 February 2019 from 2:30-4:00pm
Drop-in meeting at Luton Junior School	Tuesday 5 March 2019 from 2:30-4:30pm
Report to Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Outcomes of Consultation	To be confirmed following local election
Report Outcome of Consultation to Cabinet	To be confirmed following local election
Four week Statutory Notice period	To be confirmed following local election
Council decision on proposals	To be confirmed following local election
Formal Implementation of amalgamation proposals if approved	To be confirmed following local election

No decisions will be made until the consultation has been completed and local views have been carefully considered.

How to make comments

We would like to hear your views on these proposals.

Email your comments to prim.reorg@medway.gov.uk

Alternatively you can hand the form below to the school office at Luton Infant or Junior School or send it to: **FREPOST RRUY-ZBTJ-CZZC, School Organisation, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR**

Unfortunately it will not be possible to acknowledge receipt. A copy of our privacy notice can be found at www.medway.gov.uk/privacynotice

All responses must be received by **Sunday 24 March 2019**.

It would be helpful to have the following information:

Name

Address

.....

I am (please tick)

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Parent/ guardian

Member of staff

None of the above (please specify)

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Governor

Local Resident

.....

With regard to the proposal to amalgamate Luton Infant and Junior Schools;

Please tick one box

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

I **approve** of the proposal to amalgamate Luton Infant and Junior Schools

I **object** to the proposal to amalgamate Luton Infant and Junior Schools

Comments

Please give your reasons as fully as possible to help us build the arguments for and against the proposals.

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This information can be made available in other formats from **01634 333333**

If you have any questions about this leaflet and you want to speak to someone in your own language please ring 01634 335577

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