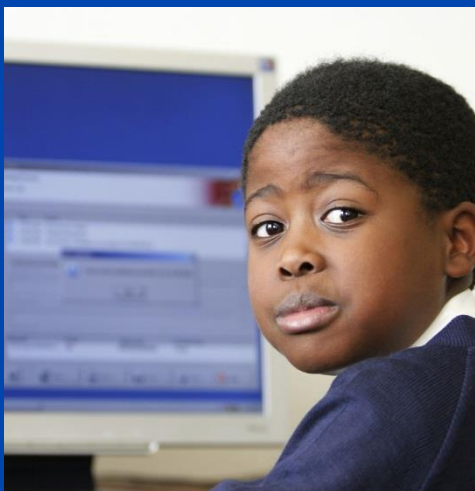


Consultation on the amalgamation of Park Wood Infant and Junior schools

9 September to 20 October 2019

Appendix 3



Raising achievement through quality learning environments

Amalgamation of Park Wood Infants and Park Wood Juniors, Deanwood Drive, Rainham, ME8 9LP

This document is designed to:

- **Notify you of Medway Council's proposal to amalgamate Park Wood Infant School and Park Wood Junior School. This will result in a single primary school.**
- **Explain why this change is being proposed**
- **Invite your comments on this proposal**

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 are we proposing to amalgamate Park Wood Infant and Junior schools?

Currently, Park Wood Infants and Juniors are federated. This means they have a single governing body, and one headteacher, but they are still two separate schools. Pupils at the infants have to apply for a place at the juniors, and the transition from one school to another can cause disruption for pupils.

The two schools have stated that they wish to amalgamate. As they are community schools, the process to amalgamate must be carried out by Medway Council on their behalf.

If the Park Wood 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 DfE Number, 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:

The **Extension of the age range at Park Wood Infants, the Enlargement of the premises at Park Wood Infants** and the technical **closure of Park Wood Juniors**.

Park Wood Infants currently takes children from age 4 to age 7, and Park Wood Juniors 7 to 11. Both schools are rated 'Good' by Ofsted, and have been consistently rated 'Good' for over 10 years. At the point of implementation, a primary school will be created with an age range 4 to 11. All pupils currently at the two schools

will be guaranteed a place at the new primary school, which will be renamed as Park Wood Primary School. The new primary will retain the Ofsted rating of whichever school is enlarged to create it.

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 six-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	9 September to 20 October 2019
Report to Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Outcomes of Consultation if required	3 December 2019
Report Outcome of Consultation to Cabinet	14 January 2020*
Four week Statutory Notice period	24 February to 22 March
Council decision on proposals	By 22 May 2020
Formal Implementation of amalgamation proposals if approved	1 September 2020

- ***Should the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee not wish to review the Outcomes of the Informal Consultation Period report, the remainder of the process will be brought forward accordingly.**
- **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 Park Wood Infant or Junior School or send it to:
FREEPOST 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 20 October 2019**.

It would be helpful to have the following information:

Name

Address

I am a (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 Park Wood Infant and Junior Schools;

Please tick one box

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

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

I **object** to the proposal to amalgamate Park Wood Infant and Junior Schools

Comments

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

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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

বাংলা 331780	ગુજરાતી 331782	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ 331784	کوردی 331841	اردو 331785	Русский 332374
中文 331781	हिंदी 331783	Polski 332373	ଏହାଙ୍କୁ 331786	فارسی 331840	Lietuviškai 332372