



Brighton & Hove

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSED CREATION OF A NEW ALL THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL TO REPLACE ST LUKES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

- inviting you to have your say -

Why are we consulting you?

This document is published by Brighton and Hove City Council and is intended as a basis for consultation with governors, staff, pupils, parents and other interested groups about a proposal to create a new all through primary school to replace the existing St Luke's Infant and Junior Schools on the present site.

This document sets out the reasons for the proposal, identifies the issues for consideration and explains the arrangements for consultation. At the end you will find details of a public meeting to which you are invited and a reply slip for you to let us know what you think. There is also some information about what happens after consultation.

Some background facts

Brighton and Hove City Council has had a policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate since 2000. Protocols were established following the Scrutiny Panel and report recommendations following the merger of three primary schools in 1999. The existing protocol* states that the creation of a new school with pupil numbers over 600 would be unlikely to go ahead. The combining of pupils from St Luke's Infant and Juniors will be around this number and part of the consideration of this proposal is to determine whether the size of the proposed new school is acceptable.

* The existing protocol has been revised in the light of the creation of the Children and Young People's Trust and its publication of the Primary Strategy for Change. The revised document will be considered at the Cabinet Member meeting on 21st July 2008 for possible implementation in September 2008.

The current position

At present the two schools operate as separate institutions within the same building and on the same site, each with its own headteacher, staff and governing body. Children remain in the Infant school until the age of seven, and then are able to transfer to the Junior School in accordance with the City's admissions criteria. The majority of children do transfer from one school to the other in this way. The main schools are housed in the same building with sufficient capacity for the schools intake.

The Council has a commitment to working with schools to make them centres for community learning, and supporting them in meeting the wider needs of the community by engaging social services, health, the police, and the voluntary sector.

What is proposed?

The proposal is the creation of a new all through primary school by closing St Luke's Infant School and extending the age range of St Luke's Junior School to create a new single school to cater for pupils aged 4–11 years. The creation of a new all through primary school, if approved, would require the closure of the Infant School and the establishment of a new all-through community primary school.

It is proposed that the new school be three form of entry (i.e. an intake of 90 pupils). This would mean that the Infant School intake number would be increased from 85 to 90 and that there would be a small increase in numbers at the new primary school.

To support the creation of a new all through primary school there will be some building adaptations using the Primary Capital Programme with the intention of providing accommodation to better fit the needs of current teaching and learning and the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

What might be the educational advantages in the creation of a new all through primary school?

The Council produced a Primary Strategy for Change for the DCSF in June 2008. This document reflected Brighton and Hove City Council's policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate. The Council believes the advantages of the creation of all through primary schools are as follows:

- Greater continuity in teaching, pupil care and development under a single headteacher and teaching staff. It is very important to

ensure continuity in planning the curriculum across the stages of education so that pupils make the best possible progress in learning.

- The school could offer a greater range of teaching skills, including the opportunity to appoint curriculum co-ordinators with the time to oversee the effective teaching of individual subjects across the whole 4–11 age range.
- Greater flexibility that a 4–11 school has in organising classes, deploying teachers and support staff and using resources, including buildings, more effectively.
- Closer contact with parents over a longer period of time and covering the full span of the children's primary education.
- Practical advantages to parents e.g. same staff development days, the same school policies relating to home links, uniform, codes of conduct etc.
- Transfer to a different school environment after three years or less of schooling might be seen as an unnecessary disruption to pupil's sense of security and well being. A positive feature of 4–11 schools is the social interaction between younger and older pupils
- Separate admissions applications at age seven will not be necessary and any uncertainty about transfer between the schools would be removed

What might be the educational advantages of remaining as separate schools?

- Within smaller schools it is very possible for all staff to know every child and their individual needs, thus assisting in providing consistency of approach.
- Currently each school is able to focus all of its resources on particular Key Stages.
- Avoidance of disruption caused by change.
- Parents may prefer separate infant and juniors schools

Other considerations

- If the creation of a new all through primary school were to go ahead, the Infant School would need to close, on the following day the Junior School would have its age range extended creating the new all through primary school.
- The governing body of the closed Infant School would cease to exist on the day the school closed.
- Legally the governing body of the Junior School would continue, but the Local Authority expects both Junior and Infant Governing Bodies to work together to create a new Governing Body for the new school which has equal representation where possible from both existing schools.

- The Local Authority expects the existing Governing Bodies to work together to agree with the headteacher the initial staff structure for the new school which should include all staff from the closing Infant School. The new school Governing Body is expected to adopt this structure for the first year at least. *
- The particular ethos of each school may change.

* The Brighton and Hove policy document "The Creation of all-through primary schools - model procedure for handling staffing implication" states in section

2.4 stage 3 -

"All permanent full and part-time staff from the closing school will be assimilated to posts in the approved structure. Applications from temporary staff and staff from other new and closing schools shall only be considered when all the permanent staff from related schools have been offered posts in the new school. Any staff who remain unplaced in the school will be assisted in seeking redeployment within other Brighton and Hove schools"

Views of the Governing Bodies

Both Governing Bodies have been consulted. The proposal was considered by both school Governing Bodies prior to taking the decision to hold a public consultation.

The Governing Body of the Junior School supports the proposed creation of a new all through primary school in principle.

The Governing Body of the Infant School disagrees with the proposal on the basis of increased size, potential change of ethos and the loss of phase specialism.

The views of the Governing Bodies will be finalised in light of this consultation and both Governing Bodies will hold special meetings at the end of the consultation period to determine their final views on the proposal.

Consultation arrangements

If, having read this document, you would like to comment on the proposals; there are several opportunities for doing so:

- You should complete and return (either to the school or the Kings House) the reply slip included in this document.

- You can send a letter to the Assistant Director School Support and Central Area, Kings House, Grand Avenue, Hove BN23 2SR. Please mark your letter for the attention of Gil Sweetenham
- In the interests of economy, letters will not be acknowledged or responded to.

- **Replies must be received by** _____ **XXXXXXXXXX**

- You are welcome to attend the **Public Meeting** which has been arranged for:

Date: 2008

Time: 7pm

Venue: St Lukes Junior School

- At this meeting parents and others will have the opportunity to put forward their views. Officers from the Children and Young Peoples Trust will be present to clarify points of detail.

The next stage

All of the views put forward by consultees will be reported to Brighton and Hove City Council.

If the Council decides to move ahead with the proposal two Public Notices will be issued, one relating to the closure of the Infant School and one to extend the age range of the Junior School. Both notices will be in force for a period of six weeks. During this period, objections to the proposal may be made by any person or group.

If there are no objections, the Council is empowered to implement the proposals. Should there be any objections these will be considered by the Council before a decision is made.

The proposals set out in this document are put forward as a basis for consultation only. It is stressed that **no decisions have yet been made** and that none will be made until consultations have been completed and all views carefully considered by Brighton and Hove City Council.

The Council's major objective is to ensure the outcome of this consultation has local support and is in the best interests of pupils in Brighton and Hove.

DO PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS

Gil Sweetenham

Assistant Director, School Support and Central Area
Brighton and Hove Council **XXXXXXXX{date}**

Table 1 – Current and forecast rolls for both St Luke’s Infant and Junior Schools and surrounding schools

| | Capacity Range | Admission Numbers | Spring 08 | Forecast Rolls | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|--------|--------|
| | | | | Jan 09 | Jan10 | Jan 11 | Jan 12 |
| St Lukes Infant | 81-90 243-270* | 85 | 251 | 255 | 255 | 255 | 255 |
| St Lukes Junior | 81-90 324-360 | 90 | 334 | 338 | 336 | 340 | 341 |
| Elm Grove | 57-64 405-450 | 60 | 414 | 416 | 417 | 418 | 418 |
| Queens Park | 42-47 297-330 | 45 | 304 | 306 | 307 | 308 | 309 |
| Carlton Hill | 27-30 189-210 | 30 | 192 | 196 | 191 | 195 | 193 |

* Whole school figure

If you require any further copies of this document please request them by ringing 01273 293474 or emailing XXXXXXX@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Address for this returning this document:

XXXXXX

**Brighton & Hove City Council
Room 320, King’s House, Grand Avenue
HOVE, BN3 2ZZ**

Please return by **XXXXXXXXX 2008**

**All responses will be treated confidentially
Thank you for your assistance in our review**

The following timetable is proposed:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Publication of Consultation Document | Sept 2008 |
| Public Consultation Meeting | Sept 2008 |
| Last date for responses | October 2008 |
| Report back to the Council | November 2008 |
| Issue Public Notice | January 2009 |
| End of public notice period | February 2009 |
| Decision by the Council | March 2009 |
| | |
| Provisional Opening | 1 st September 2009 |

The Councillors for the area are: Cllr XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Please Note: Apart from the public meeting on XXXXX2008, which will be held at the school, all other meetings are held at Hove Town Hall or Brighton Town Hall. For the exact times, please contact XXXXXX on telephone number:

01273 293474

RESPONSE FORM

Please return no later than

XXXXXXX 2008

To: Gil Sweetenham
Assistant Director School Support
And Central Area
Kings House

Tel: (01273) 293433

Fax: (01273) 293596

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Name

Address

(Please tick as appropriate) I am:

The parent of a pupil:
(please state which school)

I support the proposal

A member of staff:

A school governor:
(please state which school)

I do not support the proposal

Other interested party:
(please state which)

My comments are as follows: *(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)*



