

Appendix I



Brighton & Hove

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE HANGLETON INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS IN HOVE TO BECOME AN ALL THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM JANUARY 2015

- Inviting you to have your say -

Why are we consulting you?

The Council is proposing that an all through primary school is created to replace Hangleton Junior School and Hangleton Infant School from 1 January 2015. This document is published by Brighton & Hove City Council and explains the reasons for this proposal and the arrangements for consultation. At the end you will find a reply slip for you to let us know what you think. There is also some information about what happens after the consultation. The document will be distributed to the school's staff, pupils, governors and parents and other groups who may be interested in the proposal. It is also available on the Council's website under the consultation portal.

This consultation is being conducted in accordance with the [School Organisation: statutory guidance](#) published by the Department for Education in January 2014.

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 for this were established following recommendations arising from the merger of three primary schools in 1999. The protocols have been kept under review and the present policy was reaffirmed in the new School Organisation Plan 2013 – 2017 adopted by the Council at its meeting on 27 March 2014. Each case for possible amalgamation is considered on its merits and any proposals for change are subject to public consultation.

The Council has a statutory duty to secure a maintained school place for any child that wants one. We are committed to working with schools to make them centres for community learning, and supporting them in meeting the wider needs of the community. Our aim is to ensure as far as possible that children can access a primary school that is local to their home.

The proposal

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 published admissions criteria. Children from the Infant School have priority under these criteria for a place at the Junior School and a sibling link established by having a child at one of the schools applies for priority admission to the other. The majority of children do transfer from the Infant School to the Junior School.

The proposal is to create a community primary school for pupils aged 4–11 years by closing Hangleton Junior School and extending the age range of Hangleton Infant School.

It is proposed that the primary school be three forms of entry (i.e. an intake of 90 pupils) as at present. Flexibility would be retained so that the school could continue to take 32 pupils per class for Years 3 to 6.

Brighton and Hove City Council has a policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate. The Council believes the advantages of all through primary schools include:

- Greater continuity in teaching, pupil care and development under a single headteacher and teaching staff
- Greater 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 for parents e.g. same staff development days, the same school policies relating to home links, uniform, codes of conduct
- Transfer to a different school environment after three years or less of schooling might be seen as an unnecessary disruption to pupils' 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

It is also recognised that there are some benefits in having separate infant and junior schools. In particular, the staff of such schools are able to develop specialist expertise and resources for meeting the needs of the particular age range. There may also be practical difficulties in bringing together schools which, unlike Hangleton Infant and Junior Schools, do not share the same site. However, the Council believes that normally the benefits of a single primary school arrangement significantly outweigh the benefits of having separate infant and junior schools.

The reason that this proposal is being considered now is because the Head Teacher of the Junior School, Mr Glenn Livingstone, is leaving for another headship elsewhere and a decision must be made about whether to appoint a new Head Teacher. In accordance with the Council's policy, the Council has therefore discussed the future arrangement for Hangleton Infant and Junior Schools with the two governing bodies (see below). The two schools already work very well together and have developed several joint policies, both in the interests of pupils and in anticipation of a possible future all through school development.

The legal process for achieving a single primary school in this situation requires that one school must formally close and the other must extend its age range to create the new all through primary school. However, this should in no way be seen as a 'takeover' of one school by the other. It is the technical means by which a single primary school would be achieved and both schools would work together as equal partners in bringing it about.

The governing body of the closed junior school would cease to exist on the day the school closed. Legally the governing body of the infant 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 includes representation from both existing schools.

As with any process of change, the interests of staff must also be considered carefully, and all staff and their unions will be consulted as part of this consultation. The Brighton and Hove policy document "The Creation of all-through primary schools - model procedure for handling staffing implications" states:

"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

The governing bodies of both schools have been consulted before taking the decision to hold a public consultation. The initial view of both governing bodies is that they support the proposal to create an all through primary school. Their views will be finalised in light of the consultation results.

Consultation arrangements

We have arranged a public meeting to give parents, carers and other local people the opportunity to hear more about the proposal and to ask questions. This meeting will be held at Hangleton Junior School Hall, Dale View, Hove on **Tuesday 3rd June 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** Anyone with an interest in the proposal is welcome to attend. The meeting will be attended by officers of the Local Authority and

members of the schools' senior leadership and governing bodies.

If, having read this document, you would like to comment on the proposals, there are several ways you may do so:

- You can complete and return (either to Hangleton Infant or Junior School or Kings House) the reply slip included in this document
- You can send a letter to Michael Nix, Head of Education Planning and Contracts, Grand Avenue, Hove BN23 2LS. *Please mark your letter for the attention of Michael Nix*
- You can complete a form online on the consultation portal of the Council's website at <http://consult.brighton-hove.gov.uk/portal>
- You can email your response: please address your email to Roz Scott at roz.scott@brighton-hove.gov.uk

In the interests of economy, letters and emails will not be acknowledged or responded to.

Replies must be received by Monday, 30th June 2014

The next stage

All the views put forward during the consultation stage will be reported to the Children and Young People Committee at a meeting on 21 July 2014. The views of the governing body of both schools will be made clear in the report. This will allow an informed decision to be made regarding progression to the next stage in the process.

If it is decided to move ahead with the proposal the next stage is the issuing of a Statutory Notice detailing the proposal. The notice will be in force for a period of four weeks during which time objections to and comments on the proposal may be made by any person or group. Details of how to make an objection or comment will be incorporated within the Statutory Notice.

The Council is empowered to make the decision on whether to implement the proposal contained in the Statutory Notice but in doing so has to take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education. Any comments or objections have to be considered as part of the decision making process. The final decision regarding this proposed change will be made by the Children and Young People Committee at its meeting on 13th October 2014, having due regard to the responses to the Statutory Notice and the views expressed by the governors of both schools.

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 & Hove City Council and the governors of both schools. The consultation is however not a referendum and in reaching a decision at each stage of the process the Committee will need to take all factors into account, including the responses to consultation.

The following timetable is proposed:

Publication of Consultation Document	Wednesday, 7 th May 2014
Last date for responses	Monday 30 th June 2014
Issue Public Notice	Early September 2014
End of Public Notice period	Late September/early October 2014
Decision by the Children and Young People Committee	13 th October 2014

The Children and Young People Committee'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.

The Councillors for the Hangleton and Knoll ward are:

Councillor Dawn Barnett
Councillor Tony Janio
Councillor Brian Fitch

RESPONSE FORM

**Please return no later than
30th June 2014**

To: Michael Nix
Head of Education Planning and Contracts
Kings House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS

Tel: (01273) 290732

Proposed Creation of an all through primary school to replace Hangleton Infant and Hangleton Junior Schools from January 2015

Name and Address	
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I support the proposal to create an all through primary school to replace Hangleton Infant and Hangleton Junior Schools from January 2015

I do not support the proposal to create an all through primary school to replace Hangleton Infant and Hangleton Junior Schools from January 2015

Please add any comments here and on the reverse of this slip if needed:

Signature and date: