

**Consultation on the Future Organisation of
Longfield First School and Longfield Middle School
Thursday 22 April 2010 to Thursday 27 May 2010**

What Are the Proposals?

- It is proposed that Longfield First School and Longfield Middle School are joined together to form a combined school.
- All the pupils attending the schools at the time of the joining together of the two schools would transfer to the combined school, there would be the same number of places and the combined school would continue on the same site.

When would the combined school start?

- It is proposed that the combined school would be established from 1 September 2011.

The consultation

- A Steering Group established by the Governing Bodies is undertaking this consultation. This group has representatives from the two schools. This consultation document has used information from the proposal evaluation conducted by the Steering Group.
- The consultation starts on 22 April 2010 and ends on 27 May 2010.
- There is a more detailed Proposal Evaluation paper available from the school offices. This consultation paper is a summary of key points from the Proposal Evaluation.
- At the beginning of June, the Governing Bodies will meet to make a recommendation to Harrow Council Cabinet about whether statutory proposals should be published with a view to the schools being combined.
- It is Harrow Council Cabinet that will make the decision.

Why is a combined school being suggested?

- Harrow Council's Amalgamation Policy requires the Governing Bodies of all separate First and Middle Schools to amalgamate the two schools when a Headteacher vacancy arises in either or both schools unless there are compelling and over-riding reasons not to.
- The Council's amalgamation policy is based on an educational rationale that will contribute to school improvement. The rationale is stated in the Proposal Evaluation paper available from the school offices.

How will the decision about the future organisation of the schools be made?

- Harrow Council Cabinet will consider the recommendation of the governing bodies and the outcomes of the consultation at their meeting on 15 July 2010.
- If Harrow Council Cabinet considers that the schools should combine, then statutory proposals would be published in September 2010 for 6 weeks. During that time representations could be made to the Council, which Harrow Council Cabinet would then consider and would determine the statutory proposals at its meeting on 18 November 2010.
- From September 2010, separate first schools will become infant schools (Reception to Year 2), and separate middle schools will become junior schools (Year 3 to Year 6). The statutory proposals would be to extend the age range and capacity of the junior school and to discontinue the infant school on 1 September 2011. This is because it is the infant school that will not have a substantive Headteacher from September 2010.

- If, following this statutory consultation, Harrow Council Cabinet decides on 15 July 2010 that the schools will remain separate, then the schools will continue in their present organisation for the time being and the local authority will continue to support both schools.

What would happen if the schools combine?

- The combined school would build on existing strengths and good practice within both schools.
- The combined school would have the same number of pupils overall, and there would be a similar staffing need.
- There would be a new staffing structure reflecting the needs of the school. The structure would be subject to consultation with all staff and their professional associations/unions and appointments would be made to the new staffing structure over time. No redundancies have arisen in the schools combined to date and there is no reason for the situation to be different in this instance.
- If Harrow Council Cabinet decides to combine the schools, it is proposed that the governing bodies would establish a working group, with representatives from both schools and supported by Harrow Council officers, to plan for the combined school.
- The working group would draft an instrument of governance for the governing body of the all through school that reflects the age range and size of the school. A timeline would be agreed for any elections and appointments to the re-constituted governing body.
- If the schools are combined, a School Strategic Masterplan would be commissioned to provide a long-term strategy for the development of the school site that will be achieved as funding becomes available.
- There would be no significant impact on the school budget as there are no proposals to reduce the number of places at the school.

How can I make comments about the proposal?

- Parents, staff and governors of the two schools are invited to send their comments to the school offices using the reply slip on the cover letter.
- It should be emphasised that this is not a ballot but an opportunity for interested parties to express their views.
- Once these are known the Governing Bodies will report to Harrow Council and the final decision will rest with the elected councillors.

Where can I get further information or assistance?

- Should you require assistance with this consultation, please contact the school offices.
- You can access the Proposal Evaluation undertaken by the Steering Group, and the Local Authority's Amalgamation Policy, on Harrow Council's website www.harrow.gov.uk or by telephoning 020 8420 9270.