



Draft Proposal Document

Bournville Infant School & Bournville Junior School

Proposal to amalgamate Bournville Infant School and Bournville Junior School to become an all through primary school.

Introduction

At the request of the Governing Board of Bournville Infant and Bournville Junior Schools, Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to amalgamate Bournville Infant and Bournville Junior Schools to create one all through primary school with effect from 1st January 2019. The changes are explained in the sections below.

School Information

Type:	Voluntary Aided		
Name:	Bournville Infant School	DFE:	3303354
Address:	Linden Road, Birmingham B30 1JY.		
Ward:	Bournville	District:	Selly Oak
Age Range:	4– 7 years	Net Capacity:	270
Last Ofsted:	12 th February 2009	Ofsted Rating	Outstanding

Type:	Voluntary Aided		
Name:	Bournville Junior School	DFE:	3303353
Address:	Linden Road, Birmingham B30 1JY.		
Ward:	Bournville	District:	Selly Oak
Age Range:	7 – 11 years	Net Capacity:	384
Last Ofsted:	7 th June 2013	Ofsted Rating	Outstanding

Background Information Provided by The Governing Board of Bournville Infant and Bournville Junior Schools

Bournville Junior School was founded in 1906, followed by Bournville Infant School in 1910, as the personal gifts of George Cadbury to the village of Bournville. He specified that the schools should provide an education of the highest quality, with a Christian ethos that was forward thinking and tolerant.

Both schools are currently graded as Outstanding by Ofsted, and are proud of their reputations for providing a caring and purposeful environment in which the individual needs of each child are recognised, and their achievements and abilities are celebrated. Each school has particular strengths within their relative key stage; the proposed amalgamation will allow these strengths to be maintained and shared across all year groups. The Governing Board feel that this is an exciting opportunity to construct a new identify for the schools together, taking the best practice from both.

George Cadbury was a forward thinking visionary, impacting positively on the lives of the community. Part of the role of the Governing Board is to uphold this vision and secure the long-term future of the schools. Therefore the Governing Board believe that a 4-11 setting, with joint leadership will strengthen the provision for pupils and the wider community, continuing George Cadbury's legacy. Underpinning this is the desire to celebrate what Bournville holds dear, and enhance this further with vibrant, robust working model for the future.

What changes are proposed?

The amalgamation of Bournville Infant and Bournville Junior Schools to become one all-through Primary school.

In order to do this it is necessary to issue the following proposals:

- Discontinuation of Bournville Infant School
- Alteration to the lower age limit of Bournville Junior School from 7 – 11 to 4 -11 years to accommodate pupils of infant school age.

This will result in the amalgamation of both schools to form an all-through primary school. All pupils and staff from the infant school would have the right to transfer to the primary school unless they wanted to seek other arrangements.

Bournville Junior School will be proposing to change its name to become Bournville Infant and Junior School if the amalgamation is approved.

Why do we want to do this?

In order for schools to amalgamate the criteria must meet Birmingham City Council's current policy on amalgamation of separate infant and junior schools (amalgamation policy approved October 2004) which states that the only triggers for amalgamation are:

- (i) Falling rolls
- (ii) A request from the governing board(s) of a pair of schools

The Federated Governing Board of Bournville Infant and Bournville Junior Schools held an Extraordinary General Meeting on 9th November 2017 and agreed by a vote to propose to amalgamate the two schools. The Governing Board believes that the proposal is in the best long-term interests of the children and their families. The Governing Board has written asking the Local Authority to support their request. The Local Authority has agreed to start the amalgamation process.

What are the benefits of an all through primary school?

Whilst both of the schools have been very successful as separate infant and junior schools, both having received outstanding judgment from OFSTED, we have listed below examples of potential benefits of becoming an all through primary school.

These benefits were the reasons identified by the Governing Board for their decision, and have been evidenced in previous successful amalgamations.

- An all-through primary school enables a consistent ethos, vision and approach, driven by a holistic and ambitious single leadership team.
- Simplified communication between school and parents, especially for parents with children in both schools and ensures a joined up approach for events, training, pastoral care and other areas of school life.
- Transition from year 2 to year 3 will better reflect transition arrangements between other year groups.
- Continuity and consistency for pupil's learning and progress and strengthened tracking procedures.

- The National Curriculum seeks to structure the seamless development of pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding across all subjects during a child's time at primary school. A combined primary school is in a better position to provide continuity because of the structure and management it can put in place and greater consistency for pupils with one set of policies and procedures.
- Strengthened pastoral systems, supporting children and families through their entire primary education.
- Further opportunities for pupils to work together across the age ranges, building on the school's existing good work in this area.
- The relationship between families and the school can build over a longer period of time, allowing the school to better understand the needs of each pupil.
- There is strong evidence that continuity of learning culture has a significant impact on a pupil's progress. Research shows that the fewer moves children have during their school career, the better they perform.
- Greater flexibility in deploying teachers and support staff, and using curriculum resources, including buildings, more effectively.
- Having a greater continuity across Key Stage 1 and 2 could also benefit the members of staff at each school. Staff would have greater opportunities for professional development and shared training and the chance to work more closely across the curriculum. Staff could have the opportunity to work in or gain greater understanding of the full range of the primary school year groups.
- There is no need for parents to apply for a junior school place. There are also benefits in terms of the children's personal and social development, which can be supported throughout the primary school years without a change of school at age seven.
- A more efficient school leadership and management system enabling leaders to have the required overview to make the best decision for the school as a whole with finances and resources being shared more easily.
- A single head teacher, as part of a restructured Senior Leadership Team, would be able to drive through change and improvement and take a truly whole school approach.
- The school will be better able to achieve economies of scale, putting the school in a much stronger position financially, and more able to withstand the buffeting by central funding decisions and changes.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

All current infant school pupils will have the right to automatically transfer to the newly amalgamated school. There will be a positive impact for pupils on their journey through an all-through school as discussed above.

There will no longer be a requirement for parents to apply for a junior school place for their child. The school will remain in the existing buildings and the members of staff they come into contact with are likely to be the same as before.

How will this affect parents at the school?

Parents will only have to apply for primary school before Reception and will not need to apply for a year 3 place. This will enable consistent engagement with parents across the primary phase, with no need to transfer information at the end of

key stage one. It will also mean more consistent policies and procedures providing more continuity for parents.

How will this affect the staff at the school?

The Governing Board and Birmingham City Council recognise that change can be unsettling and that there may be challenges along the way. Birmingham City Council is committed to support the Governing Board to achieve and maintain the best outcomes for children.

The Governing Board of the School will still be the employer and will manage this transition. The change to become one primary school will not constitute a break in service or affect staff terms and conditions in any way.

The proposed changes will consider duplication of shared rolls. Any staff reductions will be with full consultation with the trade unions and teaching associations.

A school offering both Infant (key stage 1) and Junior (key stage 2) provision may offer staff the opportunity for career development with potential opportunities for staff who wish to teach across Key Stages, and this will be for the school to decide upon.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers, who for these types of proposals are The Cabinet Member for Families and Schools and the Corporate Director for Children and Young People (following full consultation) it is intended that the proposals will be implemented from 1st January 2019.

Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the local area?

There should be no effect on other schools, academies or educational institutions within the area. The admission number and capacity of the school will not change. The proposed amalgamation would not affect the supply of places in the local area.

Will there be any changes to the Admission Criteria of the School?

If the proposals are approved the school will become an all-through school and there will no longer be any need for pupils to transfer from the Infant School to the Junior School at Year 3.

There will be no changes to the admission criteria for entry into Reception this will remain as follows;

1. Looked after or previously looked after children
2. Children living in the catchment area who, at the time of admission, have a sibling in the school. The catchment area can be viewed in the school office or via www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions
3. Other children living in the catchment area
4. Children living outside the catchment area who, at the time of admission, have a sibling in the school.
5. Other children living outside the catchment area.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There will be no building work resulting from the amalgamation.

Will this definitely happen?

No.

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. At the moment we are entering the seven week consultation stage during which we want to hear your views on the proposal. If, after considering your views, the schools and the Local Authority still think it is a good idea, we will publish full proposals and allow four weeks for people to formally comment on them. Within two months of the end of the representation period a report will be produced with all of the information and this will be passed to the decision makers (Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools jointly with the Corporate Director for Children and Young People) for a decision to be made. Should the decision makers not come to a unanimous decision the proposal will be passed to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator for a final decision. It is only at that point that we will be able to say with certainty that the two schools will be amalgamated.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If a decision is taken that the two schools should **not** be amalgamated, then the existing Infant and Junior schools will continue as they are now.

How can I make my views known?

We invite all interested parties to give us their views and comment on this proposal. Any comments must be received no later than **Friday 2nd March 2018**.

You can comment online via:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/bournvilleijdraft>

You can write to us at the Local Authority:

- By email: eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk
- By letter ,or by completing the attached comments form to:
Birmingham City Council,
School Organisation Team,
PO Box 15843,
Birmingham, B2 2RT.

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for us to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal.

Key dates

Action	Date
Pre Statutory Consultation	Monday 15 th January 2018
Beginning of 7 week consultation period	Monday 15 th January 2018
End of 7 week consultation period	Friday 2 nd March 2018
Public Notice Published	19 th April 2018
Start of 4 week Statutory Consultation	19 th April 2018
End of 4 week Statutory Consultation	17 th May 2018
Final decision to be made no later than	17 th July 2018
Changes implemented	1 st January 2019

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We are consulting on the proposal for seven weeks from 15th January 2018 to 2nd March 2018.

You can make your views known by visiting:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/bournvilleijdraft>

to send us your thoughts by **Friday 2nd March 2018** or alternatively complete and return the form below to the following address: School Organisation Team, Education and Skills Infrastructure, PO Box 15843, Birmingham, B2 2RT.

Thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts on these proposals.

Consultation Response Form

Please help us to analyse your response by completing the following:

Your name (optional): _____

Your contact details (optional, if you would like a reply)

Your interest in the proposal (please indicate one of the below):

Pupil	
Parent	
School Governor	
School Staff	
Local resident	
Local Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please specify)	

Please provide your comments in support or challenge to the proposal.

