

**Consultation on the Proposed Amalgamation of Woodfield Infant School with Woodfield Junior School**

**18 March 2019 – 14 April 2019**

**Introduction**

St Bartholomew’s CE Multi Academy Trust is proposing to amalgamate Woodfield Infant School with Woodfield Junior School with effect from 1 September 2019. This document explains why the possible changes are being proposed and summarises the consultation process.

The amalgamation of infant and junior schools is the process of joining the schools together by closing both existing establishments and opening a new primary school.

Please note that at this stage the following information is a proposal and that no firm decisions regarding the future of the schools have been taken. We want you to tell us what you think about the proposal. This will help us to decide what will be best for the children at the schools.

**Background**

Woodfield Infant School

Woodfield Infant School is a mixed school with Academy status that caters for children aged

between 3 and 7 years, located in Woodfield Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 4AG. The school currently offers 90 places per year group (Reception to Year 2) - 270 places in total - and has a 70 place nursery. Woodfield Infant School is co-located on the same site as Woodfield Junior School and the two schools share a building.

Woodfield Junior School

Woodfield Junior School is a mixed school with Academy status that caters for children aged

between 7 and 11 years, located in Woodfield Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 4AG. The school currently offers 100 places per year group in Years 3 – 6: 400 places in total. Woodfield Junior School is co-located on the same site as Woodfield Infant School and the two schools share a building.

**Proposal**

St Bartholomew’s CE Multi Academy Trust is consulting on the proposed amalgamation of Woodfield Infant School with Woodfield Junior School with effect from 1 September 2019.

In order to amalgamate the two schools:

* Woodfield Infant School would need to close on 31 August 2019
* Woodfield Junior School would need to close on 31 August 2019
* A new Primary School would open on 1 September 2019 offering places from Nursery to Year 6.
* The recorded physical capacity of Woodfield Infant School and Woodfield Junior School would be combined with effect from 1 September 2019.

Bringing infant and junior schools together offers a number of advantages, including:

* Reducing the number of major transitions that pupils face
* Reducing the likelihood of lost learning at the beginning of Key Stage 2
* Increasing the opportunity for specialist teachers to work with a wider range of pupils
* Providing the opportunity for a consistent approach to the curriculum to be adopted
* Ensuring the continuity of teaching, learning and achievement
* Consistency of one Headteacher and all senior leaders supporting all children across the entire primary school to ensure continuity and enhanced learning opportunities

**Additional Information**

If the proposal to amalgamate Woodfield Infant School with Woodfield Junior School is approved:

* All pupils on roll as at 31 August 2019 would automatically transfer to the Primary School.
* All existing offers of places for September 2019 at either Woodfield Infant School or Woodfield Junior School would be honoured at the Primary School.
* The Primary School would offer 90 places per year group in Reception to Year 6 (along with a 70 place Nursery).
* All members of staff at Woodfield Infant School and Woodfield Junior School would continue to be employed by the Trust and would transfer to the Primary School.
* The Primary School would be located in the existing buildings of Woodfield Infant School and Woodfield Junior School.
* As Woodfield Infant School and Woodfield Junior School are Academies, the final decision on this proposal would be taken by the Regional Schools Commissioner.

**Consultation and Decision Making Timeline**

**18 March 2019 – 14 April 2019 (4 weeks)**

Consultation with stakeholders including pupils, parents, staff and Governors.

**15 April 2019 – 28 April 2019 (2 weeks)**

The St Bartholomew’s CE Multi Academy Trust will consider all responses submitted during the consultation period.

**29 April 2019**

If, after considering the responses to the consultation, the Trust decides to continue with the proposal, a full business case will be submitted to the Department for Education.

**29 April 2019 – 31 July 2019 (12 weeks)**

The proposal will be considered by the local Headteacher Board and a final decision will be made by the Regional Schools Commissioner.

**1 September 2019**

Should the decision be made to amalgamate Woodfield Infant School with Woodfield Junior School the proposal would be implemented.

**Responses**

We want you to tell us what you think about the proposed amalgamation of Woodfield Infant School and Woodfield Junior School. This will help us to decide what will be best for the children in the area.

Please let us know your opinions on the proposal by the 14 April 2019. All comments received will be considered and help the St Bartholomew’s CE Multi Academy Trust form a decision on the best way forward.

You can respond to consultation by:

* Completing the online consultation response form by visiting www.stbartsmat.co.uk and clicking on the appropriate link;

OR

* Completing the accompanying consultation response form and returning it to:

The School Organisation Team

Education Department

City of Wolverhampton Council

1st Floor, Civic Centre

St Peter’s Square

Wolverhampton

WV1 1RL

OR

* Sending your comments to [school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk) . Please tell us whether or not you are in favour of the proposal and in what capacity you are writing (e.g. parent, Governor, member of staff).

**The deadline for responses is 14 April 2019.**

The Trust intends to hold meetings at the schools for parents and staff during the consultation period to answer any queries that might arise. Details and dates for these meetings will be released shortly.



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| **CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**  **Consultation on the Proposed Amalgamation of Woodfield Infant School with Woodfield Junior School** |

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| Are you a: *(Please tick as appropriate)* | | | |
| ❑ | Parent/Carer of a pupil at Woodfield Infant School | ❑ | Parent/Carer of a pupil at Woodfield Junior School |
| ❑ | Member of Staff at Woodfield Infant School | ❑ | Member of Staff at Woodfield Junior School |
| ❑ | Member of the combined Local Governing Board at Woodfield Infant and Junior Schools | ❑ | Other (*Please state*) |

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| Do you agree with the proposal to amalgamate Woodfield Infant School with Woodfield Junior School with effect from 1 September 2019?  *(please tick as appropriate)* | | | | | |
| ❑ | YES | ❑ | NO | ❑ | DON’T KNOW |
| Please add comments here: | | | | | |
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| Completed Response Forms should be sent to the following address – The School Organisation Team, Education Department, City of Wolverhampton Council, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, St Peter’s Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL.  **The deadline for receipt of responses is 14 April 2019.**  Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. |