

Appendix D

Summary of Consultation Key Issues

Transition

Views ranged from support where respondents felt that the proposal to create an “all through” primary would “make the transition from infants and juniors a smoother journey”. Others commented that it would also remove the necessity for some parents to appeal for admission to the infant school where they had a pupil in the junior school. The pupils from the Infant School council considered it a good idea about becoming one school as they would know the teachers before they went to junior school. 14 of the 15 pupils in the Junior School Council considered the proposal a good idea.

However, a number of respondents who did not support the proposal commented that transition links were already good.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Pupils

Concern was expressed by some parents about infant children mixing with older junior children.

As is the case in all primary schools pupils would primarily continue within their respective Key Stages.

The view of the Infant School Council was that “they would like to see the junior children more often” and that they thought that some of the juniors could come and help with their reading and share assemblies with each other.

Different Procedures

Concern was expressed that there were different systems and procedures in place at the two schools.

The governing body, along with the Headteacher and senior leadership team would have the opportunity to consider best practice. Support, advice and guidance would be offered by the Finance team, Sims team, Capital team and Learning and Achievement. Training will also be provided.

Split Sites

Concern was expressed that if the proposal was approved the primary school would continue to operate on split sites and that “anyone knows who works on a split site this is impossible”.

Many of the infant and junior schools which have amalgamated across the country remain on different sites. Both Wade Deacon High School and The Grange All

Through have operated on split sites over a number of years until April this year. Both have managed not just to maintain standards but to improve their performance.

Effective organisation, leadership and management will ensure that operating on two sites does not affect standards.

School Hall

Concern has also been expressed that the school hall will not be large enough to accommodate all pupils.

If the sale of building and playing fields at the former Fairfield High School is agreed Executive Board have agreed that part of the proceeds can be used to develop the Fairfield infant/Junior provision.

School Size

The size of the amalgamated primary school was raised as a concern by some of the respondents.

The Published Admission number of the school will not change from 80. Although the amalgamated primary school will have 7 year groups instead of 3 in the infants and 4 in the juniors pupils will continue to be taught in their respective Key Stages.

Staffing

An number of infant school staff who completed the feedback form expressed concern about the impact the proposed amalgamation will have on staff jobs.

If the proposal to combine the two schools is agreed, the Headteacher along with the governors will need to consider the staffing required for an “all through” primary school to ensure it can operate effectively and efficiently. Staff and trade unions will be consulted on any proposed changes to the staffing arrangements at the school.

Finance

A number of respondents were concerned that the key rationale for the amalgamation was to save money.

Under the current funding formula both schools receive a lump sum of £125,570 as one school only one lump sum would be allocated. In addition, both schools receive minimum funding guarantee. The new school could only receive one minimum funding guarantee. However, as the school will be classified as a developing school as a result of a Local Authority re-organisation application can be made to the School Forum for support from the contingency to meet the additional costs it incurs. Application can also be made for funding as a split site school. A paper will be taken to School Forum for consideration in October 2013.