

PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF RAYSFIELD INFANT AND RAYSFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Introduction

This leaflet sets out plans for the possible amalgamation of Raysfield Infant School and Raysfield Junior School so that they become one school for the whole primary school age range 4 – 11 years. The leaflet gives details of the proposal, how you can find out more and how you can have your say before any decision is made.

The Current Position – Why Change is Being Proposed

At the moment, Raysfield Infant and Raysfield Junior are separate schools. They work together within the Raysfield Federation but remain, legally, separate schools.

The performance of the two schools has been a concern in the past and this is a concern shared by the Local Authority. The standards of pupil achievement and the quality of education are now improving. An amalgamation would secure this upward trend.

There is a risk that if the schools stayed as single establishments they would not be in such a strong position as this would limit the capacity to improve. Reorganisation of the schools now would provide a stronger platform for securing further improvements, higher standards and better outcomes for the children.

What the Change Would Mean

The school would continue to be led by a single governing body, head teacher and leadership team, as it is now. Children would be on the roll of the same school for the whole of their primary school education. Children at the schools at the time of change would transfer automatically to the new school. Staff (teaching and support) would be in a single school and staff structure. If approved, the new arrangements would be seamless and apply from September 2020.

Instead of a separate infant school for 4-7 year olds and junior school for 7-11 year olds, there would be one primary school for the 4-11 age range. Other primary schools in the area are already organised as 4-11 years schools. Raysfield would therefore be aligned with other main Chipping Sodbury feeder schools.

What the advantages Might Be – Things to Think About Further

A single school with a single name and identity would reinforce the Raysfield vision and approach to move forward. There would be one seamless school for the community. Children would be educated and cared for in a consistent way for the whole 7 years of primary school. There would be a clearer framework to monitor needs, development and progress.

Teachers would have opportunities across the whole primary range and their expertise would be available to the whole school. There would be improved communication that would make it easier for parents on a day to day basis.

There would be opportunities for more effective use of resources and avoiding duplication so that available funds could be used in the classroom. Buildings and accommodation could be more effectively used.

The school would have one budget, which makes management easier, and a single Ofsted inspection where the quality of education would be judged across the whole of the primary age range.

The Process of Amalgamation

There are legal procedures for bringing two schools together. These must be followed. The local authority has to do complete the following process:

1. Discontinue the two existing school establishment numbers (Infant and Junior)
2. Immediately create one school establishment number (Primary)

In order to safeguard the interest of all involved and ensure that all views are taken into account, there are clear steps in the process.

1. Informal Consultation with all interested parties.
2. Report to the South Gloucestershire Council on the consultation and decision on whether or not to go forward.
3. Publication of formal Notice proposing amalgamation.
4. Representation Period of 4 weeks for anyone to comment on the proposal.
5. Report to South Gloucestershire Council and a final decision on whether to go ahead.

Only if all these stages go through will the proposal for amalgamation be approved and the new school formed.

How to have your say

South Gloucestershire Council is very keen to have the views of parents and others closely concerned. Drop-in meetings will be held for parents and for school governors and school staff. Dates of the drop-in session for parents/carers are as follows:

Tuesday 25th February at 3:45 – 5:45pm on the junior site.

Whether you come to these meetings or not, the Council wants to know your views. Attached to this leaflet is a brief questionnaire. You are invited to complete and return this. You may also send any additional written response. All the views put forward will be reported to Council before any decision is made as to whether to go ahead with the proposal for amalgamation. If you want your views or comments to be considered, please complete and return the attached questionnaire to your school office (responses will be collected and sent to the Council). Alternatively, you may post your response direct to the Council to:

Tanya Smith, Strategic Lead – School Place Planning
Department for Children, Adults and Health,
PO Box 1955, Bristol, BS37 0DE

**PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF
RAYSFIELD INFANT AND RAYSFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

Please tick the appropriate box.

1. Do you agree with the proposal to amalgamate Raysfield Infant School and Raysfield Junior School

Yes

Not Sure

No

If your answer to Question 1 is "not sure" please let us know what your concerns are?

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If your answer to Question 1 is "no" please let us know your reasons.

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2. If the decision is taken to amalgamate Raysfield Infant School and Raysfield Junior School do you agree that the change should take place from 1 September 2020?

Yes

Not Sure

No

If your answer to question 2 is "not sure" please let us know what your concerns are.

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If your answer to Question 2 is "no" please let us know your reasons.

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3. Please indicate below (tick box) which of the following apply to you I am:

A parent of a pupil currently attending Raysfield Infant School

A parent of a pupil currently attending Raysfield Junior School

- A governor of Raysfield Infant/Junior School
- A teacher at Raysfield Infant School
- A teacher at Raysfield Junior School
- A member of non-teaching support staff
(Please state Infant or Junior)
- Other interested party (please give details)
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Equalities Monitoring

Everyone should have equal and fair access to services and facilities. South Gloucestershire Council aims to prevent anyone from being discriminated against. To help the Council meet his aim, you are asked to complete the section below. Please note that you do not have to answer these questions if you prefer not to do so. The information you provide will be only used for monitoring and is strictly confidential.

Age.....

Gender Male Female Prefer not to say

If you describe your gender with another term, please provide this here:
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Ethnic Background.....

Do you consider yourself as having a disability? Yes No

Are there any issues relating to equality of opportunity that you feel are appropriate for consideration as part of this consultation? Please State:
.....
.....

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please return to your school office who will collate responses and send them to the Council.
Alternatively, you may return your response direct to the Council by post to:

Tanya Smith, Strategic Lead-School Place Planning,
Department for Children, Adults and Health,
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