

Consultation on the proposal to close Beaumont Junior and West End Infant Schools and establish a 2FE primary school

Hampshire County Council would like to know your views about the possibility of West End Infant and Beaumont Junior Schools amalgamating to form a 420 place primary school catering for the full 4 – 11 age range.

This would involve both schools closing at the end of the autumn term 2012 and reopening as a single school at the start of the spring term 2013. In the first instance, the school will continue to use both the West End and Beaumont sites but with a view to providing sufficient accommodation on one of the sites for all primary pupils as soon as possible.

The County Council believes that amalgamating the schools will offer the best opportunities for securing outstanding educational opportunities for the community.

The overall numbers of pupils at primary age schools in Aldershot are shown in the table below. This is based on the current organisation of West End Infant and Beaumont Junior as separate schools. Experience elsewhere where schools have amalgamated is that more pupils remain in the school rather than transferring to other schools at the time of transfer from infant to junior classes,

Pupil numbers at schools in the area

School	Number of places	Pupil numbers 2010/11	Forecast pupil numbers			
			2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
West End Infant	150	132	151	154	156	155
Beaumont Junior	189	117	95	86	91	91
Talavera Infant and Junior	566	549	532	539	570	571
St Michael's CE Infant and Junior	610	648	652	653	657	649
St Joseph's RC Primary	476	465	468	469	469	469
Belle Vue Infant	270	228	236	241	251	257
Newport Junior	263	235	243	257	306	323
Park Primary	210	170	172	178	180	180
Marlborough Infant (+ Y 3)	139	119	126	129	130	133
TOTAL	2873	2663	2675	2706	2810	2828
Surplus places		210	198	167	63	45

What would happen to the pupils?

The main principle is that any changes will be managed to minimise the disruption to children, if the decision is that the schools will amalgamate. All pupils attending the schools at the date of amalgamation will remain on the roll of the new school. However, parents will still be able to express their preference for an alternative school at the normal infant – junior transfer age.

What would happen to the staff?

Consultations will take place with all staff and with trade unions. As a responsible and caring employer, the County Council would manage the situation sensitively. The retention of high-quality staff is a crucial element in the County Council's drive to improve standards and raise pupil achievements.

Will I have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and ask questions?

Yes. Consultation meetings are arranged for parents, staff and other interested members of the community (see below).

At the meetings you will have the opportunity to hear County Council officers explain the reasons for the proposal and the process and timescales to be followed but, most importantly, they will want to hear your views on the proposal. These will be reported back to county councillors in November/December 2011.

Consultation programme

Meetings will be held at West End Infant and Beaumont Junior Schools, on the following dates:

Drop-in sessions	Beaumont Junior	Thursday 8 September	3.30 – 5.30 pm
	Beaumont Junior	Monday 12 September	8.30 – 10.30 am
	West End Infant	Thursday 15 September	3.30 – 5.30 pm
	West End Infant	Friday 16 September	8.30 – 10.30 am
	Beaumont Junior	Monday 26 September	8.30 – 10.30 am
	West End Infant	Monday 26 September	3.30 – 5.30 pm
	West End Infant	Wednesday 28 September	8.30 – 10.30 am
	Beaumont Junior	Wednesday 28 September	3.30 – 5.30 pm

Parent Meetings	Beaumont Junior	Monday 12 September	6.30 pm
	West End Infant	Tuesday 13 September	6.30 pm

You are welcome to attend any of the above meetings.

Separate consultation meetings are being arranged for staff and governors.

How can my views be heard?

Via the consultation events. However, it may be that you are unable to attend any of the scheduled meetings or wish to express a view in writing. If this is the case, please use either the attached response form or the following website address:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/beaumontwestend.htm>

Please ensure views are received by 5 October 2011.

What happens next?

Consultation responses will be carefully considered by Hampshire County Council. If the proposal to amalgamate the schools is agreed in principle, statutory notices will be published in the local newspaper and displayed at the schools and in the local area, setting out an intention to amalgamate the schools and inviting comments/objections.

A final decision would then be made in March 2012.



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establish a 2FE primary school**

Response Form

(please tick)

Yes, I agree with the above proposal

No, I disagree with the above proposal

Comment: *(please continue overleaf if necessary)*

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Which of the following best describes your connection with the schools?
(please tick one only, which should be your main interest)

	Infant	Junior
Parent of child at the school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of teaching staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of support staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent of pre-school age child	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other <i>(please state)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature: **Date:**

Please return this slip to your child's school by **Friday 30 September 2011**

OR to the address below by **Wednesday 5 October 2011**

Martin Shefferd, School Organisation Officer, Elizabeth II Court East,
Children's Services Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle,
Winchester SO23 8UG