

APPENDIX 1

PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE SOUTHDOWN INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS INTO A PRIMARY SCHOOL

E2670

Consultation Responses Report

Total responses received:	12
Comments received from:	Parents: 1 Parent/Governors: 3 Staff: 5 Unions: 1 Other Interested Parties: 1 Pupils: 1

Parent:

I support this. It is the logical way forward both for the pupils and the staff.

Parent/Governor:

I support the proposal to amalgamate the schools and think it will be beneficial for children, families and staff. I support the proposal and think that amalgamation of these two schools is well overdue. We have already seen benefits from the hard federation and amalgamation will add the benefit of providing a 'through' educational experience for the children.

Parent/Governor:

I think this proposed amalgamation would be a positive move for both the children, teachers and the community. Streamlining teaching, admissions and transition from infant to junior. The historic attitude of this school and that school needs to be removed and provide a community school for all the children in the area.

Parent/Governor:

I believe that the proposed amalgamation will not only improve transition for children from KS1 and KS2, it will also improve the education for local children for many years to come.

Having just one school for the community to focus on AND give their full support to rather than having to decide which one to help each year, it should

enable more parental involvement and will enable staff and management to provide consistent high levels of education and care for all throughout the whole school.

It will benefit the children by creating an all over improved school, both schools are currently excellently led and managed with some superb times here and staff and an amalgamation of both will further enhance these assets. The transition at Year 2 will be better for children and families as it will be less traumatic/upheaval and our only wish was that it was done much sooner.

Amalgamation would consolidate and enhance the great environment already achieved by the federation, a primary school on one site is essential for the vision and development of the schools and provision within the local area.

Staff:

I feel that an amalgamation of the two schools is the way forward for the children, parents, staff and community of Southdown. Through being federated the children have become more secure knowing that Mrs Adams has their best interests at heart and strives to provide a stable and caring learning environment for them. We work hard to build relationships with our families and it will be rewarding to carry this through until Year 6. The children entering into Year 3 this year will be reassured by having familiar staff and more interaction between the two schools. Joining the two schools will maintain high standards and consistency in the expectations that we place upon the children. Also it will give staff a chance to take on different roles and share best practices.

The parents will benefit from having one central office to contact and a new uniform will ease costs. Many of our families require extra support and will feel confident that the support they have received in the Infant school will now be given up until Year 6.

Overall creating a new primary school will highlight the commitment and excellence of our teaching and nurturing of the children in this area.

Staff:

I am emailing to express my support for Southdown Junior school to close and the Southdown Infant's to increase their numbers to become a primary school. My reasons are the children would experience consistency throughout their journey within the school. The school would have a clear ethos with all the teaching and non-teaching staff following the school's visions and aims. I also feel this would help with Year 2 children's transitions from KS1 to KS2 as this can be a scary time for our children with lots of worries. I would also like to add our head teacher Mrs Sue Adams will make this transition for both schools as smooth as possible not only for the children, families - and the staff. She understands our children's needs, their families' and the community. Credit to her she still has past parents contacting her for advice and is a source of support for them. I can personally say as a staff member she has always made it known to me how she values not just myself but all her staff. This is an exciting time for Southdown and making this next step is in the best interests of our little people and our community.

Staff:

In response to the proposal of amalgamation

I believe this would be a positive move for the children and their parents within the community, as long as the process is seamless with little impact on the children's learning and development. Keeping staff up to date with information will help to deliver correct information to parents, who no doubt will have many concerns and worries which they are unlikely to mention at public meetings - they will more easily speak to the class teacher, key workers and LSA.

Staff:

I think this proposal is good for the children, families, community and staff of the two schools. It makes sense as the children's education will be more joined up and consistent from age 3 to 11. It will also be more efficient as we can share resources and staff across both schools. I just think it makes sense for everyone. On a personal note, it will be far easier to manage one budget rather than two and will save time. Thanks.

Staff:

I would like to offer the following comments in support of the planned amalgamation of Southdown Junior and Infants School.

The amalgamation will provide for seven continuous years potential education of a child. Currently there are examples of children completing their infant education at Southdown who then move to junior schools elsewhere. I have heard several parents say they would welcome the change and would ensure their children continue their education at Southdown.

The amalgamation will bring together all staff under a single Head Teacher with full administrative and budgetary control meaning consistency in teaching, standards, homework, marking and policies.

The amalgamation would bring consistency for the parents and extend the support they receive from the head and infant staff throughout their child's time in the school. I know of at least two parents whose children are not currently at Southdown that still seek advice and guidance from our current Head Teacher.

There would be a greater opportunity for staff to develop and grow their knowledge and experience with the wider range of education within the school and share with their colleagues.

There is an increased opportunity for the children to enjoy shared activities potentially easing the transition from Infants to Junior curriculums.

Union:

I am writing to formerly submit comments on the proposal to amalgamate Southdown Community Infant and Junior schools prior to the consultation end date of 22nd June 2014. Please confirm receipt of this email.

The comments are being submitted on behalf of UNISON members employed to work in Southdown Community Infant and Junior Schools.

The comments relating to the consultation are:

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been conducted and is the document available.

Will the all through primary school be adequately resourced in terms of staff resources and physical resources to support the increase in the Planned Admission Number of children.

The school currently generates an additional income stream by renting out some classroom space. Will this continue in the new primary school. If it is not likely to continue will the school be affected by the reduction of income. How will any budget reduction be managed.

Some specific questions have been raised about school support staff contractual arrangements. Clarity round these questions will be pursued separately.

Other Interested Party:

I often go into Southdown Infant and Junior schools in various capacities. I am delighted to hear how well the federation is going and think it would be really helpful if they could move forwards to amalgamation with all the associate benefits (smooth transition for children being a key one, also coherence of messages). As a visitor, I can say that the feel of the school, especially the juniors, seems much more positive in recent months since Sue Adams took over as head and the new governing body convened.

I hope the amalgamation can go forwards soon. I would be happy to give further comments if this would be helpful.

Pupils:

A summary of the children's comments on the proposed amalgamation of Southdown Community Infant School and Southdown Junior School.

Worries:

That there is going to be too many children. There's going to be so many accidents.

I am worried that the Year 6s and nursery might not get along very well. Also, the older children might be a little bit rough with the younger ones.

I might not be with my friends.

There might not be enough classrooms.

We might be bullied and people might be unkind.

Happy thoughts:

See all of your friends.

I can see my cousin.

I will see my brother and I will have to look after him.

I will be able to see my sister more often.

We will be able to cooperate with the young ones more.

I think it is going to be good because we'll make new friends.

I think it is good because I can make more friends.

Having a primary school and sharing things like sharing books.

Questions:

Is there going to be enough room?

Are Year 2 and 3 going to be a mixed class?

Will my brother be in my class?

Will we join the two buildings together?

Are the Year 3s and 4s going to be in the same class?

Will there be two canteens or one?

Will we change classes and class names?

Would we change uniform?