

# School Organisation Consultation

**Proposal to open a new school by  
amalgamating Christ Church C of  
E Infant School and Englefield  
Green Infant School and Nurseries**

**January  
2020**



## Introduction

1. This document sets out details of a proposal to close Christ Church, Church of England (C of E) Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries and create a new voluntary aided school on the site of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries. The new infant school would work closely with the local junior school, St Jude's C of E Junior School, with potential for a more formal partnership in the future.
2. This consultation represents the first of a two-stage consultation process, the timescales for which are in "What happens next?" on page 8.

## Background

3. The schools that are the subject of this consultation are two distinct institutions:
  - **Christ Church C of E Infant School** admits up to 30 places into reception year, also known as one form of entry (1FE) and this gives an overall capacity of 90 places.

The school is a voluntary aided school which means it operates fully within the maintained education sector and has a Church of England foundation. Foundation Governors are in a majority on the Governing Body. Revenue funding comes from the local authority (LA), Surrey County Council in line with legislation. Capital funding is administered by Guildford Diocese. The school must comply fully with the DfE's School Admissions Code and is its own admission authority.

- **Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries** admits up to 60 places into reception year, also known as two forms of entry (2FE) and this gives an overall capacity of 180 places.

The school is a community school and maintained by Surrey County Council. The LA decides the admissions criteria and offers places to pupils. Revenue funding comes from the local authority (LA), Surrey County Council in line with legislation. The school is affiliated to Guildford Diocese in a three way informal partnership between the school, local parish and the Diocese for the benefit of the school and its pupils

The school also has a nursery provision onsite offering up to 80 places.

4. Both Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries have experienced a decline in admissions in recent years. This has meant that the school budget has reduced as school budgets are based on the number of pupils in the schools. The schools have introduced mixed age classes to help sustain teaching with a lower number of pupils.
5. The current pupil numbers are shown in Table 1. This illustrates that surplus places at the schools are high in relation to the capacities at the schools.

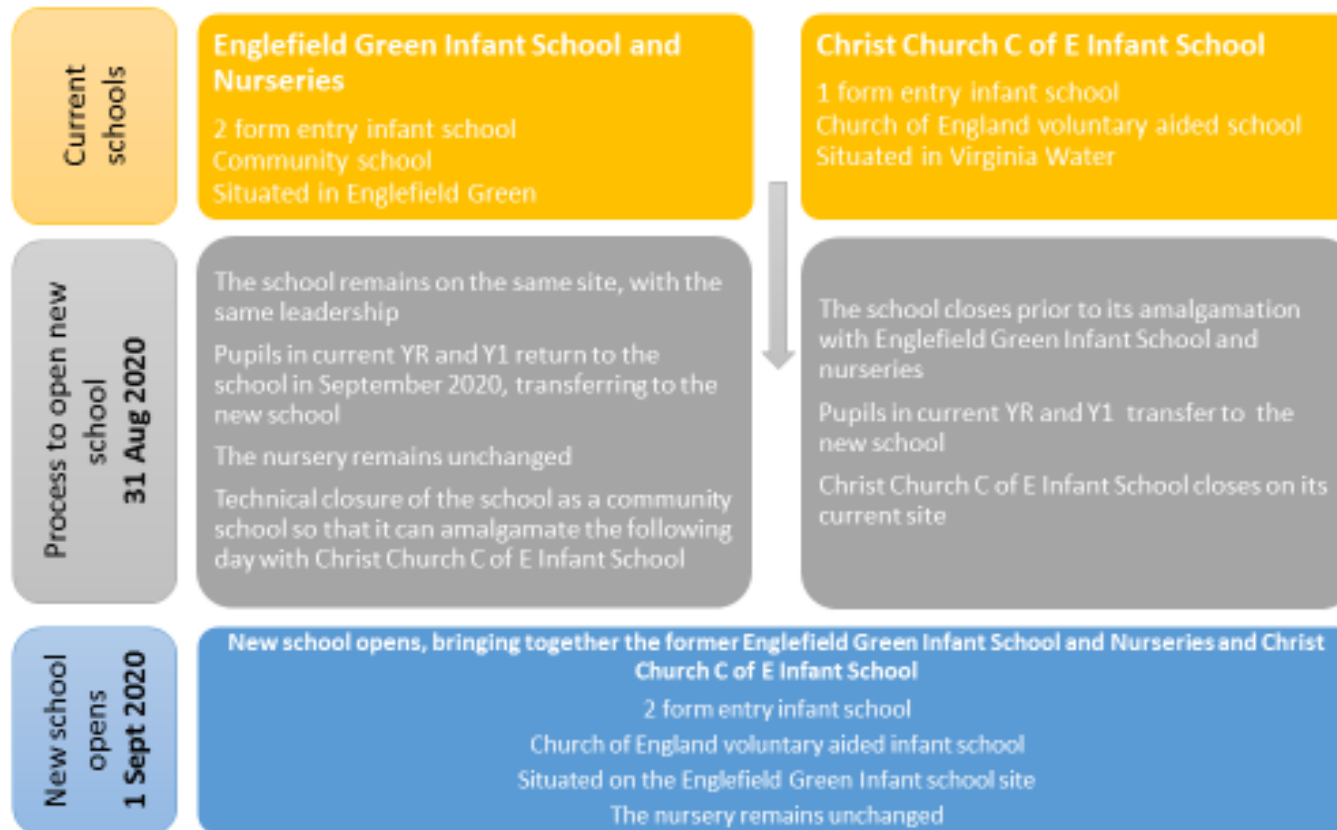
<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Christ Church Infant School</b>	90	19	23	11	53
<b>Englefield Green Infant School</b>	180	43	37	41	121

## Proposal

6. Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Diocese of Guildford and the Governing Bodies of Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries, is proposing to open a new school by amalgamating the two schools into a single institution from September 2020. It is proposed that the new school would be a voluntary aided Church of England school and would be situated on the existing site of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries.
7. Following the legal framework to amalgamate the two schools, we are proposing the technical closure of both of the existing schools in order for a new voluntary aided school with religious character to be opened.
8. Therefore in order to amalgamate Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries:
  1. Surrey County Council and the governing body of Christ Church C of E Infant School are proposing the closure of Christ Church C of E Infant School
  2. Surrey County Council and the governing body of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries are proposing the closure of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries
  3. The Diocese of Guildford is proposing the opening of a new voluntary aided school with Church of England character under section 11 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 on the site of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries.

The result would be a new Voluntary Aided Infant School opening on 1 September 2020, accommodating pupils from Year R to Year 2. The school would have a PAN of 60 in Year R and continue the nursery provision currently provided by Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries.

# Proposal to open a new school by amalgamating Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries



## Rationale

9. The new infant school would work closely with the local junior school, St Jude's C of E Junior School, with potential for a more formal partnership in the future. Together with St Jude's C of E Junior School the aim would be to provide sustainable, outstanding education for 2-11 year olds in the area, reflecting the Christian ethos and values already prevalent in each of the schools.
10. The leaders from all three schools have worked closely for a number of years and share similar values and educational expectations. Each school is rated 'Good' by Ofsted. By amalgamating the two infant schools, opportunities for further joint working are offered in a more cost effective and strategic manner than at present with two separate schools. This will, in turn, make the school more sustainable in the long-term.
11. Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries has been chosen as the site to locate the new school. Englefield Green School is a larger, more modern building which is easily accessible and needs no further development in order to accommodate the additional pupils.
12. This proposal is supported by the governors of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries, Christ Church Infant School and St Jude's C of E Junior School. The result of the amalgamation and continued collaboration with St Jude's will be that there will be provision for 60 places for children in newly amalgamated infant school in Englefield Green from reception to year two and through to St Jude's Junior School from year 3 to year 6.
13. The amalgamation will provide:
  - One stable school
  - Greater certainty around the employment of teaching and other support staff
  - A better curriculum offer for age appropriate classes or groups
  - A sufficient budget to manage the school and provide the necessary resources for teaching and learning, and support the infrastructure of the school
  - Long term viability of the school
14. Projections of future demand for school places show that there is a projected surplus of places in both schools.
15. It is proposed that the nursery provision currently offered by Englefield Green Infant School remains unchanged.

## Educational Vision

16. The leadership teams of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries and Christ Church C of E Infant School are excited by the opportunity to build on the history and heritage of both schools and offer local children a great start to their school lives. They aspire to:
  - Build an outstanding school that meets the needs of all learners within the community it serves
  - Provide all children with a stable, secure and disciplined environment where they achieve their academic, personal and social potential, in preparation for the next stage of their lives

- Offer a broad and balanced curriculum with a range of activities which stretch beyond the length of the school day, allowing all children the opportunity to excel not just academically but within the wide context of life including sports, music and creative arts
- As a Church of England School, to have a distinctly Christian ethos but be fully inclusive of those of other faiths and those of no faith.

By bringing the two schools together and building on links with St Jude's Junior School, school leaders will create integrated and sustainable primary provision on two school sites. Their aim is to have two schools full of happy and confident children with enquiring minds and positive sense of their own wellbeing. Children will enjoy a rich curriculum where they can develop good skills in English and maths to help them access the widest range of learning opportunities. Targeted support will ensure all pupils achieve well including where they have specific learning needs. Emphasis will be placed on the development of the 'whole child' with specific opportunities planned for their academic, personal, spiritual and cultural development.

## **Admissions**

17. The proposal is to create a single institution with an admissions policy that allows for the entry routes provided by the predecessor schools.
18. All pupils currently on roll at Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School would automatically be on roll at the new amalgamated school. Parents will have the right to apply for another school if they wish, although there will be no guarantee that a place at another school will be available.
19. As pupils currently attending either of the current schools will automatically have a place at the new school we expect the new school to have 62 pupils in year 1 and 60 pupils in year 2. The Published Admissions Number (PAN) for reception from 2021 will be 60.
20. Parents who have expressed preference for Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries, or for both schools for admission into reception class for September 2020 should note that if the proposal is agreed, a place allocated at either school would become a place allocated at the new amalgamated school. Surrey County Council will write to each applicant to advise them of the consultation
21. The new school would serve families in the local community and therefore the admissions criteria would be the same as the current admissions criteria for Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries for September 2021. Any future changes to the existing criteria would be subject to the requirements of the DfE's Admissions Code and therefore would be consulted on by the school.

## **Impact on the community and travel**

22. It is recognised that for the local community currently accessing Christ Church C of E Infant School, the journey to the new site may be longer for a small number of pupils. In the event of an amalgamation in September 2020, children on roll at Christ Church Infant School at the end of the summer term 2019 may be eligible for assistance with travel costs, in line with policy, where the school they are moved to is over the statutory distance from their home.

## Staffing and HR

23. It is anticipated that staff from Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School would TUPE across to the new single institution. Formal staff consultation will only commence if the overall proposal is agreed by the Leader of the Council
24. A new governing body would be appointed for the new school with a constitution in line with the regulations for voluntary aided schools. It would include governors from both of the current schools.

## Capital planning and buildings

25. This proposal means that the current site of Christ Church C of E Infant School will no longer be required by the new school. There are no current proposals for the future use of the site. The ownership of the building and land is split between owners including the County Council and diocesan site trustees who will consider the future of the site in due course.
26. The current Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries site will become the site of the new school. There are no current building or planning works to the site. The transfer of the building and land from Surrey County Council to be held in trust by Guildford Diocese will be considered during the consultation period and confirmed if the proposal progresses to statutory notice.

## Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

27. Proposals of this nature require a statutory process to be followed, of which this initial phase of consultation is the first stage. If, taking into account the responses to this stage of consultation, it is decided to proceed, the next stage of the process is a formal 4-week 'Representation' period, including the publication of statutory notices. The agreement of the Leader of Surrey County Council would then be required, if the proposal were to proceed.
28. The current stage of consultation is informal and is proposed to run until 12 noon on **Wednesday 26 February 2020**. During this period, the proposal will be shared with the wider professional network; local schools; unions; and the staff and parents of the two schools concerned.

## Have your say

Surrey County Council Surrey County Council, the Diocese of Guildford and the Governing Bodies of Christ Church Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School would like to know what the community thinks about this proposal. The consultation will open on Wednesday 22 January 2020

You can respond by:

- a) Accessing the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website: [www.surreysays.co.uk](http://www.surreysays.co.uk) and searching for the school's consultation (school name or post code), or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.
- b) Completing the consultation response form that is available at the end of this document. You can email the form or print it, complete it and send it back to the address below.  
Jane Keenan (CCIS and EGIS)  
Room 326

County Hall  
Penrhyn Road  
Kingston-upon-Thames  
Surrey  
KT1 2DN

Email [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk) with the subject heading FAO Jane Keenan (CCIS and EGIS)

All responses must be received by noon on **26 February 2020**

## What happens next?

We will hold two public meetings for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and to hear the views that people have. Anyone who wishes to, is welcome to attend either meeting. You do not have to have a child at either school to come to a meeting.

Both meetings will be the same so please choose the venue and time most suitable for you:

30 January 2020 at 6pm at Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries

11 February 2020 at 2pm at Christ Church C of E Infant School

At the end of the consultation period, we will consider the responses received and decide whether to proceed with the next, formal stage of the consultation process. The formal decision on whether to proceed will be taken by Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for All Age Learning on 10 March 2020. Should it be decided to proceed, we would intend to publish the associated Statutory Notice on 11 March 2020, at the schools, in a local newspaper and on the Surrey Says website.

### Table showing proposed timeline:

Event	Date	Time
Informal consultation starts	22 Jan 2020	12pm
Informal consultation ends	26 Feb 2020	12pm
Public Meeting at Englefield Green Infant School	30 Jan 2020	6pm
Public Meeting at Christ Church Co of E Infant School	11 Feb 2020	2pm
Cabinet Member for All Age Learning Decision Making Meeting	10 Mar 2020	3.30pm
Formal representation starts and statutory notices are published	11 March 2020	12pm
Formal representation ends	22 April 2020	12pm
Leader of the Council Decision Making Meeting	12 May 2020	1pm
Proposed opening of new school	1 Sept 2020	





## Where can I obtain further information?

You can find out more by contacting:

Jane Keenan (CCIS and EGIS)  
Room 326  
County Hall  
Penrhyn Road  
Kingston-upon-Thames  
Surrey KT1 2DN

email: [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

# Consultation Response Form

## Proposal to amalgamate Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries

Please give us your views. Please tick the box that best shows what you think of the following questions and also give us any comments you have. You can write on the other side of this sheet if you want more space to write comments.

1. Do you agree with the proposal to open a new school by amalgamating Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries?

Agree

Don't know

Disagree

Comments:

Please tick the boxes that apply to you.

A parent/carer of a child at Christ Church C of E School	
A parent/carer of a child at Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries	
A parent/carer of a child in an Early Years setting	
A parent/carer of a child who may in future attend the school/s	
A parent/carer of a child at another local school	
Someone who works at Christ Church C of E School	
Someone who works at Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries	
A Governor of Christ Church C of E Infant School	
A Governor of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries	
Other link to Christ Church C of E Infant School (Please specify)	
Other link to Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries (Please specify)	

Someone else with an interest – please give details

It would also be helpful if you could give your postcode

Please return to:

Jane Keenan (CCIS and EGIS)  
 Room 326, County Hall  
 Penrhyn Road  
 Kingston-upon-Thames  
 Surrey KT1 2DN  
 email: [schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

Please tick if you have written comments on the other side



