

School Organisation Consultation

**Proposal to amalgamate Weybourne
Infant School and William Cobbett
Junior School**



SURREY

Proposal to amalgamate Weybourne Infant School and William Cobbett Junior School

The Proposal

Surrey County Council, in partnership with the governing bodies of Weybourne Infant School and William Cobbett Junior School, is proposing to amalgamate the two schools to form a Primary School by extending the age range at William Cobbett Junior School and closing Weybourne Infant School. The resulting extended primary school would incorporate both existing sites.

Why are we proposing the change?

Both schools serve the Weybourne area of northern Farnham and both offer good education for all of their students. The two schools are on adjacent sites and the vast majority of students who attend Weybourne Infant School naturally transfer to William Cobbett Junior School. In such situations it is Surrey policy to consider amalgamation as it is felt that this secures the best future for all children.

In addition, the headteacher at William Cobbett Junior School is retiring at the end of the academic year; which offers an ideal opportunity to recruit a new headteacher to lead forward an amalgamated primary school. It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit headteachers, particularly to small schools, and the range of teaching and leadership opportunities in a larger primary school represents a greater challenge for headteachers in post as well as aspiring headteachers.

We also feel that there are specific advantages of primary organisation over separate infant and junior schools such as:

- a seamless transition from Key Stage 1 (Infants) to Key Stage 2 (Juniors)
- greater ability to track pupil progress between key stages
- greater opportunities for curriculum development
- greater opportunities for staff development
- greater flexibility with a larger budget to deploy staff and curriculum resources effectively
- greater opportunities for staff recruitment

School Size

The extended primary school would continue to provide 40 infant places per year (a total of 120 places) and 90 junior places per year (a total of 360 places). The exact teaching locations of the infant and junior classes will be determined by the newly appointed headteacher but it is likely to continue with infant classes at the Weybourne site and junior classes at the William Cobbett site. At this time, we are not proposing any change in the pupil numbers at either school site. However, future pupil numbers will continue to be under review as pupil forecasts are updated annually.

School Admissions

From September 2016, the primary school would have an admission number of 40 at reception age. The Admission criteria for this intake would be based on the existing criteria of Weybourne Infant School, proximity being measured from Weybourne Infant School to the applicants home. Children currently in Reception and Year 1 at Weybourne Infant School and all new entrants at infant level to the primary school would consequently move on to the junior provision at the William Cobbett site. Parents can continue to make alternative preferences through the Year 3 admissions process if they wish.

Children currently in Year 2 will be offered Year 3 places for September 2015 through the standard Admissions process. It is not possible for us to implement the amalgamation any earlier than 1st September 2015 and therefore the Year 3 offers for September 2015 must continue as normal.

From September 2016 onwards, children on roll at the amalgamated primary school will automatically transfer at Year 3 from the infant to the junior part of the school. However, the junior part of the school will have an additional intake of 50 places, which will be allocated according to the existing criteria of William Cobbett Junior School.

The future

It is felt that this proposal offers a sustainable model of provision and secures education on two adjoining sites that meet the future needs of this community. We do however recognise that national education policy allows schools to change their status to that of an academy School. There is nothing within these proposals that alters this position.

The process to effect amalgamation would be

- Weybourne Infant School would close on 31st August 2015
- William Cobbett Junior School would expand its age-range on 1st September 2015 to become a primary school operating on the sites of the two existing schools
- Children who have applied for places at William Cobbett Junior School for September 2015 will be offered places through the standard admissions process
- All the children on the rolls of the existing schools would automatically be on roll at the new amalgamated primary school
- An advertisement has been posted for a new headteacher for either a primary school or two federated schools
- There will be one governing body for the new primary school; a reconstitution will be required from 1st September 2015. The new governing body will draw on existing governors' skills and expertise.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Surrey County Council, Weybourne Infant School and William Cobbett Junior School would like to know what people in the area feel about the proposal.

You can respond by:

a) Accessing the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website:
either by the following link –

<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/csf-schools-commissioning-team/weybourne-william-cobbett/>

or by going to the Surrey Says website -

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 alongside this document. You can email the form or print it, complete it and send it back to the address below.

Dr Kathy Beresford (Weybourne/William Cobbett Amalgamation)
Room 326
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston Upon Thames
KT1 2DJ

FAO Kathy Beresford (Weybourne/William Cobbett Amalgamation) to:
schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

All responses must be received by noon on 19th April 2015

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. There will be one meeting in the afternoon and one in the evening to allow as many parents to attend one of the meetings as possible. As a public meeting, anyone who wishes to may attend. These meetings will be on the following dates. You need not register your attendance prior to the meeting.

- Thursday 5th March 2015 – 7.00pm – Weybourne Infant School
- Tuesday 10th March 2015 – 3.30pm – William Cobbett Junior School

Please come and share your views. You do not have to have a child at the school to come to the meeting.

At the end of the consultation period, we will review all of the responses received and share these with the schools and publish them on the Surrey Says website. On 27th April 2015, we intend to publish a Statutory Notice at the school, in a local newspaper and on the Surrey Says website stating our intention to amalgamate the two schools.

From 27th April 2015, there will be a 4 week statutory consultation period for further representations to be received by the council. The formal consultation period is due to end on 25th May 2015. All representations will be reviewed before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning in June 2015.