

APPENDIX 1- SCHOOL ORGANISATION GUIDANCE FOR DECISION-MAKERS

Factors that were considered in the decision taken to amalgamate of St Ursula’s Catholic Infant and St Ursula’s Catholic Junior schools

Relevant Factor Considered	Outcome
<p>Consideration of consultation and representation period</p>	<p>An initial consultation was carried out from 20/01/2020 -17/02/2020. The responses received during this initial consultation period were considered before a decision was made to publish a statutory notice regarding the proposal for this school.</p> <p>The statutory notice was published 28/02/2020 and launched the four week representation period which ended on 27/03/2020. No comments / objections were received during the representation period.</p> <p>All stakeholders have had a fair opportunity to express their views. The process of consultation has been conducted satisfactorily and all the statutory requirements have been adhered to.</p>
<p>Education standards and diversity of provision</p>	<p>In February 2017, Ofsted judged St Ursula’s Catholic Junior to be an ‘outstanding’ school. The effectiveness of leadership, including governance in driving a strong ambition was also deemed to be exceptional which ensures the school’s continuing improvement. St Ursula’s Catholic Infant School was judged to be a ‘good’ school in October 2019 by Ofsted.</p> <p>The arrangements that amalgamation brings will enable the schools to operate under a single staffing structure which will allow for the sharing of resources, expertise, knowledge and support across the phases that would improve the quality of education on offer, drive up progress and attainment for all children who attend the current schools. Overall, it is expected that amalgamation will drive up the standards and the quality of education offered, strengthen the management of governance arrangements already in place, ensuring continued improvement and positive outcomes for all the children in the single school.</p>

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<p>Demand</p>	<p>The objective of the proposal is to provide the children in both schools with a seamless transition through the school for their education from age three through to eleven.</p> <p>Admission data shows that all of the pupils on roll at St Ursula’s Catholic Infant School transfer to St Ursula’s Catholic Junior School at the end of key stage 1</p> <p>If the two schools amalgamate, all the children currently in St Ursula’s Catholic Infant and St Ursula’s Catholic Junior schools will automatically become pupils in the primary school and so amalgamation will further strengthen the transition between key stages 1 and 2. It will also be an opportunity for stability, consistency and ease of progression between Key Stages. The primary school will benefit from an increased range of staff expertise, Interaction with a wider range of age groups for children and the ability to foster long-term relationships with parents.</p>
<p>School size</p>	<p>St Ursula’s Catholic Infant School presently caters for pupils aged between 3 and 7 and has a capacity of 180 pupils. St Ursula’s Catholic Junior School on the other hand, caters for pupils aged between 7 and 11 and has a capacity of 240 pupils.</p> <p>The amalgamation of both schools would mean that the new single primary school would cater for children aged 2 to 11 with a capacity of 420 pupils. The primary school would continue to admit 60 pupils into Reception each year, as the infant school does now.</p> <p>The school will comply with the statutory requirements relating to the education of children of compulsory school age and infant class sizes.</p>
<p>Proposed admission arrangements</p>	<p>The admission arrangements of the school are compliant with the School Admissions Code and are not due to change should the schools amalgamate.</p> <p>Amalgamation would lead to a single point of admission with no application required between infants and juniors. This would remove a level of uncertainty for parents. All the children currently in St Ursula’s Catholic Infant and St Ursula’s Catholic Junior schools will automatically become pupils in the primary school if the two schools amalgamate.</p>

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	<p>The infant school currently holds the delegated responsibility of administering the policy, in relation to admission arrangements to the nursery and this will continue in the single school. The amalgamated single primary school will offer nursery provision for all current nursery pupils at St. Ursula's Infant school.</p>
National Curriculum	<p>St. Ursula's Catholic infant and junior schools are voluntary aided schools and delivers the National curriculum.</p>
Equal opportunity issues	<p>The school is co-educational therefore the gender of pupils is not considered to be a factor in determining the proposal. National legislation determines that schools cannot discriminate on race in relation to admissions policies.</p> <p>Therefore there are no sex, race or disability discrimination issues anticipated from the changes being proposed.</p>
Community cohesion	<p>Views and comments received from stakeholders and individuals in the community were fully considered and addressed during the consultation period. 92% of the total responses received, gave their support for amalgamation of both schools as it will be easy transition for pupils and will enable staff oversee pupils whole journey through primary</p> <p>Access to extended services or provision being offered to pupils or the local community will not be affected by the amalgamation.</p>
Travel and accessibility	<p>The new primary school will utilise the site of both St. Ursula's Catholic infant and junior schools, therefore, there will be no change in the travel journey to the new amalgamated single primary school.</p>
Funding	<p>There is no capital scheme currently being proposed for the amalgamation to be implemented.</p>
School premises and playing fields	<p>The single primary school would need as many classes as there are currently in the Infant and Junior Schools. If amalgamation is implemented, the school would remain largely the same with all the existing premises being used in the most appropriate and efficient way with a greater flexibility to use the facilities at its site more effectively.</p>

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The Decision

The proposal to amalgamate St. Ursula's Catholic infant and junior schools is hereby;

Approved without modification

Approved with Modification

Rejected

Reason for decision

The amalgamation would deliver the best educational outcomes for children currently on roll at both schools and for the future.

Details of decision maker

Signed:

Name: Councillor Robert Benham

Title: Cabinet Member for Children & Learning

Date: