

APPENDIX 1- SCHOOL ORGANISATION GUIDANCE FOR DECISION-MAKERS

Factors that were considered in the decision taken to amalgamate of Squirrels Heath Infant and Squirrels Heath Junior schools

Relevant Factor Considered	Outcome
Consideration of consultation and representation period	<p>An initial consultation was carried out from 24/02/2025 - 24/03/2025. 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 on 25/04/2025 and launched the four week representation period which ended on 23/05/25. No objection/comment was received during the representation period.</p>
Demand vs need	<p>The objective of the proposal is to provide the children in both schools with a seamless transition through the one amalgamated school, from age four through to eleven.</p> <p>Admission data shows that all of the pupils on roll at Squirrels Heath Infant School who apply for a place for Squirrels Heath Junior School, transfer to Squirrels Heath Junior School at the end of key stage 1.</p> <p>If the two schools amalgamate, all the children currently on roll at Squirrels Heath Infant and Squirrels Heath Junior schools will automatically become pupils of the newly formed all-through primary school. As such, 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>
Proposed admission arrangements	<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 Squirrels Heath Infant and Squirrels Heath Junior schools will automatically become pupils in the primary school if the two schools amalgamate.</p>

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School size	<p>Squirrels Heath Infant School presently caters for pupils aged between 4 and 7 and has a capacity of 270 pupils. Squirrels Heath Junior School on the other hand, caters for pupils aged between 7 and 11 and has a capacity of 360 pupils.</p> <p>The amalgamation of both schools would mean that the new single primary school would cater for children aged 4 to 11 with a capacity of 630 pupils. The primary school would continue to admit 90 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>
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>
National Curriculum	<p>Both Squirrels Heath infant and junior schools are community schools and deliver the National curriculum.</p>
Integration and community cohesion	<p>Views and comments received from stakeholders and individuals in the community were fully considered and addressed during the initial consultation period. 58 out of 83 responses received gave their support for amalgamation of both schools as it will be easy transition for pupils and will enable staff to 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> <p>Both schools operate a breakfast and afterschool club, and these will continue in the primary school.</p>
Travel	<p>The primary school will utilise the site of both Squirrels Heath infant and junior schools, therefore, there will be no change in the travel journey to the new amalgamated single primary school.</p>

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Funding	<p>Capital Funding of £180k is needed for the following works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small MUGA (Netball, Basketball, Tennis)• Minor alterations and decoration to internal spaces• Soft landscaping
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> <p>Currently, both schools have access to the Balgores playing field. With the amalgamation the LA is looking at the option of providing a MUGA on the school site as there is a proposal of having a 300 place new special school on Balgores playing field being considered.</p>
Early Years	<p>The current infant and junior schools do not operate a nursery, however there is a private nursery provider on site. There will be no change to the private operation of the nursery.</p>

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The Decision

The proposal to amalgamate Squirrels Heath infant and junior schools is hereby;

Approved without modification

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Approved with Modification

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Rejected

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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: Tara Geere

Title: Director of Starting Well

Date: ...24.06.25