

Dear parents, staff and carers,

We are pleased to inform you that the informal consultation about the proposed amalgamation of Redlands and Smithy Street Schools was largely positive. It has been very helpful to hear from staff, children and parents which aspects they are excited about, and which details cause them concern.

The consultation will now move to the next stages and the Local Authority will reach a final decision about amalgamating the schools in February 2020.

The consultation report, prepared by Helen Jenner, has been considered by the governors' steering group and is available on the school website. Summaries of this were presented at the meetings on 21st November, thank you to those who attended.

We would like to thank you all for taking the time to respond, and for identifying real reasons to celebrate this move as well as raising important questions about securing the best education for your children.

In the light of your feedback, at the meetings on 21st November, the schools responded to some of the aspects causing concern.

There will continue to be an entrance on the Redmans Road side of the building.

Bringing our two schools together will increase the range of expertise available to help children's learning, and should help us to be able to provide an even wider range of after school provision, family support and cultural experiences.

Some of you were concerned that the new school might feel too big, or that the children may be nervous about the changes. If the amalgamation does go ahead a range of transition activities will be put in place to help the children. We have asked the Local Authority if they can help us start to use the playgrounds more flexibly from the Summer Term to help with this.

Although there will be some staff changes for September we are not expecting any additional changes because of the amalgamation, so no staff will be made redundant in the immediate future.

Decisions about uniform cannot be taken until any proposal is agreed by the Local Authority. If the amalgamation progress the new governing body would decide the new uniform and will subsidise purchase for parents.

The same is the case for the name of the school.
The new governing body will take into account the feedback received so far.

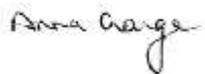
It is too soon to be certain how classes will be organised, but both Headteachers and staff members are already thinking about this, and, once the Local Authority have made a decision in February, if the amalgamation goes ahead there will be lots of joint activities so that staff, children and parents get to know both school buildings and any changes will then be less worrying for everyone.

We would like to thank you for your support so far. We have written to the Local Authority to let them know that we would be in favour of them moving to the next, formal, stage of consultation.

This involves them posting what are called “statutory notices”. The notice has to say which schools is formally closing and which expanding – please do not be alarmed by this. It is simply the only process available for two schools to be able to amalgamate.

Please also remember that if you have any queries at all please do raise them. Ensuring the best quality education for our children is the primary focus for all of us.

Best Wishes



Anna Gouge



Ros Coffey