

COMPLETE PROPOSAL

SECTION 1: DISCONTINUANCE OF SPRINGDALE INFANT SCHOOL

Community School and Local Authority Details

School Details: Springdale Infant School, Warstones Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4NJ.

LA Details: City of Wolverhampton Council
(Contact: School Organisation Team, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL).

Reason for Closure

Springdale Infant School was inspected by Ofsted in January and February 2017 and was judged to be a school which 'Requires Improvement'. The current school inspection dashboard lists weaknesses in progress and attainment for all children including disadvantaged groups in Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

The Local Authority has been supporting the school to improve standards of education and the outcomes for pupils. In addition, the Local Authority brokered arrangements for the Headteacher of Springdale Junior School to support Springdale Infant School as the Interim Headteacher.

The Council has a strategy for the organisation and development of primary schools called the Primary School Organisation Strategy 2016-2018. The strategy highlights that the Council will consider proposing solutions such as mergers in order to improve standards in underperforming schools.

The proposal to discontinue Springdale Infant School has related proposals as detailed within this complete proposal which are interdependent and should not be considered in isolation of one another. Springdale Infant School is located on the same site as Springdale Junior School. The related proposals are to lower the age range and increase the capacity of Springdale Junior School to create a primary school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years, in order to accommodate pupils currently attending Springdale Infant School (please see Section 2).

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

Springdale Infant School is a mixed Community school that caters for children aged between 3 and 7 years. The school operates a special educational needs resource base for pupils with language and communication difficulties. There are no boarding arrangements at the School.

Year Group	Compulsory/Non-Compulsory	Current Admission Limits	Current Number on Roll (as at 5 September 2017)
Nursery	Non - compulsory	60	39
Reception	Compulsory	60	60
Year 1		60	50
Year 2		75	71

Gender of Pupils (Reception to Year 2):

Male – 94 (51.9%)

Female – 87 – (48.1%)

Displaced pupils

Springdale Infant school is located in the Merry Hill Ward; the proposal does not affect the number of places in this Ward. The closure of the infant school is to enable the junior and infant school to merge to create a primary school. All pupils on roll at Springdale Infant School on 31 December 2017 would automatically transfer to the primary school on 1 January 2018 and therefore there would be no displacement of pupils. However, should any pupil not wish to take up a place at the primary school they would have the opportunity to apply for a place at other schools where places are available.

Impact on the community

Bringing infant and junior schools together offers a number of advantages, including:

- Reducing the number of major transitions that pupils face
- Reducing the likelihood of lost learning at the beginning of Key Stage 2
- Increasing the opportunity for specialist teachers to work with a wider range of pupils
- Providing the opportunity for a consistent approach to the curriculum to be adopted
- Ensuring the continuity of teaching, learning and achievement
- Cost savings through economies of scale.

It is not envisaged that there would be any adverse impact on the community as the number of school places in the area will not be reduced and the primary school would continue to serve the local community as the separate infant and junior schools currently do.

Special educational needs provision

The special educational needs resource base for pupils with language and communication difficulties at Springdale Infant would transfer to the proposed primary school. Springdale Junior School has an Ofsted rating of Good and ‘those pupils supported within the school’s resource base, make good progress’. (Source: Ofsted June 2014)

Travel

All pupils at Springdale Infant School would automatically transfer to the newly created primary school so no pupils will be displaced as part of the proposal. The Infant and Junior Schools occupy the same site and therefore journeys and travel time of pupils will not be affected.

Implementation

The proposed date of closure is 31 December 2017.

Consultation Responses

Formal Consultation (Representation) commenced on 11 September 2017 and ends on 8 October 2017.

Any person may object to, support or comment on the proposal by writing to:

Mr T Knott
School Organisation Manager
City of Wolverhampton Council
1st Floor Civic Centre
St Peter's Square
Wolverhampton
WV1 1RL

Or email: school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is 8 October 2017.

SECTION 2: PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO SPRINGDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Community School and Local Authority Details

School Details: Springdale Junior School, Warstones Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4NJ.

LA Details: City of Wolverhampton Council
(Contact: School Organisation Team, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL).

Description of Alteration and Evidence of Demand

The prescribed alterations are as follows:

- Lower the age range of Springdale Junior School from 7-11 years to 3–11 years
- To enlarge the premises of Springdale Junior School to accommodate infant pupils.

The proposals to lower the age range and increase the capacity of Springdale Junior School to create a primary school are related to the aforementioned closure of Springdale Infant School and are interdependent and should not be considered in isolation of one another. Springdale Junior School is located on the same site as Springdale Infant School. The related proposal is to discontinue Springdale Infant School and transfer the pupils to the proposed primary school (please see Section 1). The proposal does not affect the number of places available. Figure 1 summarises the proposed changes.

Figure 1: Proposed Changes

Current Age Range	Proposed Age Range	Current Net Capacity	Proposed Net Capacity*	Current Admission Limit	Proposed Admission Limit
7-11	3-11	358	568	60	60

* Please note the proposed net capacity is based on the current individual assessments of Springdale Infant School (210 net capacity) and Springdale Junior School (358 net capacity). Subject to approval of the proposal to merge the schools the net capacity of the primary school would be assessed.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The objectives of the proposal are to both modify the age range of Springdale Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 and to enlarge the premises in order to accommodate pupils currently attending Springdale Infant School. The merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School would create a primary school which would be located on the current sites of the two schools.

The merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School would increase educational standards for pupils as the Junior School has been independently judged by Ofsted as providing a good education.

Bringing infant and junior schools together offers a number of advantages, including:

- Reducing the number of major transitions that pupils face
- Reducing the likelihood of lost learning at the beginning of Key Stage 2
- Increasing the opportunity for specialist teachers to work with a wider range of pupils
- Providing the opportunity for a consistent approach to the curriculum to be adopted
- Ensuring the continuity of teaching, learning and achievement
- Cost savings through economies of scale.

The number of school places available in the area is not being reduced as part of the proposal therefore parental choice for a school place will not be affected, however, there will be a reduction in the number of infant schools across the city.

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

There will be no impact on educational establishments within the area as the number of school places available is not being changed as part of the proposal.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The proposed merger of the schools would provide opportunities for efficiency savings and maximise the use of school resources.

The Local Authority schools funding formula includes a lump sum payment of £125,000 per school so the proposed merger would eventually release £125,000 of the Dedicated Schools Grant which would be available for allocation across the remaining schools in the city. In the year of conversion, the primary school would retain the full allocations originally made to the separate schools. A transitional year then follows, where the primary school would receive a proportion of the lump sum that would equate to £87,500, in addition to its own £125,000 lump sum.

It is recognised that there would be a need to invest in ICT to consolidate the infrastructure and server/backup environment and to merge the SIMS databases from Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior Schools into one database. It is anticipated that this cost would need to be met by the primary school utilising a proportion of the aforementioned lump sum allocation.

Implementation

The proposed date for implementation is 1 January 2018.

Consultation Responses

Formal Consultation (Representation) commenced on 11 September 2017 and ends on 8 October 2017.

Any person may object to, support or comment on the proposal by writing to:

Mr T Knott
School Organisation Manager
City of Wolverhampton Council
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