

Consultation on the Proposed Opening of Maryport CE Primary School – FAQs

Who came up with the idea that the two schools should join?

The governing bodies of the two schools came up with the idea that the two schools should form a new single primary school and then they asked the county council if it would run a consultation to see what people thought about the proposal.

Why do the two schools want to join together?

- A single, larger school will be better able to deal with changes in pupil numbers and funding.
- Pupils joining at Reception will be guaranteed a place in the school until it is time for them to move onto secondary school; there will be no need to apply for a Year 3 place.
- It gives parents an opportunity to have their children taught in a Church of England school during their infant years (this is something that is not available in Maryport at present).
- It provides increased personal development opportunities for staff in the two schools.
- Expertise from the whole school can be better targeted across the whole age range.

Will the proposed changes have any implications for jobs at the two schools?

There can be no guarantee about jobs into the future, but that is no different from the position if the two schools remained separate. There would, of course, be the loss of one of the headteachers, but any further changes to staffing structures would be a decision for the new governing body. There will still be the same number of children in the schools as there are currently into the foreseeable future, so there shouldn't be a need to make significant changes.

Will the funding be any different for the new school?

As well as funding related to the number of children on roll, the two schools currently receive a lump sum of £110,000 each year. In the first year of operation the new school would receive a single sum of £187,000 which would reduce to single annual payment of £110,000 thereafter. Savings for the new school will be made in the reduction from two headteachers to a single headteacher, but it is also likely that further operating costs will be reduced through the removal of some things that both schools currently do separately.

Why should the new primary school become a Church of England school?

This was a decision made by the governing bodies of the two existing schools. Currently in Maryport there are opportunities for children to go to a Community or Roman Catholic school for the infant stage of their education, but they can't go to a Church of England school. By making the new primary school a Church of England school children can choose from a Community, Roman Catholic or Church of England school for all of their primary education.

Who decides who is on the new governing body?

As it is the junior school that forms the new primary school by extending their age range to cover the infant phase, the governing body would remain the junior one. However, both schools are consulting on the change and it is their intention to form a new governing body involving representatives from both existing schools.

Is there any funding for modifications to the building if the proposal goes ahead? Will there be a new single entrance to the school and a single main office?

Unfortunately, government funding for schools in recent times has been restricted in real terms and the county council has no additional funds to cover any modifications. Any changes to the building

will have to come out the new school's budget and that will be a decision for the new governing body.

Who makes the final decision on whether the two schools join together?

The final decision will be made by the county council's Cabinet, but this will only be after they have considered all the responses to the consultation and thought about the implications of the proposed change.

Will anybody be able to see what I have said in my response to the consultation?

No. All responses are anonymised when they are received and your opinion and any comments that you have made are added to a report that goes to the county council's Cabinet before they make a decision. Should the Cabinet decide to move to the next stage following the current public consultation then statutory notices will be published in local newspapers. This allows a further 4 weeks of consultation before Cabinet makes a final decision and any new responses received during this period will be published and WILL NOT be anonymised.

Can my child still join the new school at Year 3?

Children will still be able to transfer into the new school at Year 3 providing sufficient places are available. They can also transfer out to other schools should they wish to.