

Amalgamation of St George's Infant School and Nursery and St George's New Town Junior School: Summary report

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The consultation ran from 11/06/2020 to 09/07/2020.

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Question 1: Do you support the proposal to amalgamate St George's Infant School and Nursery and St George's New Town Junior School to create a single primary school from January 2021?

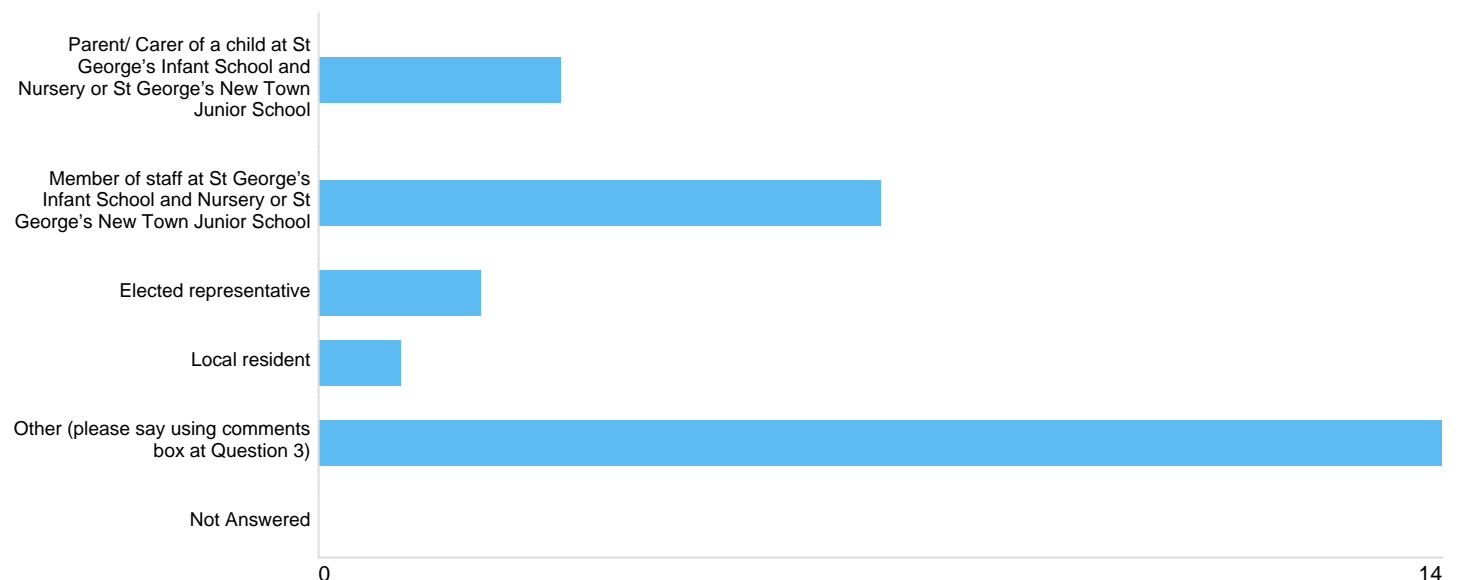
Yes / No



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	26	96.30%
No	1	3.70%
Not Answered	0	0%

Question 2: Which of the following best describes your interest in the expansion proposal?

Interest group



Option	Total	Percent
Parent/ Carer of a child at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School	3	11.11%
Member of staff at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School	7	25.93%
Elected representative	2	7.41%
Local resident	1	3.70%
Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	14	51.85%
Not Answered	0	0%

Question 3: If you have answered 'Other' at Question 2, please enter your interest group in the box below.

Text box to enter 'Other' interest group

There were **15** responses to this part of the question.

Question 4: Do you have any comments that you wish to make, to help us take better account of your views when the next steps of this process are considered?

Text box in which to state views on what is proposed

There were **17** responses to this part of the question.

Do you support the proposal to amalgamate St George's Infant School and Nursery and St George's New Town Junior School to create a single primary school from January 2021? - Yes / No	Which of the following best describes your interest in the expansion proposal? - Interest group	If you have answered 'Other' at Question 2, please enter your interest group in the box below. - Text box to enter 'Other' interest group	Do you have any comments that you wish to make, to help us take better account of your views when the next steps of this process are considered? - Text box in which to state views on what is proposed	Submitted Date
No	Member of staff at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School		It is a takeover not an amalgamation. Staff at the Junior school have priority over jobs (As stated in previous letter to staff). The qualities and qualifications should be considered for each role without any priority given to the one school. I'm guessing the cost would be prohibitive but consideration should be given on putting the schools on one site for a truly integrated primary School	2020-06-11 20:06:05
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	A local headteacher in Colchester, with pupils living in the catchment of St Georges.	Having read the proposals, I believe the plan makes a lot of sense: the challenges the Infant School has have been great and sometimes through no fault of their own. Mr Messer clearly has the trust of many local headteachers and has a lot of skills to lead both schools through a period of turbulence that has existed before OFSTED and certainly since their visit. I fully support the plan and believe the right choices have benenmade.	2020-03-12 12:00:36
Yes	Parent/ Carer of a child at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School		How do you plan to support and develop the children now .not in September now and obviously moving forward .how has it drastically changed from reception to year one to the point i have already raised concerns and i worry about my son going to school .in reception i had no such worries .how is it acceptable that my sons so called helper for s.e.n needs said that she just ignored him last time he had an emotional meltdown .please note not badly behaved so not to be lumped in that catagory .how is it acceptable that most parents i know feel their s.e.n children are ignored	2020-03-12 18:38:38
Yes	Member of staff at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School		I think the amalgamation is a fantastic step for joint work between the schools and family collaboration.	2020-06-11 11:13:13
Yes	Member of staff at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School		It makes sense fort he school to amalgamate into a primary in order for the pupils to have improved transition and a more cohesive and consistent approach in their early education.	2020-06-11 11:16:43
Yes	Member of staff at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School			2020-06-11 16:08:36

Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	I am a staff member of the Junior School / a parent of a child in Yr 6 and a local resident.	<p>quote)</p> <p>When this proposal was announced to the staff at the Junior School, I had to contain my joy and delight at the prospect of both the schools becoming one. I have had a long association with both of the schools (our 3 children have attended both schools), I have been a member of the PTA, did 5 years worth of volunteer work in their Forest School sessions at the Infants, attended school trips for both schools, amongst other things - and have been a member of staff at the Junior School for just over 5 years. I cannot think of a better way of ensuring that the children who start at the Nursery and make their way through to Year 6, get a wonderful, consistent education.</p> <p>Each September, staff worry about the behavioural issues that we will be faced with when the Year 3 children start. It isn't long before the magic of our school starts and we see the transformation in behaviour. The consistent approach around behaviour of the children in our school is what makes the difference. It makes the children feel safe, secure, valued and heard.</p> <p>Mr Messer is a truly brilliant Head Teacher and leader and I know he will put his heart into making sure that each and everyone of the children at the Primary School receives the BEST education and support. Mr Messer is supported by a wonderful team - Mrs Dale, Amanda Leung and others, who will make this come together and be the best primary school in Colchester.</p> <p>If you wish to ask me any questions or discuss it further, I can be</p>	2020-06-11 17:12:31
Yes	Member of staff at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School			2020-06-12 13:45:33
Yes	Parent/ Carer of a child at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School	I was also a governor at the infants until recently	My main concern around the amalgamation is the employment rights of the infant school staff. It says in the document that both schools will be treated the same but then goes on to say that the infant school staff will be recruited whereas the junior staff will automatically continue their roles. With both a head and governing body of the junior school running things I cannot see how the infant school staff will get a fair deal and I feel there is no one to speak for them.	2020-06-12 15:22:56
Yes	Member of staff at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School		From conversations, this appears to be well supported by families and the local community. Many parents have expressed how beneficial it would be to have a consistent experience across the primary age range.	2020-06-17 12:46:59

Yes	Elected representative		<p>The LA has stated the benefits quite clearly of the advantages of such a merger such as a continuity of provision and not needing to apply for KS2 entry to a junior school. Could the LA and GBs provide the financial 'benefits' of such a merger. How much would the estimated savings amount to and where would those savings be made?</p> <p>As the proposal states there might be some need for job roles to be redefined to avoid duplication of posts I request that all staff on both sites are informed that at the very least a protection of salary of at least three years for a teacher and 18 months for other staff would be applicable should an employee be adversely affected.</p> <p>It would be helpful that the GBs of both schools state on the record that there has been no discussion or plans to make redundancies.</p> <p>Peter Wermter Essex Federation Secretary NASUWT</p>	2020-06-19 10:22:13
Yes	Parent/ Carer of a child at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School			2020-06-20 08:38:19

Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Parent and staff member	<p>quite jarring to have two separate schools with slightly different ways of doing things, ranging from uniform to homework policies. Practically speaking, this can hit parents financially, and can prove tricky when supporting learning at home if you have children at both schools but with differing policies on basic learning.</p> <p>By amalgamating the schools, obstacles such as applications from year 2 to year 3 will be removed, as well as offering a much better continuity of care when children move from KS1 to KS2. This will allow more stability for children and families and take away the uncertainty and worry over school places.</p> <p>The vision of the school will be clearer, and a more unified approach to supporting and educating the children will become apparent through the strong leadership from the team at the Junior School.</p> <p>Since my children left the Infant School a few years ago, it has been hard and sad to watch the school decline whilst the Junior School appeared to thrive and succeed. It is a shame that New Town families did not have faith in their local community Infant school to carry on and progress to the Junior School but it is understandable that parents moved their children to give them the best education and environment possible.</p> <p>I think it speaks volumes that after my children attended both schools, I often recommended them both to friends and neighbours but more recently I could only recommend the Junior School due to the warm and positive vibe I felt from them versus the less than positive environment</p>	2020-06-22 21:19:54
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Both are members of the Tiptree & Stanway Primary Schools' consortium and therefore indirectly employ me	Amalgamating the two schools will undoubtedly provide a stronger partnership and enable greater networking, transition and support for the children, staff, governors and parents	2020-06-25 16:10:00
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Local Headteacher		2020-06-25 16:19:02
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Headteacher of local school	-	2020-06-25 22:02:41
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Tiptree and Stanway Consortium headteacher		2020-06-25 22:40:53
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Colchester headteacher		2020-06-26 06:13:35
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Member of Tiptree and Stanway Consortium	I believe the unification of the two schools will be beneficial for pupils and staff.	2020-06-26 08:13:11

Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Headteacher of local school		2020-06-26 10:45:57
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	A member of the Tiptree and Stanway Consortium of schools of which St George's is a member	Strategic consistency and stability would be supported with the proposed amalgamation.	2020-06-26 11:10:54
Yes	Member of staff at St George's Infant School and Nursery or St George's New Town Junior School		<p>There seems to be a contradiction in the information. One para says: "... the governing body of the junior school has expressed its intention to treat staff at both the infant school and junior schools equitably and to create a staff structure that maintains the knowledge and skills from both current staff teams."</p> <p>But the next para says: "All the teaching and support staff employed at the junior school (at the time of the proposed amalgamation) would automatically continue their employment in what will become the primary school, save for where any workgroups are subject to restructuring. "</p> <p>How is it fair and equitable if priority is given to staff working at the Junior school?</p> <p>The infant school still has 2 demountable classrooms which are are not ideal. Are there any plans to replace this with permanent buildings or extension to the school.</p> <p>The infant school is not fit for purpose and you have to go through teaching areas to reach other rooms</p>	2020-06-26 17:21:28
Yes	Elected representative		The amalgamation allows a joined up approach to the primary education in the local area.	2020-06-29 11:24:10
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Part of the Consortium that works with both schools		2020-07-08 16:05:01
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Headteacher within the Tiptree and Stanway Consortium		2020-07-08 16:19:15
Yes	Local resident			2020-07-08 16:24:15
Yes	Other (please say using comments box at Question 3)	Consortium Headteacher	I believe that the amalgamation of the Infant & Juniors schools will benefit current and future pupils. I think it is a positive plan and that staff at both schools are committed to change.	2020-07-08 16:42:58