

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	14 May 2024
Title:	Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School – Proposed Amalgamation
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Mark Saunders, Senior Strategic Development Officer

Email: Mark.saunders@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the statutory public notice period and obtain approval for the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School with effect from 1 January 2025.

Recommendation(s)

2. That approval be given under the Education & Inclusion Act 2006, Schedule 2, part 2 paragraph 8 to close Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit with effect from 1 January 2025.
3. That approval be given to expand the age range of Peel Common Junior School from 7 to 11 to, 3 to 11 from the 1 January 2025 to form an all-through primary school and nursery unit.

Executive Summary

4. Discussions have taken place with the headteachers and governing bodies from both schools over many months with respect to declining pupil numbers and the associated impact this has on educational standards, school budgets and on-going viability of both schools. Pupil demand has dropped to 1fe (form of entry) and has resulted in changes being made to the PAN (Published Admission Number) of both schools to reflect this requirement. The proposal to close the infant School and extend the age range of the junior School to form a 1fe primary reflects forecast demand for places at the school and across the local area.
5. Following a request from both governing bodies an informal consultation on the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and expansion of the age range Peel Common Junior School was approved by the Director of

Children's Services in discussion with the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. This consultation ran from 15 November 2023 to 15 December 2023. Drop-in sessions were held at Peel Common Infant School on 28 November 2023 and 5 December at the junior School. These sessions allowed parents and other stakeholders to put forward their views on the consultation directly to officers, offer alternate proposals and ask any questions.

6. This report includes the feedback from that consultation and the statutory Public Notice, analyses the feedback and recommends the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and extension of the age range of Peel Common Junior School proceeds from the 1 January 2025.

Contextual information

7. The informal consultation undertaken was a response to a formal approach by the governing bodies of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School for the County Council to consider an amalgamation. The amalgamation, if approved, will result in the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit (3 to 7) and a change to the age-range of Peel Common Junior School to 3 to 11 to form a primary school with nursery unit.
8. Pupil forecasts over the next five years indicate that there is a 1fe (form of entry) demand for places in the locality. The infant school PAN was varied from 60 to 30 in September 2022 and 2023 following approval from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA). The PAN will reduce permanently from 60 to 30 with effect from September 2024 as agreed via the statutory admissions consultation process.
9. The junior school PAN for 2023 was varied from 60 to 33 following a successful OSA application in summer 2023. The PAN for 2024 was permanently reduced to 45 via the statutory admissions consultation. Whilst linked school data supported a reduction to 30, the school's governing body only supported a PAN reduction to 45. An OSA application to reduce the PAN to 30 in 2024 could therefore be an option although the variation decision can only be made by the adjudicator and relies on parental preference and offer data.
10. A permanent reduction to a PAN of 30 for the junior school was approved through the admission arrangements consultation process (13 November 2023 and 29 December 2024) for implementation in Sept 2025/26.
11. The reduction in pupil numbers has led to significant budget pressures at both the infant and junior schools creating significant difficulties with budget recovery and on-going viability. The proposed amalgamation to form a 1fe primary school on one school site presents a better opportunity for the schools to secure an improved budget position with a more settled pupil

number intake and organisational structure.

Finance

12. A meeting to discuss significant financial concerns at the infant school with the County Education Manager (Primary), School Improvement Manager, Education Finance Service Manager, Principal Accountant, Headteacher and Chair of Governors was held on 27th February 2023. It was agreed that the infant school should take every available action to ensure that it avoided an in-year deficit. The figures, as illustrated within the Revenue section below, show that this has not been achieved.

13. The infant and junior Schools will have the following balances as at 31 March 2024:
Peel Common Infant £110,883 Deficit
Peel Common Junior £42,123

Should approval be given to close the infant school, the revenue deficit will be absorbed by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) contingency fund.

14. The schools have the following Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) balances (1 April 2024):
Peel Common Infant £23,323
Peel Common Junior £2,640 Deficit

15. Should the recommendations in paragraphs 2 and 3 be approved capital expenditure will be required to relocate the existing nursery provision from the infant school site to the junior school site. The junior school is felt to be the better option due to the site layout and its relationship to the playing field and hard play area. This could be achieved by relocating an existing purpose built nursery unit from another maintained school site or by extending the existing junior school building. Works will also need to be undertaken on the junior school site to make it suitable for key stage 1 pupils. Estimated costs for the works identified are £750,000 and will be funded in full from the Children's Services Capital Programme. Approval for the required capital expenditure will be obtained at a future Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day.

16. Discussions will take place regarding all opportunities that exist for utilising or disposing of the surplus accommodation and land should the recommendations be approved.

17. In addition, approval will be required from the Department for Education (DfE) under Section 77, in the event the status of the infant school site changes.

Performance

18. Educational outcomes – Expected Standard % shown.

Infant School				
	2022	National	2023	National
Y1 Phonics	69.2%	75.5%	78.6%	79%
Ks1 Reading	58.3%	66.9%	76.9%	68.3%
Ks1 Writing	47.2%	57.6%	71.8%	60.2%
Ks1 Maths	52.8%	67.7%	69.2%	70.5%
Junior School				
	2022	National	2023	National
Ks2 Reading	45.5%	74.5%	79.5%	72.5%
Ks2 Writing	43.1%	69.5%	47.7%	71.4%
Ks2 Maths	52.7%	71.4%	72.7%	72.9%
Ks2 RWM	32.7%	58.7%	45.5%	59.4%

19. The table above shows that attainment was below average in reading, writing and mathematics (RWM) at the infant School in 2022. This improved significantly in 2023 following Local Authority support. The ability of school leaders to sustain these improvements over time remains under close review.
20. The proportion of pupils achieving the Year 1 Phonics Check was below average in 2022 and in line with national in 2023.
21. The proportion of pupils who achieved the Expected Standard rose considerably in reading and maths in 2023; both of these figures were in line with National standards. The figure for writing remained below national standards in 2023. The combined RWM measure was 26% below national in 2022 and despite the improvements remained 14% below national standards in 2023; this figure was impacted by the below average attainment in writing. mathematics (+20%) in 2023 although there was less improvement in writing which impacted upon the combined RWM measure.
22. Overall effectiveness at both schools is currently judged to be good by Ofsted. The infant School was last inspected in October 2018 and the junior School was last inspected in November 2019. Both schools are likely to be re-inspected by July 2025 (in accordance with information provided by Ofsted in June 2023).

Consultation and Equalities

23. An informal consultation was conducted from 15 November to 15 December 2023 which included a letter sent to stakeholders, a web site with information including FAQ's and two public drop-in sessions, one at each school. People and groups consulted included the parents of both schools, the Member of Parliament, local councillors, and Trade Unions (Appendix A).
24. In total 15 responses were received via e-mail or recorded during the consultation drop-in sessions. The comments received during the consultation process are shared in full at Appendix B.

25. The Statutory Public Notice period took place between Friday 1 March and Friday 26 March 2024 and a copy of the Public Notice is attached at Appendix C. The notices were displayed at the school, circulated to stakeholders, and published in the Hampshire Independent and on Hampshire County Council's public notice portal: [Public notices | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/public-notices)
26. In total one response was received during the Public Notice period. The comments received during the consultation process are shared in full at Appendix D.

Personnel implications

27. Procedures will be developed on behalf of the governing bodies of both schools to support the closure of Peel Common Infant School and expansion of Peel Common Junior Schools, based on a framework already established with trade unions as outlined within the Manual of Personnel Practice. The procedure will then be consulted upon with both staff affected and trade union representatives.
28. As the proposal is a closure of the infant School, all staff at the infant School would be at risk of redundancy at the point of closure. It is however, anticipated that a number of staff will secure employment in the primary school as the junior school will need to recruit for their newly expanded age range. Any infant School staff who do not secure employment in the new primary school will be provided with redeployment support, in anticipation of them securing alternative employment in another Hampshire maintained school or within the County Council.

Admissions

29. The proposal would result in the junior School expanding its age range to become a primary school with a published admission number (PAN) of 30 for year R.
30. Parents of children attending the nursery will still be required to apply for their place in Year R through the usual admission arrangements.
31. The main admissions round for infant/primary and junior school applications for September 2025 opens on 1 November 2024, with a closing date of 15 January 2025. If the recommendations in this report are agreed, Peel Common Infant and Junior Schools would be removed from the admissions rounds, thereby removing the possibility of applications being made for either school based on the current admission arrangements. They would be replaced with a Peel Common Primary School, with a Year R intake.
32. If the proposal is approved, a request for a variation to the junior school policy will need to be made to the OSA. This would change it to a primary school policy with a Year R intake of 30. The existing Year 2 pupils at Peel Common

Infant School would not need to make a Year 3 junior school application as they will progress through to the Key Stage 2 provision in September 2025.

Transport

33. There are no School Transport implications anticipated because of these proposals.

Conclusion

34. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gives approval to proceed with the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and expansion of the age range of Peel Common Junior School to form an all-through primary school with effect from 1st January 2025.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> None	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u> None	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Equalities Impact Assessment:



Equality Impact Assessment

What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and why does the County Council do them?

The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) is an obligation within the [Equality Act 2010](#) ("the Act"), which asks public authorities, like Hampshire County Council, to give 'due regard' to equality considerations, in particular to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This includes assessing the impact of policies and practices on individuals and communities with a protected characteristic, as defined in the Act and some other specific groups. The County Council uses EIAs to ensure it has paid 'due regard' to equalities considerations when there are changes to a service or policy, a new project or certain decisions.

EIA author	Position & Department	Contact
Glenn Parkinson	Strategic Development Officer Children's Services	glenn.parkinson@hants.gov.uk Tel:07958 501922

Title:	Peel Common Infant and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior Schools - Proposed Amalgamation
Related EIAs:	None

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	<p>The governing bodies of both Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School have contacted Hampshire County Council to discuss opportunities for both schools to work closer together following discussions over recent months regarding low pupil numbers and concerns over the financial positions of both schools. Both schools originally catered for 60 pupils per year group. Over the recent period numbers have dropped which has reduced the school budgets and created organisational difficulties due to low pupil numbers. This has resulted in reductions being made at both schools to their published admission numbers (PAN) . The pupil forecasts indicate that there is a reduced demand for places in the locality compared with recent years. This has led to budget issues at both schools, creating significant difficulties with budget recovery and on-going viability. Indeed, the published admission number has already been reduced to 30 at the infant and 33 at the junior (to reflect offers made to year 3) for 2023 and we are seeking ratification of this for future years.</p>
New/changed service/policy/project	<p>Due to the reduction in pupil numbers in recent years, discussions took place with the governing bodies and Children's Services staff on the impact on school budgets and long term sustainability of two schools with PAN's of 60 where pupil intake was at half that level. The conclusion of the discussions was that the Governing bodies and Hampshire County Council feel the best way forward is to re-organise the schools into a single primary school. The proposed amalgamation to form a 1 form of entry (1FE), or 30 places per year group, primary school presents a better opportunity to secure an improved budget position with a more settled pupil number intake and organisational structure. The amalgamation to form a one form of entry (210 places) primary school will be achieved by the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and the extension of the age-range of the junior school to cater for primary age children. The planned implementation date is 1 January 2025. This approach would result in one governing body overseeing the new school, rather than separate Infant and Junior governing bodies as currently exists. There are many advantages to bringing Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School together,</p>

some of which are listed below: - Greater continuity in planning the curriculum across the key stages of education so that pupils make the best possible progress in learning - A consistent approach to the ways in which children are taught - Enhance teachers' professional development through increased opportunities to teach across a wider age range within the same school - Removes the need for separate admission and transfer at the end of key stage 1 (infant to junior transfer) - Parents are able to develop a longer-term relationship with the school - Gives children the opportunity to work with or alongside younger or older pupils allowing them to put their own learning in context and develop important social skills Both schools share the same site and a decision will be reached in due course as to which school is utilised to provide the accommodation for pupils, but it is likely, due to the overall site layout, that the junior building will be used to provide the nursery and primary school facilities. Building feasibility work will be undertaken once we know the outcome of the consultation and final decision. In the interim both buildings will be used. If approved, there will be a need to review the staffing organisation for the new 1fe primary school and this will be decided upon by the junior school as it becomes a primary. Staff from the infant school will be able to apply for jobs at the new primary school. The current stage of the statutory process is that following consultation approval is being sought to issue a Public Notice for 4 weeks seeking any comments on the proposal. Thereafter a final decision is expected in May 2024.

Engagement

A consultation ran from 15 November 2023 until 15 December 2023.

The project proposal was also included on the Hampshire County Council's (HCC) consultation website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations>

Letters were sent to; • Headteachers at both schools • Chair of Governors of both schools • School staff at both schools • Parents of children at both schools (via the schools) • Headteachers and Chairs of Governors at all schools within 2 miles • Staff union representatives • MPCaroline Dinenage • HCC Elected member • Local District Council • Early Years Development and Childcare • Other relevant HCC Officers • Local Diocese

Two public meetings were held, one at the infant school on 28 November 2023 and one at the junior school on 5 November 2023 to allow stakeholders to put forward their views on the proposal directly to officers, offer alternate proposals and ask any questions they might have had. During the consultation we received 15

responses. Further detail on the responses received can be found within the Elective Lead Member for Children's Services February Decision Day report that this EIA is attached to. A link to the ELMCS report can be found here

[Agenda for Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day & Executive Member for Education Decision Day on Tuesday, 20th February, 2024, 2.00 pm | About the Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

Age

Impact on public	Negative - Low
Impact on staff	Negative - Low
Rationale	There is a negative low impact envisaged in relation to age as the proposal, if approved, will mean that school provision remains in the area and will serve the same pupil age range including nursery provision,. Whilst the proposal, if approved, would result in the closure of the infant school, the junior school would increase its age-range to serve nursery and primary pupils. Therefore the only impact would be that the infant school age pupils would need to move from the building they're currently being educated in, over to the junior school building which is adjacent on the same site, should that be the decision.
Mitigation	In relation to staff there is a negative low impact envisaged as the age of staff will have no bearing in relation to any staff reorganisation that will be necessary as a result of the changes planned through the proposal. The Hampshire County Council Human Resources department will work with and support all members of staff in line with all appropriate policies, regardless of their age, to assist with finding alternative employment elsewhere if needed.

Disability

Impact on public	Neutral
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Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on disability as the proposal, if approved, does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the junior school utilises which will continue to be used should the school become a primary with the approval of the proposal.</p> <p>Any building works will be managed accordingly to ensure that there will be no impact on movement around the building that will affect anyone with a disability.</p>
Mitigation	

Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on gender reassignment as the proposal, if approved, does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the junior school currently has and these will still apply once it becomes a primary school should that be the final decision.</p>
Mitigation	

Pregnancy and Maternity

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Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>The proposed change is expected to have a neutral impact on people who share pregnancy and maternity as a protected characteristic. All schools will have a policy in relation to this protected characteristic which will be adhered to if required.</p> <p>The Hampshire County Council Human Resources department will support and work with all members of staff in line with all appropriate policies, including those on maternity or paternity leave, to assist with finding alternative employment elsewhere if required.</p>
Mitigation	

Race

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on race as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved.</p>
Mitigation	

Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral

Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on religion or belief as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

Sex

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on sex as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on sexual orientation as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved

Mitigation	
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Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on marriage and civil partnership as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

Poverty

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on poverty as the scheme does not make any changes to the provision of school places in the local area and that the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral

Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on rurality as the proposal does not make any changes to the provision of school places in the local area and that the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact:Gosport

Equality Statement

Additional information:

Should the proposal be approved to move to the next stage of the process there will be a further period of consultation through the publication of a statutory Public Notice for 4 weeks and subject to any comments being received would then be finally approved by the Elected Lead Member for Children's Services. It is planned to be implemented from 1st January 2025.

Overview Statement:

A summary assessment to show that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been paid, which is undertaken when a full EIA is not needed:

EIA reference number: 00530

Date of production of EIA for publication: 15/01/2024

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

Carbon Mitigation

The proposal is to create a primary school likely utilising the Junior School building. This report seeks approval to the amalgamation of the two schools relating to school place planning, but mitigation and adaptation strategies may be needed in the future to ensure that the buildings are resilient to climate change. However, this will be outlined in future reports and the climate impacts on the school buildings will be closely monitored.

Should approval eventually be granted to close the school, the decision would support the strategic priority of ensuring people in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives is met.

Appendix A



Hampshire
County Council

Children's Services Department
Elizabeth II Court North
Winchester
Hampshire SO23 8UG

Telephone 0300 555 1384
Textphone 0845 603 5625

Enquiries to Glenn Parkinson

My reference

Direct Line

Your reference

Date 15 November 2023

E-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Hampshire County Council, with the full support of the headteachers and their governing bodies, wishes to consult on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner.

Background

The governing bodies of both Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School have contacted Hampshire County Council to discuss opportunities for both schools to work closer together following discussions over recent months regarding low pupil numbers and concerns over the financial positions of both schools.

The pupil forecasts indicate that there is a reduced demand for places in the locality compared with recent years. This has led to budget issues at both schools, creating significant difficulties with budget recovery and on-going viability. Indeed, the published admission number has already been reduced to 30 at the infant and 33 at the junior (to reflect offers made to year 3) for 2023 and we are seeking ratification of this for future years.

In view of this, the Governing bodies and Hampshire County Council feel the best way forward is to re-organise the schools into a single primary school. The proposed amalgamation to form a 1 form of entry (1FE), or 30 places per year group, primary school presents a better opportunity to secure an improved budget position with a more settled pupil number intake and organisational structure.

Director of Children's Services
Stuart Ashley



Providing an outstanding service to children and families

This approach would result in one governing body overseeing the new school, rather than separate Infant and Junior governing bodies as currently exists. There are many advantages to bringing Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School together, some of which are listed below:

- Greater continuity in planning the curriculum across the key stages of education so that pupils make the best possible progress in learning.
- A consistent approach to the ways in which children are taught.
- Enhance teachers' professional development through increased opportunities to teach across a wider age range within the same school.
- Removes the need for separate admission and transfer at the end of key stage 1 (infant to junior transfer)
- Parents are able to develop a longer-term relationship with the school.
- Gives children the opportunity to work with or alongside younger or older pupils allowing them to put their own learning in context and develop important social skills.

A decision will be reached in due course as to which school is utilised to provide the accommodation for pupils, but it is likely, due to the overall site layout, that the junior building will be used to provide the nursery and primary school facilities. Building feasibility work will be undertaken once we know the outcome of the consultation and final decision. In the interim both buildings will be used.

The Governing Bodies of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School have requested that Hampshire County Council consult with the schools' community and other interested parties on the possibility of both schools becoming a primary school.

The proposal

In order for both Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School to work together and operate as one primary school, there is a statutory process which needs to be followed.

Hampshire County Council is therefore proposing to amalgamate Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, through the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and extension of the age range of Peel Common Junior School to become a Primary School with a Nursery Unit (3 – 11 years). Upon the implementation of this potential proposal, the school will continue to offer 30 places for Year R (age 4+). If agreed, it is anticipated that this proposed change would take effective on the 1 January 2025.

Consultation - we want to hear your views

We would like to hear your views on this proposal. We are therefore consulting with you and other interested parties over the coming weeks.

This consultation will run from the 15 November to 15 December 2023. A drop-in session will be held at each school as detailed below. At these sessions, you will have an opportunity to discuss the proposals with the Headteacher, governors and

Hampshire County Council officers. Please see the table below for dates of the drop-in sessions:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 28 November 2023	3:30pm – 5:30pm	Peel Common Infant
Tuesday 5 December 2023	3:30pm – 5:30pm	Peel Common Junior

From 15 November 2023, a website with the details of the consultation will be available via the link below:

<http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx>

Officers will take into consideration all the consultation responses received before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If the decision to proceed is made, a report will be taken to a future Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day seeking approval for a statutory Public Notice to be published. This will set out Hampshire County Council's intent to close Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and change the age range of Peel Common Junior School. It is anticipated that the Public Notice will be published in March 2024.

After the date of publication, there will be a four-week period in which any representations can be made. After the conclusion of this period, the County Council will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

Further information

If you are unable to attend any of the sessions detailed in this letter and wish to make a comment, please write to Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, Ell Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk **before the 15 December 2023**

Yours sincerely



Glenn Parkinson
Strategic Development Officer
Children's Services Department

Appendix B

1

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 November 2023 12:42
To: Strategic Planning Unit
Subject: Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Categories: Consultation

Caution: This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Dear Team

Thank you for the opportunity to feedback on the consultation. I will be attending on the 5th Dec session. My questions / viewpoints in advance which I would like raised are;

- Why are we in this situation now? E.g. how long has this option been discussed?
- Why are registrations slowing? Why are parents choosing other schools in the area?
- What actions have the leadership of the school taken to address this with the Council, Ofsted or surrounding schools?

Can you provide numbers, by Class Year (e.g. Reception), since 2022 of;

- How many children were registered at each year
- How many children remained at the end of full year?
- How many children joined part way through and remained at the year end?
- For children who have withdrawn part way through the year, how many of those had a meeting/correspondence between parents of the child and the school about their reasons for leaving?

Can you provide numbers, by Class Year, since 2022 of;

- How many teachers and assistants were assigned for a teaching role at the beginning of each year?
- How many of those remained at the end of full year?

Fundraising and Social Events for Children;

- The school has a number of fundraising initiatives such as Christmas decorations, there is never a thank you given or details of how much was raised and what it funded.
- What charities has it supported and how much money was raised for them?
- The school advertises a Friends of the school and advertises a number of events organised by them. This has not occurred for 3 years, albeit 1 disco. Can details be given of why and how has the school appealed for members to assist?

Other issues to take into consideration:

- Poor estate issues – the general unkept look of the school.
- High staff turnover resulting in poor academic and social unrest for children in the infants.
- Poor leadership – bad communication with parents about issues such as teaching staff off unwell and how this is impacting the children with unknown teachers on the door every day.

Future:

- Can the Council give assurance of continued funding for the school and for how many years?
- Can the Council give details of any additional funding the school can access now they are in this situation
- Where is Ofsted input into the consultation?

Thank you for your time.



Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

specifically elected for our daughter to come to Peel Common because we felt, based on her experience at a nursery unit at a nearby primary school, that ~~on~~ a smaller school with only infant pupils would benefit her, given that she is quite shy and was overwhelmed in a larger setting. Very disappointed that a move to a primary fees inevitable. PTO.

Please continue overleaf if necessary

Contact details (please tick boxes which apply):

- Yes, I provide consent to be contacted in regards my response above and understand that it is optional to provide this information and that I can withdraw my consent at any time. ✓
- Yes, I confirm that I have read and understood the supporting privacy notice. ✓

Name: [REDACTED]
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Telephone No: [REDACTED]
 Email address: [REDACTED]

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Also very concerned at losing the beautiful grounds, including the middle and woodland. This 'country feel' was a big pull towards Peel Common and I feel concerned that this will be lost.

Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery
Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

Please respond by: **Friday 15 December 2023**

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

I would have concern regarding the use of the infant school building post a move into the Juniors.
I would strongly oppose the building + land being sold for housing as don't feel this would benefit the estate + wouldn't want a building site next to the new school. Loss of the building would be a loss to the community.
I would expect the building to be used for the Community library, Community Centre etc.

Please continue overleaf if necessary

Contact details (please tick boxes which apply):

- Yes, I provide consent to be contacted in regards my response above and understand that it is optional to provide this information and that I can withdraw my consent at any time.
- Yes, I confirm that I have read and understood the supporting privacy notice.

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

Email address:

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If it was to be used for a special needs school or support centre I would expect careful consideration given to the community needs. Risks + benefits would need to be properly assessed.

Return address: Strategic Development Team, Floor 3, Elizabeth II Court North, Hampshire County Council,
Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UG
email: strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk

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Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

I wish to make it as easy on my children with the transition. To keep the gamilar faces of staff for my infant child.

Both infants and juniors have worked wonders on my family / children / nieces / nephews.

Thank you for everything.

Please continue overleaf if necessary

Contact details (please tick boxes which apply):

Yes, I provide consent to be contacted in regards my response above and understand that it is optional to provide this information and that I can withdraw my consent at any time.

Yes, I confirm that I have read and understood the supporting privacy notice.

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone No: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

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Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

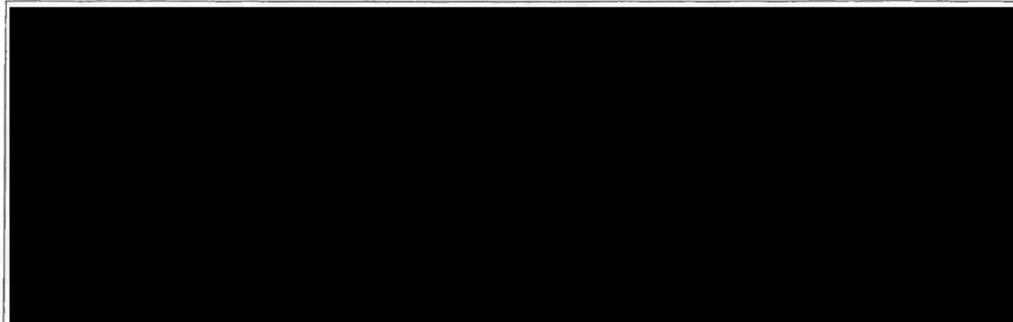
Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

The proposal makes good educational sense. My concern is the purpose built school left empty. This would make a good special school to support all those children who cannot get help but may only require it for a short time.

Please continue overleaf if necessary



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Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

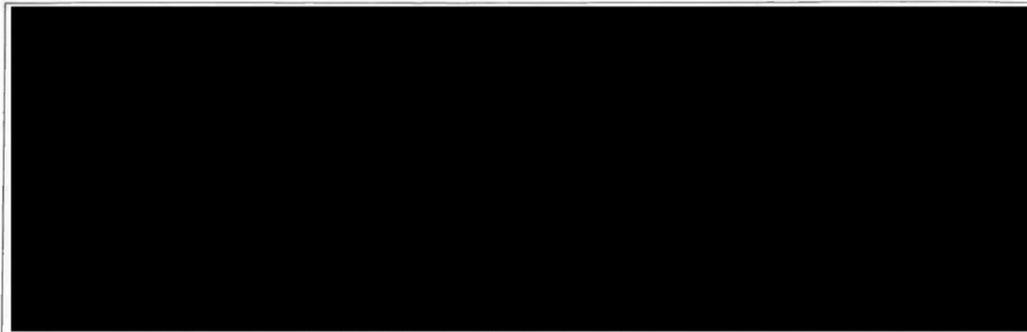
Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:
I think the proposal is a great idea, but feel it would make more sense to move the 'start date' to September 2024 to coincide with the start of the new academic year. This will be far more beneficial for the children to start a new school year in their new class with a new teacher, rather than upheaving them part-way through the term. It will also make more logistical sense for the move to take place over the 6 week break.

Please continue overleaf if necessary



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Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	
Pupil	
Resident	
School Governor	
Staff	
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

I EXPECT RESIDENTS AND PARENTS MAY MAKE THIS POINT DURING THE CONSULTATION. A DEVELOPMENT LESS THAN 200 METRES FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL IS SCHEDULED TO GET UNDERWAY SHORTLY. ALTHOUGH IT WILL ONLY BE FOR 90 HOUSES, THE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE FOR 100% AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND VERY LIKELY BE OVERWHELMINGLY FOR YOUNG FAMILIES. I UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF THIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN DISMISSED ON THE BASIS THAT IT IS IN FAREHAM BOROUGH. BUT THE NATURE AND LOCATION OF THE HOUSING WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY IMPACT THE SCHOOL NUMBERS IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, I WOULD ACCEPT THAT EVEN 90 NEW FAMILIES IS UNLIKELY TO MOVE THE DIAL TO THE EXTENT WHERE IT INFLUENCES THE DECISION. I SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL.

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Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

Questions answered and look forward to further consultation.

Please continue overleaf if necessary

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9

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2023 19:55
To: Strategic Planning Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Closure of Peel Common Infants School and Nursery
Categories: [REDACTED]

Caution: This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Dear Sir/Madam,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], I was surprised to hear that there were plans to close the infant school and amalgamate with the junior school.

I had serious reservations about closing the infants school and attended the open evening to meet the HCC staff.

At the open evening, I met with a very friendly chap, Mark, from the HCC school Strategy department. We had a long discussion and I asked lots of questions regarding the status of the school and how it got to where it is now.

My main take-aways from our discussion was as follows:

The school is ~£100k PA in the red.
Each student attracts £6k PA of HCC funding.
Across the local 8 or 9 infant/primary schools, the total under admission quota is ~90 students.
Peel Common Infants alone accounts for 30+ of these ~90 under quota student places.
Peel Common Infants has a higher than average number of special needs students requiring extra support staff costs taken from their budget.
The junior school will require extension building works to accommodate the movement of students and staff.
This building extension work is estimated to cost £950k (equivalent to 9.5 years of annual deficit)
Building the extension then moving the students and staff allows the infant school to make 2 members of staff redundant.

As a child, I attended Peel Common nursery, infant and junior schools.
My personal experience of learning at all three schools was a very good one, I even learnt to swim in the now derelict swimming pool.

Unfortunately, in my opinion, the school appearance has gone heavily down hill. I did not actually realise how shabby the school looked until I came for the year R open evening.

Year R open evening is held at the back of the school (where the year R and year one class rooms are located)

When I came to [REDACTED] year R open evening, I was disappointed with the unkempt, heavily overgrown appearance of the whole back area of the school. To name a few things, there were old car tyres full of water strewn around the place, brambles with rubbish trapped inside, piles of leaves approx. 8 inches deep in multiple places against the main building. The children's bicycle rack was mucky, had an old rusty abandoned bike and was half buried in overgrown bushes.

The outdoor educational facilities at the back were very poor, these consisted of two activity trollies, the car tyres, and a play house shed that had a wobbly play kitchen as a substitute for a second story ladder that had been lost/broken.

The front of the school is quite nice but unfortunately this is not what the year R entries are seeing.

As I'm sure you are aware, from a purely commercial point of view, these open evenings are where the school needs to sell itself to prospecting parents. Year R admissions naturally lead the student count for the two subsequent year groups.

During our [REDACTED] open evening visit, I personally heard multiple parents make disparaging comments regarding the appearance of the year R area. My partner and I were so disappointed in fact, we almost sent our [REDACTED] to Crofton Anne Dale (which I understand is oversubscribed) I know two other Peel Common resident families with children in my eldest son's year that chose Crofton Anne Dale over Peel Common for this same reason.

My partner and I decided to give Peel Common a chance due to my historical experience with the school [REDACTED].

Both of our sons have attended [REDACTED] which is night and day different in it's impression. [REDACTED] actively include parents in maintenance days and I have enjoyed helping out on multiple occasions taking in equipment and improving the facilities.

I believe failure to sell itself at the year R input is where the school has fallen down. Unfortunately, if the school doesn't do a good job of attracting parents, the subsequent budget then gets cut by £6k per student per year. This failure to attract quota rapidly becomes a year on year downward spiral with less and less student funding available to spend on facilities, ending in closure which is where we are, or close to being now.

With planning applications in for 1200 homes (Longfield Ave), 90 homes (Newgate Ln East), 206 homes (adj Stubbington Cemetery) and probably more to follow in the parcels of land in amongst these, it would seem the number of local school children is set to rise considerably.

The education [REDACTED] at Peel Common has been second to none.

Every week he blows us away with what he has learned and I would not change a thing when it comes to the teaching staff.

It's so sad that such good education facility isn't selling itself to the point of closure. On the recent parents evening, I discussed this [REDACTED] and she said "please help save our little school.."

I own an engineering company. We have had a profitable year and it would make me happy to donate time, use of machinery, materials and purchase outdoor play equipment to transform the back of the school ready for the next year R admission. From my experience [REDACTED], I am sure a rallying call would also get other parents to muck in.

The head led me to believe the closure decision was a done deal but I hope this is not the case.
I would appreciate the opportunity to sit down and discuss the matter further if it's not too late?

Hopefully together we can save this little school.
Kind regards

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

10

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2023 20:28
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Peel common infant school closure
Categories: [REDACTED]

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Good evening

I would like to pass on my thoughts and sadness about the planned closure of Peel Common Infants School.

With the planned new homes a few yards away from the school, I am surprised that the closure has been given the go ahead. Where are the children meant to receive an education?

I note that the school do not have the amount of children coming into the classroom, but usually would have lee on Solent overfill. I wonder why these pupils are not coming to Peel Common. There is a lack of parent involvement with the school which I feel could be really helpful, things like school fayrs, sponsorship, fundraising, along with maintaining the grounds and buildings. If numbers in peel common are falling then there should be improvement to increase this, particularly around supporting children who require more support (neuro divergent children)

I do not advocate the school closure, [REDACTED]

I also would want to consider the impact of further cars driving to alternative schools particularly with the new homes, which will not only increase traffic on both new gate lane, wych way and Rowner lane but pollution also.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

11

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2023 20:42
To: Strategic Planning Unit
Subject: Peel common infants
Categories: [REDACTED]

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a parent [REDACTED]

I was surprised to hear that there were plans to close the infant school and amalgamate with the junior school.

I'm sad to hear that it's due to financial burdens and not having enough pupils. I am encouraged though that with upcoming development and that younger families are buying on the eastate this number will improve.

I have concerns that the junior school is not big enough and wonder what would happen to the infants building/land. Will it benefit the children?

I feel more should be done to attract people to the school. I had reservations when I came for an open day as the ceiling panels were damaged or missing and there were holes in the carpet but the school has a lot to offer and I don't want to risk that being lost.

Why are there no fundraisers or seeking help from the parents/community/churches?

More/better advertising for the nursery needs to be done. Could you lower the age further? I know so many people struggle to find a good nursery at a reasonable price and surely with the new free hours due to kick in soon demand will be higher?

I hope the decision hasn't yet been finalised and by listening to parents you still have an open mind.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

12

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2023 21:01
To: Strategic Planning Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Peel Common Infants School
Categories: [REDACTED]

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Dear Sir/Madam

I have a child [REDACTED] at Peel Common Infants. On hearing about the merger with the juniors has disappointed and worried me. My children went to school in Fareham. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] attended Woodcot preschool. Whilst I was pleasantly surprised and impressed with the preschool the school itself was appalling. I refused my [REDACTED] to attend there. [REDACTED] I almost sent [REDACTED] to Redlands primary where [REDACTED]. But after seeing the school and meeting the teachers at Peel Common Infants I decided this was the school for her. The passion and commitment of the staff is faultless. The class sizes are perfect. The only problems I see is that children that need more attention take away from the majority. It's all down to funding. The school having to budget for extra staff etc. the school grounds don't look appealing to new prospective parents. Those that have no knowledge of sending children to school. They want to see the "shop window" to entice them. I thankfully saw beyond the appearance to what actually mattered. It would be such a pity to combine the schools. It's amazing as it is. As a parent I would be more than happy to help out with turning this school around. [REDACTED] would be able to join the nursery next year. I was hoping to send her here.

Please leave the Infants school. Financially it makes more sense to make good of what's there. Attract new students in the coming years. It's the best school in the area without a doubt.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

13

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2023 21:45
To: Strategic Planning Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Closure/Amalgamation of Peel Common Nursery & Infant School

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Good evening,

As I understand tonight is the deadline for comments regarding the above, as a parent to a child attending the school, I felt it was important to make an input.

I feel like my child receives an excellent education at the school, and always believe I made the right choice to send [REDACTED] here but I do feel like the general appearance and maintenance of the school is let down considerably, and to this end, perhaps that is why student uptake is low.

The general feeling from fellow parents is that if this improved (perhaps through fundraising or community effort) then perhaps there might be a chance to save the school and preserve the status quo that provides the children with this wonderful learning experience, as I do have concerns that amalgamation with the junior school might have an overall negative impact on the education quality the children receive.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing the outcome.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

14

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2023 23:09
To: Strategic Planning Unit
Subject: Peel common/junior amalgamation comments
Categories: [REDACTED]

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Good evening,

I have only just been made aware that the amalgamation between peel common infants and juniors is not set in stone.

We have a child in year [REDACTED], another due to join year R in September and an older [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who attended infants before moving across to the junior site. We would really love to do all we can to help save the school. From speaking with other parents who share the same sentiment it is clear we have the resources and willingness to help with improvements to help drive more parents to chose the school as well as help making it a more engaging space to learn and play.

I would like to make some further comments on the situation as it stands. It is also my personal opinion that the school does not always apply for EHCP's for children with additional needs which could help financially with funding towards additional resources/staffing costs, particularly as it indeed does have a higher number of children with additional needs. While I am aware not all children with additional needs require an EHCP, in my own personal experience it is something sometimes overlooked. F [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We would be happy to help put in time and effort to improve the school facilities and appearance which we feel would help attract more prospective parents. I don't believe the real reason for the reduced intake is caused by declining birth rates at all, but the decision parents are making when choosing local schools or even the decision to move schools. [REDACTED] the infant school it seemed so busy and now seems so empty by comparison. [REDACTED] I know from speaking with others that have pulled their children from the infants/juniors school and moved schools, not because they have moved house, but due to issues such as the way the way the junior school has dealt with bullying etc. This automatically also impacts the number of younger siblings that would be attending the infant setting and combining the schools, will not resolve these types of issues.

We would also be interested in running some type of fundraising events to help as we feel it is in the schools, staff and children's best interests to continue run separately.

Kind regards



Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

15

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 December 2023 10:14
To: Strategic Planning Unit
Subject: Consultation re: amalgamation of Peel Common Infant and Junior Schools
Categories: [REDACTED]

Caution: This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Good morning,

Please can I submit my views to the consultation of the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant and Junior school. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have the objective view that the amalgamation is a good decision to make. This is so that the strong foundations for learning can be embedded in one school and built on under one roof. The skill set within the junior school is such that this would be positive in securing positive social, emotional and academic outcomes for the children.

I have identified some challenges currently present around transition and securing the right support particularly for children with SEN. This is inevitable with the current format due to different policies, staffing and approach. However, an amalgamation would lead to a single-track approach for children without the inevitable differences between two schools and ultimately lead to swift, consistent and appropriate provision given to the children.

It is my understanding that the amalgamation means the school will be brought onto the junior site and therefore leave the infant site vacant. I would like to use this opportunity to strongly advocate for the infant site being repurposed for a special school. It will be all too well known by the strategic planning team that there is a huge short-fall in special school places in Hampshire and particularly in the Fareham and Gosport district. It would make sense to use an existing site for a special school and support Hampshire's SEN strategic placement planning. In my opinion, it would be irresponsible and shortsighted for the infant site to be used for anything other than a special school as the need can be met relatively easily and quickly without the need for new building work.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute my views to this consultation and wish the schools and the community the best of success in the future.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Appendix C



AMALGAMATION OF PEEL COMMON INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT AND PEEL COMMON JUNIOR SCHOOL

1. Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schols) (England) Regulations 2013 that Hampshire County Council, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG intends to discontinue **PEEL COMMON INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT**, The Drive, Gosport, PO13 0QD (category of school – Community) and to establish a community primary school by enlarging **PEEL COMMON JUNIOR SCHOOL, THE DRIVE, GOSPORT, PO13 0QD** with effect from 1 January 2025.
2. The closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and the amalgamation with Peel Common Junior School is being proposed following a request from the headteachers and their governing bodies. It is as a result of falling pupil numbers at both schools that the amalgamation is proposed. The amalgamation will continue to provide local school places in line with pupil demand within an Ofsted rated “Good” school.
3. Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School share a site and it is proposed to amalgamate the two schools to form a primary school catering for pupils from age 3-11 years (including the maintained nursery) utilising the existing junior school building. It is expected that additional accommodation will be required at an estimated cost of up to £750,000.
4. The primary school will provide up to 210 places catering for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11. The school will continue to admit up to 30 pupils at the age of 4+. Pupils will be admitted to the school in accordance with the local authority's admissions policy, published each year before the date on which applications must be submitted; this includes details of the criteria to be applied in the event of over-subscription.
5. Places will be available for all pupils affected by the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit at Peel Common Junior School. The number on roll for both schools at October 2023 census was 223. The numbers will reduce from 2024 and the proposed capacity at the primary provision of 210 places will be sufficient to meet local demand.
6. Applications for Year R for 2024 to Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit will be submitted in the normal way. If the decision is made to close Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit places will be available for pupils at the newly created primary school.
7. Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mark Saunders, Senior Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; e-mail: strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk

Dated 1 March 2024

Carolyn Williamson
Chief Executive

Appendix D

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 March 2024 15:00
To: Strategic Planning Unit
Subject: Peel Common Infant School
Categories: Consultation

Caution: This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Dear Mr Parkinson

I hope this email finds you well.

[REDACTED] We are a very small specialist school [REDACTED] with just [REDACTED] pupils. We offer an alternative experience where our pupils mental health is our priority which leads to our young people being at the centre of their learning.

[REDACTED] is a specialist independent school for students aged between 11 and 16 years with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs. For most of our young people this means that they have Autism, ADHD, Attachment/Trauma and/or extreme anxiety. Before starting with us many of our pupils have experienced Emotional Based School Non-Attendance.

Due to our success and the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, we find ourselves in a position where demand is far greater than the placements we can offer sadly. We are currently full until September 2025. As a result, we are looking to expand our service so that we can help more students and their families, and would like to offer our services in Hampshire, which is our neighbouring borough.

As such, I am writing to you as I have acquired your details as being the Hampshire contact regarding the consultation to amalgamate Peel Common Infant School and Peel Common Junior School.

I am writing to express my interest in leasing Peel Common Infant School building, should it become available due to amalgamating with the Junior School.

[REDACTED] I am deeply invested in the sector. I understand the importance of maintaining SEND educational spaces within the local neighborhood. I believe that repurposing Peel Common Infant School building for community use would be a beneficial endeavour, providing valuable resources and opportunities for local children and their families.

I am interested in utilising the building to replicate a setting such as the one that we have [REDACTED] or young people with SEMH needs. This initiative aligns with the values of lifelong learning that are integral to our community's ethos.

I am committed to ensuring that the Peel Common Infact School building continues to serve as a hub for educational and community enrichment. I would be very happy to discuss terms of lease, maintenance responsibilities, and any other relevant details in order to facilitate an agreement that meets everyone's needs, and that ultimately creates a positive impact in the local community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and should you wish to discuss any aspect of it, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach me at this email, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]