PROPOSALS TO AMALGAMATE LORDSWOOD INFANT SCHOOL AND LORDSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

PART 1: Closure of Lordswood Junior School

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

*Insert the information asked for in the expandable box below each section.*

**Contact details**

1. The name of the local education authority or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

| Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR |
| Lordswood Junior School, Lordswood Lane, Lordswood, ME5 8NN |

**Implementation**

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

| The proposed closure of Lordswood Junior School is planned for 31 August 2010. |

**Consultation**

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

| All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to this proposal have been complied with. |

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

   (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;

   (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;

   (c) the views of the persons consulted; and

   (d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

   a) Appendix A – List of consultees

   b) A public consultation meeting was held on 6 October 2009. There was also a combined meeting of the staff and governors of Lordswood Infant and Junior Schools on 12 October 2009. Notes of the meetings are available upon request.

   c) Appendix B - The report to Medway Council’s Cabinet dated 15 December in which the views of the persons consulted are summarised.

   d) Public consultation documents were circulated to Staff, students, parents/carers and
governors at Lordswood Infant and Junior Schools, local residents, and all those listed in Appendix A. The consultation document was published on Medway Council's website. A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix C.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The proposal is to close Lordswood Junior School on 31 August 2010 and from 1 September 2010 to extend the age range of Lordswood Infant School as set out in Part 2 of this proposal. Upon amalgamation, pupils attending Lordswood Infant and Lordswood Junior School would continue to attend the amalgamated school.

Lordswood Infant and Lordswood Junior schools already operate under a hard federation and share the same headteacher and a single governing body. The amalgamation of the two schools will formalise and strengthen the existing arrangements.

Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Amalgamation of separate infant and junior schools is a long term aim of the Medway School Organisation Plan Principles. The move to all through primary schools provides smoother transition between the key stages in the primary phase of education. Evidence from previous amalgamations of separate infant and junior schools in Medway has shown an improvement in standards where amalgamation has taken place. The proposed amalgamation will therefore have a positive impact on standards.

The most recent OfSTED reports for each school judged the schools to be satisfactory in relation to achievement and standards and standards in some areas are above Medway and national averages. The amalgamation would build on these standards, and ensure the continued improvement of outcomes for children attending Lordswood Infant and Junior schools. As a result the proposals will improve the quality of education in the area.

Provision for 16-19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

(a) the educational or training achievements;
(b) participation in education or training; and
(c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.
Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The number of children of primary school age has been falling locally and nationally in recent years and Medway primary age schools have seen a 10 per cent decrease in pupil numbers between 2003 and 2009.

Overall birth numbers in Medway are beginning to increase. In 2004, the birth figure was 3,182, which steadily rose to 3,313 last year. As a result of this increase our forecasts show that while pupil numbers will increase in 2013/14, this will only represent an increase of around 2 per cent and is likely to leave a high proportion of surplus places in some areas.

The overall proportion of surplus places in Medway in July 2008 was 11.57 per cent. This proportion of surplus places has increased to 12.6 per cent based on January 2009 (Census) data.

In January 2009, Lordswood Infant School had 20% surplus places. Lordswood Junior School had 21% surplus places. The published admission number (PAN) for both schools is 60 and the PAN for the amalgamated school will remain at 60 so all pupils from the closing junior school will have places at the proposed amalgamated school.

The overall percentage of surplus places in the Walderslade area, which includes Lordswood, in January 2009 was 12.7 per cent and separate school closure proposals are intended to remove some of this surplus capacity.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Not applicable

Current School Information

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

In January 2009 Lordswood Junior School had 191 pupils on roll (January Census 2009). The age range of pupils is 7-11. The school caters for both sexes. The school has no specific SEN provision but does have a number of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) namely 43 pupils supported by School Action Plus, and 28 supported by School Action, but none of the pupils currently at the school have a statement of SEN (January Census 2009).

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

(a) any interim arrangements;
(b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school’s reserved provision; and

(c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

All pupils will be offered places at the amalgamated school intended to be created as a result of the related proposals contained in Part 2 of this document.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

The enlargement of Lordswood Infant School as set out in part 2 of these proposals will increase the number of places by the same amount as those taken out by the closure of Lordswood Junior School so the combined result of the related proposals will be that the total number of places will remain unchanged.

No other measures are proposed to increase the number of school places. Following the implementation of this proposal there will continue to be sufficient places in the local area, and across Medway.

Impact on the Community

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

There will be a positive impact for the community as the amalgamation of the two predecessor schools will allow for more focused community engagement from the single school.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

The amalgamated school will continue to provide the range of extended services as offered by the predecessor schools which comprises; Childcare, swift and easy referral to specialist services, community access, a range of activities, parenting support, and links with outside groups and organisations.

Travel

15. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

All pupils will be offered places at the amalgamated school intended to be created as a result of the related proposals contained in Part 2 of this document (which will be at the same site) and therefore the expectation is that travel patterns will not change.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

Not applicable
Related Proposals.

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

This proposal is related to the proposal for prescribed alterations to Lordswood Infant School which is shown in part 2 of this proposal.

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

(a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
(b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;
(c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
(d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

Not applicable

Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

(a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children’s centre and the grounds for not doing so;
(b) the local education authority’s assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
(c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

All pupils will be offered places at the amalgamated school intended to be created as a result of the related proposals contained in Part 2 of this document, which will be at the same site with the same resources and therefore SEN provision will be unaffected.
PART 2: Prescribed alterations to Lordswood Infant School

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal


In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR
Lordswood Infant School, Lordswood Lane, Lordswood, ME5 8NN

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The prescribed alterations set out in paragraph 4 are planned to be implemented on 1 September 2010 following the closure of the Junior School on 31 August 2010.

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
   
   (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
   
   (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

By 7 March 2010, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them in writing to Chris McKenzie, Head of School Organisation and Student Services, Children and Adults, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR.

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.
The proposed prescribed alterations are:

1) the enlargement of Lordswood Infant school to increase the capacity of the school by 240

2) the alteration of the upper age limit from 7 to 11 to create an all-through primary school for pupils aged 3-11.

School capacity

5. — (1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

(a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current capacity of the school is 180 and the proposed capacity will be 420.

(b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The current admission number in each relevant age group for the school is 60 and the proposed admission number in each relevant age group will be 60.

(c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Not applicable

(d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not applicable

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 ands 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

The number of pupils on the roll at Lordswood Infant School is 149 (October census 2009)

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education
authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable

**Additional Site**

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

The amalgamated school will be located on both the closing Lordswood Junior School site and the existing site of the Infant School in the existing school buildings, and therefore no new or additional site will be required.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not applicable

**Changes in boarding arrangements**

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

Not applicable

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

Not applicable

(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

Not applicable

(d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

Not applicable
(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

Not applicable

(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

Not applicable

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

(a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

Not applicable

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

Not applicable

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

Not applicable

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

Not applicable

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

Not applicable

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

Not applicable
Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

The proposal is to close Lordswood Junior School on 31 August 2010 as set out in Part 1 of this proposal, and from 1 September 2010 to enlarge and extend the age range of Lordswood Infant School. It is envisaged that upon amalgamation, pupils attending Lordswood Infant and Lordswood Junior School would continue to attend the amalgamated school.

Lordswood Infant and Junior Schools already operate under a hard federation and share the same headteacher and a single governing body. The amalgamation of the two schools will formalise and strengthen the existing arrangements.

The most recent OfSTED reports for each school judged the schools to be satisfactory in relation to achievement and standards and standards in some areas are above Medway and national averages. The amalgamation would build on these standards, and ensure the continued improvement of outcomes for children attending Lordswood Infant and Junior Schools.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

(a) a list of persons who were consulted;
(b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
(c) the views of the persons consulted;
(d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
(e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

a) Appendix A – List of consultees
b) A public consultation meeting was held on 6 October 2009. There was also a combined meeting of the staff and governors of Lordswood Infant and Junior Schools on 12 October 2009. Notes of the meetings are available upon request.
c) Appendix B - The report to Medway Council’s Cabinet dated 15 December in which the views of the persons consulted are summarised.
d) Public consultation documents were circulated to Staff, students, parents/carers and governors at Lordswood Infant and Junior Schools, local residents, and all those listed in Appendix A. The consultation document was published on Medway Council’s website. A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix C.

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

No capital funding is required in order to implement the proposals. No additional site is required to be acquired. However, although amalgamation could take place without any works, the Council has agreed to undertake works at the site in order to develop and improve the working environment for the expanded school. £5.6m is allocated in the Council’s 2009/2010 capital programme for works to support the Council’s primary capital programme as a whole and it is anticipated that £600,000 of this will be used for the purpose of the works at this site.
13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

No capital funding is required in order to implement the proposals. See paragraph 12 above.

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

3-7 years

Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

(a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

Not applicable. The school would continue to provide an integrated foundation stage including a Sure Start Childrens Centre to deliver a range of support services for families with very young children.

(b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

Not applicable.

(c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

Not applicable

(d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

Not applicable

(e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

Not applicable
Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—
   (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
   (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
   (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

   Not applicable

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

   Not applicable

(c) Evidence —
   (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
   (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

   Not applicable

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

   Not applicable

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

   Not applicable

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—
   (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

   Not applicable

   (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

   Not applicable
(c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

Not applicable

(d) details of how the provision will be funded;

Not applicable

(e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

Not applicable

(f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school’s delegated budget;

Not applicable

(g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

Not applicable

(h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

Not applicable

(i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

Not applicable

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

(a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

Not applicable

(b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;
(c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

(d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

(a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority’s Accessibility Strategy;

(b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;

(c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and

(d) improved supply of suitable places.

Pupils attending the Infant and Junior Schools will be offered places at the amalgamated school intended to be created as a result of these proposals, which will be at the same site with the same resources and therefore SEN provision will be unaffected. The proposed amalgamation will strengthen the viability of the school, whilst reducing the number of transition points, which is likely to improve the outcomes for all pupils including those with special educational needs.

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

(a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and
(c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

Not applicable

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—
   (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

Not applicable

   (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

Not applicable

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school’s extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

The proposed amalgamated school as set out in these proposals will continue to provide a varied range of extended services currently provided by the predecessor schools which comprises of; Childcare, swift and easy referral to specialist services, community access, range of varied activities, parenting support, and links with outside groups and organisations.

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—
   (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Following the proposed amalgamation of Lordswood Infant and Junior schools as set out in this proposal, it is proposed that the Published Admission Number will remain at 60, with a school capacity level of 420, an increase from the current capacity of the infant school which is 180. This increased capacity is necessary to accommodate all of the pupils attending Lordswood Junior School following the school closure. In January 2009 Lordswood Infant School had 20% surplus places, and Lordswood Junior School 21%. Separate school closure proposals are intended to remove some of this surplus capacity.

   (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

Not applicable
(c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not applicable

25. If the proposals involve removing places—
   (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

Not applicable

(b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Not applicable

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

   (a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

   (b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4


The expansion of Lordswood Infant School is necessary to accommodate the pupils attending Lordswood Junior School, the closure of which is set out in Part 1 of this document. The combined result of the related proposal is that the total number of available places remains unchanged. This proposal does not represent an expansion of a successful and popular school.