

PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT AND ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOLS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who will be the governors of the amalgamated Primary school?

The amalgamated Primary school will have a new governing body constituted in the same way as the two current governing bodies. That means it will be made up of Foundation governors appointed by the Archdiocese (largely drawn from the parish community of St Helen's), along with governors appointed by the Local Authority and those elected by parents and staff.

2. When will decisions be made about uniform and policies for the amalgamated school?

If the proposal is approved a "temporary governing body" will be established by the Local Authority, which will appoint a Headteacher and plan staffing structures as well as policies and procedures for the new school. The temporary governing body will include parent, staff, local authority and Diocesan representatives, most of whom will also be members of either the Junior or Infant school governing body.

At the time the new school is formally opened the temporary governing body will be replaced by the new governing body as set out in 1. above.

3. What will happen with the staff at both schools?

It is anticipated that the staff of both schools would be incorporated into the newly amalgamated Primary school. Details of the exact staffing structure would be decided upon by the Headteacher and temporary governing body.

4. What will the proposal mean for children attending St Helen's Catholic Infants and St Helen's Catholic Junior Schools? Will my child be offered a place at the amalgamated school?

All children attending either school at the time of the amalgamation will be guaranteed a place at the newly amalgamated school.

All families who wish to apply for a place in the reception class as part of the 2017/18 primary school admissions process should follow the normal procedures as set out in the “Parental Guide to School Admissions in the Vale” and the admissions policy of the new school.

5. What will the admission arrangements be for children applying to the nursery class of the amalgamated primary school?

Children are entitled to a part time nursery place from the start of the term following their third birthday. The governing body of the amalgamated Primary school will be the admission authority for the school, both for the nursery and entrance into the reception year. Attendance at a nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a reception place in the same school. Parents are reminded that if they are offered a place for their child within the nursery, a new application must be made for entrance into the reception class of the school.

6. Will there be changes to the local catchment area if the proposal goes ahead?

St Helen’s Catholic Infants and St Helen’s Catholic Junior school currently have the same catchment area (as illustrated in the catchment area map on page 10). There will be no change to the catchment area.

7. Will the amalgamation of St Helen’s Catholic Infant and St Helen’s Catholic Junior schools mean that the amalgamated school will have a new name?

It is highly likely that the amalgamated school will be called St Helen’s Catholic Primary School, although that decision will be taken by the temporary governing body in conjunction with the Archdiocese.

8. How will the new school operate across two sites?

There will be one Headteacher appointed for the whole school. The newly appointed Head and governors will ensure that there are members of the School’s senior leadership team on both sites. The Headteacher will divide her/his time between both sites in such a way which ensures that she/he will be available for meetings and discussions with parents as required.

