

# Consultation on the Closure of Deepdale Junior School, Preston and the Expansion of Deepdale Infant School, Preston by Extending the Age Range



April/June 2014

Consultation events in connection with this proposal will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at the schools. Further information is provided inside.

Produced by the Provision Planning Team, Directorate for Children and Young People, Lancashire County Council



## Foreword

Lancashire is a large, diverse area served by some superb schools and we are committed to improving this excellence by continuing to raise standards and opportunities, for all our children and young people.

Lancashire County Council has a statutory duty to provide primary and secondary school places to every child of school age living in Lancashire who requests one. In achieving this, Lancashire, like many other authorities, faces many challenges. Changing demographic factors mean that we must constantly review the number and location of the school places we provide.

The county council and its schools work together with parents and a range of service providers to help our children to be safe, to enjoy and achieve, to be listened to, to belong to the community, and to achieve economic well-being.

We want all our children and their parents to have pride in their local school and cultivate an appetite for lifelong learning.

We aim to provide schools that meet the needs of our communities and, at times, this may involve closing a school and increasing the number of places at another school.

I hope that you will take a little time during this consultation period to let us know your views on what we are proposing to do. We will not make a decision until we have carefully considered all responses to this consultation.

Please help us to improve educational provision for Lancashire children.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Tomlinson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson**  
**Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools**

## **Our vision and what we would like to achieve**

Education is a powerful means of transforming and enriching lives and communities. Future success and well-being depends on strong creative partnerships, new ways of working, high expectations and a belief that we all have a part to play and can make a difference together.

Lancashire County Council is committed to improving the quality of educational provision to help raise standards for all learners. Our Vision sees schools operating at the centre of their immediate and often extended communities.

## **What are we proposing to do?**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools approved the commencement of consultation on a proposal to close Deepdale Junior School and expand Deepdale Infant School by extending the age range.

If the proposal is approved, the age range of Deepdale Infant School will be extended from 3 – 7 years to 3 – 11 years to become a primary school with a capacity for 630 pupils. The primary school will be accommodated in the existing infant and junior school buildings. All pupils currently on roll at either school will automatically be transferred on to the roll of the new primary school.

## **Why are we proposing this?**

In September 2013, Deepdale Junior School, was inspected by Ofsted and was graded 4 - 'inadequate'. At that time, Deepdale Infant School had an Ofsted grade of 2 – 'good' and this was confirmed at a full Ofsted inspection in November 2013.

The local authority is under a statutory duty to secure high quality education provision in its area. Since September, local authority officers have been in discussion with the governing bodies of both schools as to a sustainable means of improving standards for the Junior School pupils. The discussions focussed on 'merging' the two schools to become a primary school, thus securing continuity of education and raising standards.

As Deepdale Infant School is performing well, the recommendation is to close Deepdale Junior School and enlarge Deepdale Infant School by expanding the age range and forming a primary school.

## School Organisation and Governance Regulations

The provisions of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013, state that if a local authority proposes to close a school and/or significantly enlarge the premises of a school their proposal must be published in a statutory notice.

There are 5 stages to the statutory process which must be followed:

### Stage One - Informal Consultation

The issue of this document marks a period of consultation during which the views of any interested parties are sought and which will be considered before any move to the more formal stages of the process.

### Stage Two - Publication

Dependent upon the outcome of the consultation, a decision whether to proceed to issue a statutory notice must be made by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools.

### Stage Three - Representation

Statutory notices for school enlargement and closure allow a 4 week period for anyone to submit their written comments on the proposals. This enables people to express their views in the form of supporting or objecting to the proposals.

### Stage Four - Decision

The authority must make a decision on the proposal within 2 months after the end of the statutory notice period,

### Stage Five - Implementation

If the proposal is approved Deepdale Junior School will close and Deepdale Infant School will be expanded by extending the age range from 3 – 7 years to 3 – 11 years to become a primary school. The primary school will have a capacity for 630 pupils (an admission number of 90 in each year group) and will utilise the existing infant and junior school buildings.

# The consultation and decision making process

## Timescales

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 to  
9<sup>h</sup> June 2014

Stage One - Informal Consultation

July 2014

Cabinet Member decision making session to consider the results of the consultation and decide whether to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposal

July 2014

Stage Two - Publication of Statutory Notice

July/August 2014

Stage Three - Representation

October 2014

Stage Four - Final decision by Cabinet Member

1<sup>st</sup> January 2015

Stage Five - Implementation (if approved)

## Consultation Event

You are invited to express your views on the proposed closure of Deepdale Junior School and expansion of Deepdale Infant School at one of the following events:

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 from 3.00pm to 7.30pm** at the **junior** school; or

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014 from 3.00pm to 7.30pm** at the **infant** school.

Please note that this will be an appointment led event, requiring interested parties to make a booking prior to the event. This will allow us to manage the process effectively, minimise waiting times and ensure that appropriate officers are available to offer advice and guidance relating to specific matters of interest.

Appointments can be made by visiting the link below and following the on-screen instructions:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=585562](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=585562)

Alternatively, booking can be made by telephone or email by contacting the Provision Planning Team on 01772 535103 or Email:

[cyp.schoolreviews@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cyp.schoolreviews@lancashire.gov.uk).

**The closing date for booking an appointment is Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 5pm. If there are only a few appointments made then the event will be shortened.**

**Deepdale Infant School and Deepdale Junior School**

**Map to go here**



## Who we will consult

**This consultation document will be provided to people and organisations that may have an interest in these proposals. These include the following:**

- Staff, parents/carers, governors and pupils of Deepdale Junior School and Deepdale Infant School (The views of the children and young people within the school will be sought through the school)
- Head teachers, Governing Bodies and staff of other local schools
- Local Voluntary and Private Nursery providers
- Lancashire Parent Carer Forum
- Chief Executive and elected members of Preston City Council
- Other Local Authorities bordering Lancashire
- Local Church Authorities and Faith Groups
- Members of the Education Scrutiny Committee
- District Children's Trust – Preston
- Lancashire County Councillors – Preston
- Local Member of Parliament – Preston
- Education Funding Agency
- Trade Unions and Associations
- Lancashire Association of School Governing Bodies
- Ofsted: Her Majesty's Inspector for the area
- The wider community – through Preston libraries, town halls and County Hall (This document is available on the county website at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews) but we can also provide copies of the consultation document to members of the local community on request.).



## Your Response – Contact us

We welcome your views on this proposal. All observations and objections will be considered very carefully before any decision is made to progress any further with this proposal. It is important that you make any written responses within the consultation timescales published in this document and that they are sent to the Children and Young People Directorate using the methods outlined below. Any responses received outside of the consultation period will not be able to be included for consideration when a decision is being made as to whether to proceed with the proposal.

Please note that in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government Regulations, all written responses may be a matter for public disclosure and may be published on the website of Lancashire County Council as background papers to the report to the Cabinet Member.

The consultation runs until **9<sup>th</sup> June 2014** and you can respond by completing the questionnaire in this document or writing separately:

Post to (no stamp required): Provision Planning Team,  
Directorate for Children and Young People  
FREEPOST PR503  
Preston,  
PR1 8RJ

Email to: [cyp.schoolreviews@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cyp.schoolreviews@lancashire.gov.uk)

On-Line at: (Use the link below to complete the questionnaire contained in this document on-line)

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=583947](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=583947)

This document can also be accessed through:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews)

If you have difficulty in accessing this information, please contact the Provision Planning Team: Telephone **01772 535103**.

**Please submit one response per person to this consultation.**

**Thank you.**

This is an informal consultation prior to the statutory process required in order to close and significantly enlarge a school. The information provided in this booklet and at the consultation sessions are intended to be sufficient in order for people to form a view on the proposal. The council will consider views and concerns arising from the consultation process to contribute to the detailed proposal supplied later in the process.

We are sorry that, due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal.

Further information regarding this proposal, including the cabinet report and any relevant frequently asked questions (FAQs) with answers are available on the council website at:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews)

**Thank you**

## **Parental representations about school provision**

Lancashire County Council is committed to working with the people of Lancashire to plan and ensure the delivery of local services.

The council is responsible for ensuring the supply of sufficient and suitable school places and promoting high standards. The council aims to educate pupils in accordance with their parents' wishes, subject to providing an appropriate education and avoiding unreasonable expenditure.

The county council has a duty to seek and consider the views of parents and carers about the pattern of school provision. If you would like to give your views about future school provision in Lancashire, you can get information on how to do this from the Provision Planning Team, Directorate for Children and Young People, PO Box 61, County Hall, Preston PR1 8RJ.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Who should complete this questionnaire?

- Staff, governors, current or prospective parents/carers of pupils at Deepdale Junior School and Deepdale Infant School
- Any other interested member of the community

**NB: Please complete just one form per person**

**Proposal: To close Deepdale Junior School and expand Deepdale Infants School by extending the age range from 3 – 7 years to 3 – 11 years to become a primary school with effect from 1 January 2015. The primary school will have a capacity for 630 pupils and will utilise the existing infant and junior school buildings.**

**Q1**

**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal?**

*Please select one option only*

Strongly  
agree

☐

Tend to  
agree

☐

Neither agree  
nor disagree

☐

Tend to  
disagree

☐

Strongly  
disagree

☐

*If you would like to provide details of why you agree or disagree with this proposal you can do so overleaf.*

**Q2**

**Are you responding to this proposal as...?**

*Please select as many as apply*

This School

Other School

A parent/carer of a pupil currently at

☐
☐

A parent/carer of a future pupil at

☐
☐

A member of staff at

☐
☐

A school governor

☐
☐

A interested member of the local community ☐

If other school please specify (*please write in below*)

**Q3****What is your home postcode and area in which you live?***Please write in below***Q4****What are your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposal?***Please write in below. Please attach additional papers if required***Please print your name**

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return it to:  
Provision Planning Team, Directorate for Children and Young People,  
FREEPOST PR503, Preston, PR1 8RJ (no stamp required)**

### **Important Information**

Lancashire County Council may be required to publish consultation responses as part of the reports for consideration by the relevant Cabinet Member(s) either as appendices to those reports or as part of the background papers referred to in those reports and available on request. Please be aware that your responses to this consultation may be made available on the County Council's website as part of this process.