

PROPOSAL FOR AMALGAMATION OF PYNES COMMUNITY INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL AND WEST CROFT JUNIOR SCHOOL

THIS IS A LINKED PROPOSAL REQUIRING CLOSURE OF THE INFANT SCHOOL AND MAKING A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO THE JUNIOR SCHOOL.

School and LA Details

Devon County Council
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter EX2 4QD

Pynes Community Infant and Nursery School, Coronation Road, Bideford, EX29 3DD
West Croft Junior School, Coronation Road, Bideford, EX39 3DE.

Description of alterations

The amalgamation of the Schools will require a statutory procedure to close Pynes Community Infant and Nursery School but will be amalgamated with West Croft Junior School, which will change its age range to 3-11 with capacity for 630 pupils.

Evidence of Demand

The two schools are within Bideford. 6000 new homes are planned for the area, which equates to an additional 1500 primary pupils. Most of the Schools in the area are full at Key Stage 1.

Pynes Infant and Nursery School is currently a school that requires improvement (Ofsted November 2013). The Governors and senior staff have been undertaking measures to improve the situation. However, the School has faced a number of challenges. Pynes is within a co-operative trust and the Trust supports the School's governing body's proposal to close the School and amalgamate with West Croft Junior School.

West Croft Junior is a good school and currently there is an effective and successful management partnership between the two schools under the Leadership of the Head Teacher.

The Schools are working to secure a longer term and permanent solution across the primary phase and both Schools will have the capacity to ensure that the improvements required for the Infants School are achieved through the management partnership and amalgamation of the two Schools. The Governors of both Schools are committed to providing all through learning for the children and families in the community. The Schools will share expertise in KS1 and KS2 during the transition period to achieve the best possible outcomes for all children and already builds upon the work the seconded Assistant Headteacher at Pynes has undertaken since January 2015.

The Schools are situated in the same road and are adjacent.

Objectives

- To support the education vision and sustainability of the schools for planned growth in Bideford and in accordance with the emerging North Devon and Torridge Local Plan.
- To ensure a sustainable pattern of provision for the future and enable pupils to

attend their local schools as growth develops in the town.

- To support the smooth transition for pupils moving from the infant to junior phase.

Effect on Other Schools, Academies and Educational Institutions within the Area:

There are no anticipated adverse effects on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area as the changes proposed will ensure the amalgamated schools will have the capacity to develop and meet future proposed growth within Bideford.

Project Costs

No capital investment will be required to undertake the changes and there is sufficient accommodation and capacity across the schools. There will need to be organisational changes within the school. The amalgamated Schools are already able to take the number of pupils and therefore they will not be increasing their capacity. Building work is planned for the future to enable parents to collect their children from a central point, but will be met by the Schools.

Implementation and Proposed Stages for Implementation

- Change of age range of West Croft Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 years on existing site - with effect from September 2015
- Closure of Pynes Infants and Nursery School but amalgamating with West Croft Junior School with effect from September 2015.

Response to Brief Notice

(Please note that replies will not be sent regarding specific points raised. More common themes will be addressed at: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/>

You can object to or comment on the proposal by:

On line survey via: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/>

Email: schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk

Writing to: FREEPOST RSSR-UKYT-ZTYA, Strategic Planning Children's Services, Room AB2, Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD.

by 5pm on Thursday, 30 July 2015