

**CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF PYNES COMMUNITY INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL AND WEST CROFT JUNIOR SCHOOL**

A consultation event was held at Pynes Community Infant School on 11 June 2015. In attendance were the Head Teacher, West Croft Junior School, Acting Head, Pynes Community Infant School, representatives from HR, school admissions, school organisation, early years and Unions. The event was attended by parents and staff.

The Governing Bodies of the Schools have been considering their future and the consultation relates to the provision of one single primary school which will offer the best education opportunities for children and their families in the area. The combined schools will remain on their present sites, will have capacity for 630 pupils and will provide for pupils aged 3-11.

The following points summarise the key issues:

- The consultation leaflet had been circulated widely and all parents and staff had received the brochure.
- The move to one Primary School is being undertaken through a co-ordinated partnership to ensure that expertise in KS1 and KS2 is shared 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.
- Pynes is currently within a Co-operative Trust and the Trust has confirmed its support for the proposal.
- Staff were concerned about their futures. The HR Adviser discussed the general process and the following points arose:
  - **Will contracts stay the same?**  
A: All staff will be transferred to the new school and will work under their existing terms and conditions, it is not necessary to issue new contracts of employment.
  - **Will wages remain the same?**  
A: All staff will transfer on the same grade

and pay scale.

- **What are the relevant differences from moving from the Trust to DCC employment?**  
A: Both a trust school and a community school are publically funded by the local authority, however the local authority is the employer for a community school and the governors are the employers for a trust school. The same terms and conditions apply.
- **Can we be forced to work across both schools.**  
A: Staff may be asked to work across schools if they have the appropriate skills and experience. This should be seen as an opportunity for progression and development, if this is agreed with the employee.
- **How will the merger to one primary school impact on the younger children and their transition?**

A: There will not be any change; children will transfer from the nursery into reception with the appropriate support and guidance as we currently do, ensuring that families and children are welcomed into school with all questions and queries answered. There is always a well structured transition time at the end of the summer term for our new reception children with meetings and supporting documentation for our families.

With regard to younger Year 2 children transferring into Year 3:  
The all through education will support a smoother transition into the junior site and our children will be known to the KS2 staff who will be able to continue to take their learning forward as a result of improved communication and all through school systems. The greatest benefit being, families will no longer need to apply through the Local Authority admissions team.

- **A parent had a place to commence at the nursery in September and wondered if this would change?**  
No change and the staff will be trained in early years.

- **Will the Head still be visible at the start of the day?**

Yes, this will continue.

- **Will there be a new uniform?**

Yes but this will be phased in over a period of time.

- **Will lunch arrangements change?**

No, the present arrangements will remain unchanged.

- **Will the timing of the end of the school day change?**

This will possibly change with KS1 leaving slightly earlier than KS2 to avoid overcrowding and parents will be notified well in advance

- **There are two separate entrances at present, will this change?**

Building work is planned for the future to enable parents to collect their children from a central point.

- **Will there be ability groups in subjects?**

Yes, dependent on the subject and/or activity.

- **Will amalgamation affect the standards at Westcroft in terms of teaching?**

No, KS2 staff will remain in KS2 and will gain a greater knowledge of the 'whole child' through the amalgamation of the Schools.

- **Will the school philosophy at West Croft be adopted?**

The best of both Schools will be considered and amalgamated.

- Attendees were encouraged to respond to the consultation to ensure their views are considered by Devon County's Council Cabinet.

Responding to the consultation:  
Further details regarding this proposal and an on-line response form can be accessed at:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/>

- emailing [schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk](mailto: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.

Please note that all comments will be properly considered by the decision-makers, but we will not send individual responses to any specific points raised. The website will be updated accordingly and all statutory requirements complied with.

**Closing date for responses is: 5pm on Monday, 29 June 2015**