

**Harrow Council Consultation on the Future Organisation of  
Welldon Park Infant & Nursery School and Welldon Park Junior School**

**Statement by the governing bodies of Welldon Park Infant & Nursery School  
and Welldon Park Junior School**

Following the end of the consultation period on the proposed amalgamation and expansion (on 14<sup>th</sup> November), the two governing bodies met separately and then jointly on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November to consider their recommendations to the Council.

**1. Proposed amalgamation of Welldon Park Infant School and Welldon Park Junior School to form one combined Primary School.**

Both governing bodies recommend that the schools should not be combined. Both governing bodies consider that federating the two schools would provide a better solution in the short to medium term. They do not rule out amalgamation in the longer term but do not believe that it is currently an appropriate solution.

In addition the Infant School governing body recommends that a better solution would be to develop both schools as separate all-through schools, ideally either both as 2FE schools or one 2FE and the other 1FE. This would not only provide the additional places which are required in the area but would enable the current SEN provision for children with language difficulties on the current infant school site to be preserved and extended both in size and scope and space provided for ASD/MLD needs.

The key factors in coming to this recommendation include:

- Parents had not been convinced of the case for amalgamation; they were particularly worried about the loss of the small school atmosphere and did not believe that there were any school-specific problems for which amalgamation was a solution
- No details had been provided of what budgetary provision for a split site school would be made nor what ongoing costs might be incurred.
- No details had been provided of what (if any) building adjustments would be made to support an amalgamation. In other words, the governors were being asked to consider an option without any knowledge of what would be provided to support the move.
- All other amalgamations in Harrow had been of schools on one site, in which whole school development, as well as savings, can much more easily be realised. This would simply not be the case at Welldon Park.
- There is currently significant instability with regard to the leadership of both schools given that there has been or is going to be a change of heads at both schools and acting heads are in post. This is not the time to consider the further disruption and distraction which an amalgamation would bring
- Moving to a federation would provide an opportunity for the schools to work much more closely and to test out a number of shared organisational approaches (such as a shared leadership structure) which could in time lead to an amalgamation.
- Governors consider that there are advantages in looking to have one headteacher across the federated schools, one governing body and to pool budgets; it would also enable any associated changes to happen at a pace that is appropriate for the schools

## Appendix 2 – Statement by the two Governing Bodies

### **2. Proposed expansion of the school(s) to three forms of entry**

Both governing bodies recommend that in principle the schools should be expanded. However, the governors are acutely aware that at present there are no detailed building plans indicating the additional accommodation that would be provided. Therefore they are unable to agree formally to an expansion until the plans are sufficiently advanced for governors to be reassured that they provide the necessary accommodation as well as addressing the current shortfall in provision on both sites.

The key factors in coming to this recommendation include:

- Parents had been generally supportive of expansion
- The governors believed that there was an overwhelming case that local children should be educated locally and therefore additional places should be provided subject to the assurance noted above.
- The governors would also need to be assured about the Council's plans regarding traffic reduction measures, site access for any building work and the scheduling of such work