

To Parents, Carers and Families of Pupils
at Chesswood Junior and Lyndhurst Infant
schools

12th July 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

Decision on amalgamation of Chesswood Junior and Lyndhurst Infant schools

As part of our work with school leaders in Worthing to reduce the number of unfilled primary places, West Sussex County Council recently sought your views on amalgamating Chesswood Junior and Lyndhurst Infant schools.

No new information or evidence was raised during the four-week feedback period and so the decision has been taken to proceed as planned.

[Decision - Review of primary age pupil provision across the Worthing & Durrington area - Determination of Statutory Proposals relating to Lyndhurst Infant and Chesswood Junior Schools - OKD07 \(23/24\) \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

The plan will see the creation of a new all-through primary school on the Chesswood Road site for 60 Published Admission Number (PAN) Key Stage 1 pupils and 120 PAN Key Stage 2 pupils, together with a 21-place Special Support Centre, with effect from 1 September 2024, and to discontinue the use of Lyndhurst Infant School from 31 August 2024.

A temporary governing board for the all-through primary school will be established from existing Chesswood and Lyndhurst governors, seeking an equal number from both, together with an independent governor who, it is anticipated, will chair. The board will appoint a headteacher for the new school.

Supported by the County Council, the temporary governing board and appointed headteacher will work together to ensure all children, particularly the youngest, are prepared and ready to join in September 2024.

They will develop a plan of action covering all aspects of school life and structure and the workforce changes required, ensuring the environment is sustainable for all children in terms of safety, security and education, and that all pupils enjoy a coherent learning journey and school experience. A key role for the board will be regularly updating parents and staff and developing opportunities to hear feedback.

Creating an all-through primary school for the local community is a great opportunity to build on the excellent work of the existing schools and draw on the knowledge and expertise of governors from both. Everyone involved, including the schools' senior leaders and governors, together with West Sussex County Council is working determinedly to ensure the move to the new school is as seamless as possible and that the pupils remain at the heart of this work.

If you would like further support in the meantime, please speak with your school's headteacher or senior leadership team in the first instance.

Amalgamating Chesswood Junior and Lyndhurst Infant schools will reduce the number of surplus places by around 330 and is in addition to a previous decision to reduce admission numbers at six other schools in the borough.

The County Council will also continue to explore options to create a new eight-place Special Support Centre at either Downsbrook Primary or Whytemead Primary schools, to provide additional places for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Thank you again for your continued support. This an important project that will help secure a sustainable future for primary education in Worthing, and a learning environment in which our children can fulfil their potential.

Yours sincerely

Paul Wagstaff

Assistant Director of Education & Skills

Mike Carpenter

Chair of Governors

Chesswood Junior School

Donna Felstead

Chair of Governors

Lyndhurst Infant School

Andrew Jolley

Headteacher

Chesswood Junior School

Diane South

Headteacher

Lyndhurst Infant School