



## **Proposal to amalgamate Mulbarton Infant School and Mulbarton Junior School into a single all-through primary school for pupils aged 4 – 11, from September 2017**

### **What are we proposing?**

Since September 2013, Mulbarton Infant School and Mulbarton Junior School have been in a successful Partnership. The governing bodies of both schools now wish to take the next step and legally combine into a single school.

In order for this to happen, legal steps have to be taken. Norfolk County Council will publish;

- a proposal to extend the age range to take in pupils from 4 – 11 years of age at Mulbarton Infant School.
- at the same time, a proposal to close Mulbarton Junior School.

Norfolk County Council supports the governing bodies wish to create a single primary school to be called Mulbarton Primary School, but we need to hear your views before a final decision is made by Norfolk County Council.



## Why do we think a single primary school would be better?

We believe that children attending an all-through primary school achieve better results for the following reasons.

### **Benefits for children**

- A consistent educational philosophy from when a child enters the school until moving onto secondary education including continuity of ethos and values, codes of behaviour, pastoral care and day to day routines.
- A smooth progression through the National Curriculum from Foundation Stage to the end of Key Stage 2.
- A consistent approach to teaching, learning, monitoring and assessment.
- Children observe a wider range of learning through Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and enhance their social skills over a wider age range.
- Less time lost during transition between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, while pupils get to know new routines and staff get to know pupils' strengths and needs.
- Specialist teaching and support skills available throughout the age range.

### **Benefits for parents/carers**

- Once a child gains admission, their school place is secure until moving onto secondary education, i.e. no need to apply for a Junior School place.
- Ability to develop a longer term relationship with all those involved in the school so parents/carers know what to expect, creating a sense of school as a 'family'.
- One approach to day-to-day routines and procedures throughout the age range.
- Consistent school policies.
- Improved support for those with special needs by consistent tracking of educationally vulnerable groups.
- One uniform for children (this will be phased in).
- One Parent Teacher or Friends Association.
- Organisation of school events to minimise clashes.
- Clearer communication channels.
- There is no change to the catchment area.

### **Benefits for staff and the school**

- Single governing body
- Enhanced career development opportunities for staff, the ability to move between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 for instance, helping develop professional skills.
- Increased sharing of good practice and resources across the school.
- Consistent approach to the curriculum.
- Improved use of facilities within one school site, such as teaching spaces, reception areas and outdoor space.
- Economies and benefits of scale e.g. one set of contracts.
- A single approach to future strategy and direction of the school.

### **What difference would there be?**

As an all-through primary school there will be;

- One Headteacher with a single leadership team and one budget. This will help the schools to work even more effectively and to ensure a high quality of school leadership for the children of the school.
- There will be no need to reapply to enter Key Stage 2.

### **What would it mean for staff?**

A single leadership team under the current Headteacher, Mrs Bev Theobald, will support the effective day to day running of the school. Staff will be employed by the new primary school. Any changes to the staffing structure will be subject to internal consultation.

### **What are the financial implications?**

There are two sources of funding to a school;

- Funding per child; this will remain the same
- Lump sum for each school; this will decrease gradually into one lump sum for the single primary school.

Governors believe that a single primary school will provide opportunities for economies of scale.

Norfolk County Council is undertaking a masterplan of the whole site (both schools), looking at all options for improving the buildings to accommodate a single school. Any works will be subject to availability of capital funding from the Council.



## Who will make the final decision and when would the change happen?

This consultation ends on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Both governing bodies and Norfolk County Council will look at the consultation responses and decide whether to proceed with the proposed changes.

If we decide to go ahead, by law we have to publish a statutory notice to extend the age range of Mulbarton Infant School and at the same time close Mulbarton Junior School. The new school will be called Mulbarton Primary School.

People would then have four weeks to write to us either supporting or opposing the proposal. The final decision will be made by Norfolk County Council.

The earliest these changes could take place would be September 2017.



## How can I learn more about the proposal and have my say?

Come and talk to us: there will be meetings for parents/carers and other interested members of the community;

7.30pm, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Mulbarton Infant School  
7.30pm, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October at Mulbarton Junior School

These sessions are open to everyone regardless of which school your children attend.

You can send in your response in a number of ways;

- Email your response to [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)
- Post the form into collection boxes in the foyers of the Infant and Junior Schools
- Respond on line; <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/mulbarton-schools/>
- Post to Mulbarton School Consultation, FREEPOST, IH2076, Bay 10, Floor 8, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH.

Your comments will be anonymous – your name or anything that could identify you will not be included in any report. However we cannot guarantee that this information will be withheld if it is requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

**We need all responses by 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.**



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**Public Consultation – have your say**

We are proposing to reorganise the existing Infant and Junior Schools, so there will be a single all-through primary school in Mulbarton, on the current school sites.

Do you agree with our proposal??

Yes

No

Please give your reasons for your answer. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision and in planning for the future of primary education in Mulbarton?

**Please return by 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.**

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