



Consultation Document

**Proposal to amalgamate Moorside Infant School and
Moorside Junior School in Ripon to create a single 3-
11 primary school on the Junior School site**

**(to be known as
Moorside Primary School & Nursery)**

**through the technical closure of Moorside Infant School as a
separate entity and the enlargement and change of age range of
Moorside Junior School**

from 29 April 2019

Moorside Infant School and Moorside Junior School, Ripon

September 2018

This paper sets out proposals to amalgamate Moorside Infant School and Moorside Junior School in Ripon. This would create a single 3-11 primary school on the Junior School site (to be known as Moorside Primary School & Nursery) through the technical closure of Moorside Infant School as a separate entity and the enlargement and change of age range of Moorside Junior School.

This proposal is linked to proposals set out in another consultation document to create satellite specialist provision from Mowbray School on the Moorside Infant site (This Mowbray consultation document can be obtained from the school or on www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultations).

This paper gives the background to the amalgamation proposal. There will be a public meeting on:

Wednesday 3 October 2018 at 6.30 pm

**at Moorside Infant School, Harrogate Road, Ripon
North Yorkshire HG4 1SU**

The Current Position

Moorside Infant School and Moorside Junior School share the same site on the south side of Ripon and serve an area to the west of the Harrogate Road.

Moorside Infant School accommodates children aged 3-7, with Moorside Junior School accommodating children living in the same area from 7-11. Pupils transfer from the Infant to the Junior school at age 7. Parents are required to express a preference in advance of this transfer.

Since September 2016, the schools have been led by an Executive leadership. This arrangement has ensured that the good practice in both schools is shared and children experience a consistent education throughout their time in both schools.

From September 2017, the Governing Boards have had the same members but there remains two separate Governing Boards.

The school governors and the County Council now feel that it is in the best interests of both schools to amalgamate.

Background

In spring 2016, the Governing Bodies of both schools asked the County Council to consult on a proposal to bring the two schools together to form a single primary school through an amalgamation. Shortly afterwards, Moorside Infant School was inspected by Ofsted which judged its overall effectiveness to be inadequate. The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) issued a Directive Academy Order on 18 April 2016 and the County Council was informed that it would not be appropriate to consult on a proposal to amalgamate the two schools.

Since then, however, no academy sponsor for Moorside Infant School has been forthcoming. Following discussion with the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, it is now proposed to consult on the amalgamation of Moorside Infant and Junior School through the closure of Moorside Infant School and the expansion of Moorside Junior School. The RSC has

indicated that they will begin the process of revoking the Directive Academy Order which would allow Moorside Infant School to amalgamate with Moorside Junior School.

This amalgamation proposal now suggested therefore returns the schools to the original expected position, as proposed in spring 2016, although for financial and operational reasons, the intention is now to operate from the Moorside Junior building rather than across both schools' buildings. Moorside Junior School was inspected by Ofsted in May 2017 and was judged to be Good.

Pupil Numbers

As at May 2018 there are 71 pupils of mainstream school age at Moorside Infants School and 107 pupils at Moorside Junior School.

It is proposed to reduce the Published Admission Number from 36 at Moorside Infant and Junior Schools to 30 at the amalgamated primary school, leading to a small overall reduction of 42 mainstream primary school places. It is considered that this is outweighed by the ability for an amalgamated Moorside school on a single site to deliver a balanced budget, while the Infant school site offers the potential to provide additional specialist school places created through a new satellite provision.

The reduction in mainstream school places at Moorside, should the amalgamation proceed, is unlikely to create a shortfall in the wider area.

Following amalgamation, there would be 1,412 primary places in the Ripon City area (including Sharow CE and Bishop Monkton CE), with a forecast 1,259 pupils in 2019/20 and 1,204 in 2022/23. Outstanding housing permissions could generate an additional 156 primary-aged pupils. These figures exclude housing proposals in the Local Plan as Harrogate Borough Council are yet to finalise their Local Plan site allocations. The main areas of housing development proposed in the city, however, are likely to

be on the Deverell and Claro Barracks, to the west of the city centre, and away from Moorside School, and which are likely to require a new primary school as part of that development.

The Financial Position

The financial projection for the Infants School was a £59,830 in-year deficit for 2018/19.

An amalgamated budget has been approved by the Governing Bodies at their meeting on 27 June 2018. The budget assumes amalgamation (technical closure of Moorside Infants School) in September 2019. There is a positive in-year position for 19/20 and 20/21 under the proposed new arrangements. There is a negative in-year position for 21/22 and 22/23 but it is felt this can be improved upon given the scope for increased pupil numbers and further cost efficiencies.

The Proposal

For the reasons above it is proposed to amalgamate Moorside Infant and Junior Schools in Ripon to create a single 3-11 primary school on the Junior School site (to be known as Moorside Primary School & Nursery) through the technical closure of Moorside Infant School as a separate entity and the enlargement and change of age range of Moorside Junior School.

Staff

A separate consultation process, including a staff meeting, is running in parallel with this consultation.

The Buildings

Works will be required to adapt the Junior School building for a 3-11 school, to adapt the Infant School for a specialist provision, and associated access works.

The scope of these works will need to include the conversion of junior

classrooms, cloaks and toilets for use by nursery and infant classes, provision of outdoor play areas for nursery and reception classes, provision of additional staff and toilet facilities, extending car parks and improving vehicular access, providing ramped access to buildings and enhancing boundary fencing.

A planning application will be submitted to the County Council's planning department for these works.

What Happens Next?

Your views about this proposal are welcomed. You can either complete and return the attached response sheet, or submit an online response

Paper responses should be returned to North Yorkshire County Council at the address below:

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS
Moorside Schools
Strategic Planning
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall

NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapweb/host/s.asp?k=153605637208>

**The closing date for responses is
9 November 2018**

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive on 27 November 2018.

If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on 11 January 2019. These notices provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision would then be made by North Yorkshire County Council's Executive on 19 February 2019. If agreed, the schools would amalgamate from 29 April 2019.

Anticipated Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	21 September 2018
Public meeting at the school	3 October 2018 at 6:30pm
Consultation closes	9 November 2018
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	27 November 2018
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	11 January 2019 – 8 February 2019
Final decision by County Council's Executive	19 February 2019
Amalgamation	29 April 2019

The proposal to create satellite specialist provision from Mowbray School on the Moorside Infant site will follow the same timescales, apart from the opening of the provision, which is proposed to be from 1 September 2019.

Moorside Infant School and Moorside Junior Schools, Ripon
A consultation on whether the schools should be amalgamated

Observations and/or suggestions:

Interest/Status

e.g. Parent/Governor/Teacher/Community

Name of School

Signed

Date:

Name (Block Capitals)

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:

To help us assess whether we have provided clear information, please let us know whether you found this consultation easy to understand? YES/NO

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

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Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, responses to the consultation may be published on the County Council's website where it may be accessed by members of the public. Your personal details will not be published.

Please send this response sheet to the following "FREEPOST" address. You do not need to use a postage stamp.

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS

Moorside Schools

Strategic Planning

North Yorkshire County Council

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

DL7 8AE

Or go to:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=153605637208>

and submit your response there

To be received by no later than 9 November 2018

We are collecting this information for the purpose of gathering views on the proposal. Your personal data will not be published or passed to any other organisation unless a legal obligation compels us to do so. We may contact you to discuss your views further. For more information about how your personal data is handled at North Yorkshire County Council please visit: www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy