

Amalgamation of Harrogate, Grove Road Community Primary School and Woodfield Community Primary School, through the technical closure of Woodfield Community Primary School as a separate entity, and the enlargement of premises of Grove Road Community Primary School by expansion onto the Woodfield site

Part 1 - Woodfield Community Primary School – Discontinuance

Statutory proposals for school closures

As set out in the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations the information below **must** be included in a proposal to close a school:

Contact details

Proposal published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, to discontinue Woodfield Community Primary School, Woodfield Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4HZ from 31 August 2022.

Woodfield Community Primary School is a 3-11 school in the Harrogate area.

Implementation

It is proposed to close the school from 31 August 2022.

Reason for closure

The proposal is to close Woodfield Community Primary School with effect from 31 August 2022. This proposal is related to proposals to enlarge the premises of Grove Road Community Primary School by expansion onto the Woodfield site.

Woodfield Community Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in January 2020, who found the overall effectiveness to be inadequate and the school became subject to special measures. Any maintained school that is judged inadequate by Ofsted is required to become a sponsored academy. The Regional Schools Commissioner has been unable to secure an Academy Trust to sponsor Woodfield School due to viability concerns. Where a school would not be viable as an academy, it is expected the local authority will close the school and that the Secretary of State can direct them to do so if necessary.

The governing bodies of Grove Road and Woodfield Schools recognise that the Woodfield site is a valuable asset to the local community for educational purposes and by pursuing an amalgamation they can secure its future for the benefit of local children. The amalgamation ensures education provision remains located in the heart of the Woodfield community.

Pupil numbers and admissions

There are currently 41 pupils on roll at the school as of January 2022 (not including Nursery): 5 pupils in Reception, 2 in Year 1, 8 in Year 2, 3 in Year 3, 9 in Year 4, 3 in Year 5, 11 in Year 6.

The school's age range is 3-11 years, and provision is available for boys and girls. There is

no boarding provision. There are 3 pupils with Education, Health and Care plans and no pupils with statements of SEND. Total pupil numbers are significantly lower than the capacity of the school which is designed to accommodate up to 150 pupils.

Displaced pupils

- a) No interim arrangements have been necessary.

If the proposal is approved, the area currently served by the school would be served by the enlarged Grove Road Community Primary School from 1 September 2022. The related proposal includes the enlargement of Grove Road Community Primary School. Children currently on roll at Woodfield Community Primary School would automatically be transferred to the roll of Grove Road Community Primary School.

As part of the related proposals for the enlargement of Grove Road Community Primary School, it is proposed to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Grove Road Community Primary School from 40 to 50.

If the proposals went ahead, there would be 350 primary school places available across the two sites of the amalgamated Grove Road School. As there are currently 280 primary school places available at Grove Road, and 150 at Woodfield, this would be an overall reduction of 80 places. Given current forecasts, including the likely demand from new housing in the catchment areas, and patterns of parental preference, there would appear to be sufficient primary places available in the local area.

- b) Not applicable in this case
- c) Not applicable in this case

Impact on the community

The proposals recognise that the Woodfield site is a valuable asset to the local community for educational purposes and an amalgamation can secure its future for the benefit of local children. The amalgamation ensures education provision remains located in the heart of the Woodfield community.

Rural primary schools

Not applicable as neither of the schools are designated as Rural primary schools

Balance of denominational provision

Not applicable.

Maintained nursery schools

Not applicable

Sixth form provision

Not applicable

Special educational needs provision

The existing provision at Woodfield Community Primary School is not reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

Travel

NYCC and the schools are committed to ensuring that parents and pupils travel to school in

sustainable way and are encouraged to walk or cycle to school where possible. There is not anticipated to be any impact on home to school transport.

Where a child attends a school which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements. Eligibility for home to school transport will be determined in line with the County Council's current home to school transport policy and procedures based on each child's home address and individual circumstances.

Grove Road Community Primary School are proposing to have a walking bus, that would enable parents to drop their child at either the Grove Road or Woodfield site and then children who need to will be able to walk safely to the other site accompanied by school staff. They will look at the timings of the school day to ensure that parents who choose to drop off or collect children from both sites are able to do so. Grove Road School also has wrap around care provision that will continue to be available from 7:30am to 5:30pm. Other opportunities, including clubs, will be looked at closely across both sites. These arrangements will help mitigate against increased car use.

Consultation

The decision to consult on amalgamation was taken by the Executive Member for Education and Skills following a request from the governing bodies of both schools on 23 November 2021. A consultation paper setting out the proposal was sent to parents of pupils on roll, staff at the two schools, as well as other interested parties and individuals. A copy of the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 1. A list of the consultees is attached as Appendix 2. The consultation period ran from 2 December 2021 to 28 January 2022. Public consultation meetings were held on 10 and 17 January 2022, and notes of those meetings are attached as Appendix 3. There have been 12 consultation responses received (Appendix 4).

Related proposals

This proposal is related to proposals for the enlargement of premises of Grove Road Community Primary School by expansion onto an additional site using the site of Woodfield Community Primary School.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Strategic Planning - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, or emailing schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk by 5pm on 31 March 2022.

Amalgamation of Harrogate, Grove Road Community Primary School and Woodfield Community Primary School, through the technical closure of Woodfield Community Primary School as a separate entity, and the enlargement of premises of Grove Road Community Primary School by expansion onto the Woodfield site

Part 2 - Grove Road Community Primary School – Enlargement of premises by expansion onto an additional site

Statutory proposals for Prescribed Alterations – Change of Age Range and Enlargement

Contact details

Proposal published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, to make prescribed alterations to Harrogate, Grove Road Community Primary School, Grove Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 5EP from 1 September 2022.

Grove Road Community Primary School is a 3-11 community school in the Harrogate area.

Implementation

It is proposed to enlarge Grove Road Community Primary School from 1 September 2022, by expansion onto an additional site, using the site of Woodfield Community Primary School, Woodfield Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4HZ. The current capacity of the school is 280 and the proposed capacity will be 350. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 292. The current admission number for the school is 40 and the proposed admission number will be 50. The current age range of the school is 3-11 and the proposed age range will be 3-11.

Description of alteration

The proposal is to enlarge Grove Road Community Primary School with effect from 1 September 2022. The enlarged school would have a capacity of 350 places plus nursery provision. This proposal is related to the closure of Woodfield Community Primary School.

Objective

The objective of this proposal, and the related proposal to close Woodfield Community Primary School, is to create an amalgamated school through the technical closure of Woodfield Community Primary School as a separate entity from 31 August 2022, and the enlargement of premises of Grove Road Community Primary School by expansion onto the Woodfield site from 1 September 2022.

Woodfield Community Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in January 2020, who found the overall effectiveness to be inadequate and the school became subject to special measures. Any maintained school that is judged inadequate by Ofsted is required to become a sponsored academy. The Regional Schools Commissioner has been unable to secure an Academy Trust to sponsor Woodfield School due to viability concerns. Where a school would not be viable as an academy, it is expected the local authority will close the school and that the Secretary of State can direct them to do so if necessary.

The governing bodies of Grove Road and Woodfield Schools recognise that the Woodfield site is a valuable asset to the local community for educational purposes and by pursuing an amalgamation they can secure its future for the benefit of local children. The amalgamation ensures education provision remains located in the heart of the Woodfield community.

Effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions

There is not anticipated to be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions, other than those covered by these proposals.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved.

Grove Road School has produced a long-term financial forecast to explore the viability of the amalgamation proposal. This model suggests that where the PAN is set at 50, the financial position can be sustainable over the long term. This is dependent on both pupil numbers and the level of staffing and there will always be some degree of uncertainty in any school financial forecast over the longer term. Should the amalgamation go ahead on 31 August 2022, any deficit on the Woodfield budget on that date would be absorbed by the County Council.

The scope for site improvements are being explored, including reopening a gate at the rear of the Woodfield School site, to provide a shorter, safer walking route to and from both sites. Some capital works may be able to be funded from Section 106 developer contributions, while other funding may be a call on the Schools Condition Grant, for which the next allocation will be made from central government to the County Council in spring 2022.

Consultation

The decision to consult on amalgamation was taken by the Executive Member for Education and Skills following a request from the governing bodies of both schools on 23 November 2021. A consultation paper setting out the proposal was sent to parents of pupils on roll, staff at the school as well as other interested parties and individuals. A copy of the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 1. A list of the consultees is attached as Appendix 2. The consultation period ran from 2 December 2021 to 28 January 2022. Public consultation meetings were held on 10 and 17 January 2022, notes of those meetings are attached as Appendix 3. There have been 12 consultation responses received (Appendix 4).

Related Proposals

This proposal is related to proposals for the closure of Woodfield Community Primary School.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Strategic Planning - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, or emailing schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk by 5pm on 31 March 2022.



Consultation Document

**Proposals to amalgamate
Grove Road Community Primary School and
Woodfield Community Primary School, Harrogate**

from 1 September 2022

**Grove Road Community Primary School
and Woodfield Community Primary School, Harrogate**

November 2021

This paper sets out proposals by North Yorkshire County Council to amalgamate Grove Road Community Primary School and Woodfield Community Primary School in Harrogate. This would mean that Woodfield Community Primary School would become part of Grove Road Community Primary School from 1 September 2022 with both school sites remaining open. As part of the amalgamation there would need to be a technical closure of Woodfield Community Primary School as a separate entity and the enlargement of premises and expansion onto the Woodfield site of Grove Road Community Primary School.

The Governing Bodies of both Grove Road and Woodfield schools have asked North Yorkshire County Council to carry out this consultation.

Both Governing Bodies see this as an exciting opportunity to enhance the facilities of Grove Road School, organising sustainable education across both sites aiming for the best possible provision for all pupils, and importantly ensuring that the Woodfield site continues to be used for education of the wider community.

This paper gives the background to the proposals. There will be an in-person public meeting on: **Monday 10 January 2022 at 6.30 pm at Woodfield Primary School.**

There will also be a virtual (on-line) public meeting on **Monday 17 January 2022 at 6.30 pm.** If you wish to be part of this virtual meeting could you please let us know by emailing schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk and joining instructions will be provided.

Background

Grove Road Community Primary School serves much of High Harrogate. The school is currently operating at capacity. Woodfield Community Primary School serves Woodfield and parts of the Bilton area of Harrogate. The school has been under-subscribed for a number of years.

Grove Road Community Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in June 2018 through a short inspection, which judged the school to continue to be good. This followed a more detailed inspection in 2014.

Woodfield Community Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in January 2020, who found the overall effectiveness to be inadequate and the school became subject to special measures. Any maintained school that is judged inadequate by Ofsted is required to become a sponsored academy. The Regional Schools Commissioner has been unable to secure an Academy Trust to sponsor Woodfield School due to viability concerns. Where a school would not be viable as an academy, it is expected the local authority will close the school and that the Secretary of State can direct them to do so if necessary.

Since January 2020, there have been considerable changes in staffing at Woodfield School. The current acting executive headteacher and acting head of school took up leadership at the

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start of the summer term 2020. The latest monitoring visit by Ofsted to Woodfield School in June 2021 found that leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures, and that the local authority's statement of action and the school's action plan were both fit for purpose. It is important to recognise the efforts of all those who have been involved in this improvement journey.

However, the current arrangements can only be temporary and the absence of an academy sponsor means that Woodfield School faces an uncertain future. Therefore work began earlier this year to assess how education provision within the Woodfield community could be preserved. The current proposals for amalgamation have been developed by members of the school governing bodies and LA officers. The two governing bodies carefully considered the proposals before autumn half term, and both agreed to ask the County Council to start this consultation on the amalgamation of Woodfield and Grove Road Community Primary Schools.

Pupil Numbers

As at November 2021 there are 49 pupils of mainstream school age at Woodfield Community Primary School and 292 pupils at Grove Road Community Primary School. Both schools also offer nursery provision for children aged 3 and 4. Pupil numbers in each year group (as at November 2021) are set out below.

Year group 2021-22	Grove Road School	Woodfield School
Reception	40	6
Year 1	37	2
Year 2	40	11
Year 3	41	4
Year 4	43	12
Year 5	47	3
Year 6	44	11
Total	292	49

Places for children currently attending Woodfield School would be made available through the amalgamation with Grove Road. Parents could also express a preference for any alternative school.

As part of the amalgamation proposals, it is proposed to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Grove Road Community Primary School from 40 to 50. The PAN is the number of school places that must be offered in reception each year.

If the proposals went ahead, there would be 350 primary school places available across the two sites of the amalgamated Grove Road School. As there are currently 280 primary school places available at Grove Road, and 150 at Woodfield, this would be an overall reduction of 80 places. Given current forecasts, including the likely demand from new housing in the catchment areas, and patterns of parental preference, there would appear to be sufficient primary places available in the local area. Birth rates in the district are falling, and pupils living in the Woodfield and Grove Road catchment areas attend a wide variety of primary schools. There would be scope to increase the PAN at Grove Road School at a later date, if required and subject to consultation.

The Financial Position

Grove Road School has produced a long-term financial forecast to explore the viability of the amalgamation proposal. This model suggests that where the PAN is set at 50, the financial position can be sustainable over the long term. This is dependent on both pupil numbers and the level of staffing and there will always be some degree of uncertainty in any school financial forecast over the longer term.

Should the amalgamation go ahead from 31 August 2022, any deficit on the Woodfield School budget on that date would be absorbed by the County Council.

The Proposal

It is proposed to amalgamate Grove Road Community Primary School and Woodfield Community Primary School from 1 September 2022. As part of the amalgamation there would need to be a technical closure of Woodfield Community Primary School as a separate entity, and the enlargement of premises and expansion onto the Woodfield site of Grove Road Community Primary School.

If this proposal went ahead, Grove Road Community Primary School would operate as a split site school:

- From September 2022, all Nursery children would be based at the current Woodfield site (Grove Road Nursery); all Year Reception to Year 6 pupils would be based at the current Grove Road site.
- All families of children currently attending Woodfield school and who choose to join Grove Road Community Primary School can be accommodated at the existing Grove Road site
- From September 2023, all Nursery children and Reception pupils (2023 cohort) would be based at the current Woodfield site (Grove Road Early Years); all Year 1 to Year 6 pupils would be based at the Grove Road site.
- Growth is expected to continue so that eventually Grove Road Early Years and Grove Road Key Stage 1 would be located at the current Woodfield site and Grove Road Key Stage 2 would be accommodated at the current Grove Road site.

Some Targeted Mainstream Provision would also be based at the current Woodfield site, in addition to that already available on the Grove Road site. Targeted Mainstream Provision offers enhanced levels of specialist support over and above that usually available in mainstream schools, to provide an appropriate environment and personalised support for children and young people with SEND, who are able to access mainstream learning.

Additional capacity would be available on the Grove Road site for specialist provision such as Thrive (social and emotional wellbeing), science, humanities and drama.

Both Governing Bodies see this as an exciting opportunity to enhance the facilities of Grove Road School, organising sustainable education across both sites aiming for the best possible provision for all pupils, and importantly ensuring that the Woodfield site continues to be used for education of the wider community.

Staff

The County Council is the employer for staff at both Grove Road Community Primary School and Woodfield Community Primary School and the Governing Bodies will seek to protect employment as far as possible for staff currently employed at Woodfield. A separate HR consultation process for staff and their professional associations will commence in the spring

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term and the Governing Bodies will most likely propose an internal transfer of staff from Woodfield to Grove Road, following Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) principles.

Alternative options for Woodfield Primary School

Any maintained school like Woodfield that has been judged inadequate by Ofsted is required to become a sponsored academy. The Regional Schools Commissioner has been unable to secure an Academy Trust to sponsor Woodfield School due to viability concerns.

Where the Secretary of State considers that a school would not be viable as an academy, it is expected that the local authority will close the school and the Secretary of State can direct them to do so if necessary. Any alternative proposal to close the school and cease education provision on the Woodfield school site would be consulted on separately.

An academy order can also be revoked where a school has been re-inspected by Ofsted and judged Good or Outstanding, and the Secretary of State is satisfied that the improvement can be sustained without the support of a strong sponsor. As noted above, while Ofsted has recognised the improvements that have been made at Woodfield, the current leadership arrangements can only be temporary.

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
Grove Road and Woodfield
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/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=163671352052>

The closing date for responses is 28 January 2022

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive committee on 22 February 2022.

If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed, then statutory proposals would be published on 3 March on the County Council's website and statutory notices placed in the local press and on the school gates. These statutory proposals would provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision would then be made in April 2022 by the County Council's Executive (or by the Executive Member for Education and Skills, if there were no objections to statutory proposals). If agreed, the schools would amalgamate from 1 September 2022.

Anticipated key dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	2 December 2021
Public meetings	
In-person public meeting	Monday 10 January 2022 at 6.30 pm at Woodfield Primary School
Virtual (on-line) public meeting	Monday 17 January 2022 at 6.30 pm online
Consultation closes	28 January 2022
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	22 February 2022
Statutory Proposals published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	3 March – 31 March 2022
Final decision by County Council's Executive (or the Executive Member for Education and Skills, if there are no objections to the statutory proposals)	April 2022
Amalgamation takes place	1 September 2022

**Grove Road Community Primary School and Woodfield
Community Primary School, Harrogate
Consultation on proposals to amalgamate**

Observations and/or suggestions:

Please do not disclose any personal data in your response

Interest/Status

e.g. Parent/Governor/Teacher/Community

Name of School

Signed

Date:

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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?

.....

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
Grove Road and Woodfield Schools
Strategic Planning
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AE

Or go to:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=163671352052>

and submit your response there

To be received by no later than 28 January 2022

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

Proposals to amalgamate Grove Road Community Primary School and Woodfield Community Primary School, Harrogate

Frequently asked questions

What does amalgamation mean?

An amalgamation is the process of joining Grove Road Community Primary School and Woodfield Community Primary School together. It is different to a merger or federation because we are not creating a new school, or working together as two schools. Woodfield Community Primary School would become a part of Grove Road Community Primary School.

How does this happen?

The Woodfield school site would become part of Grove Road from 1 September 2022. This means that there would be one school (Grove Road Community Primary School) operating across two sites. As part of the amalgamation, Woodfield Community Primary (as it is now) would close and places for children currently attending Woodfield would be made available through the amalgamation with Grove Road.

Why does it need to happen?

Woodfield Community Primary School was judged Inadequate by Ofsted at inspection in January 2020. Any maintained school like Woodfield that has been judged inadequate by Ofsted is required to become a sponsored academy. The Regional Schools Commissioner has been unable to secure an Academy Trust to sponsor Woodfield School due to viability concerns.

Where a school would not be viable as an academy, it is expected that the local authority will close the school and the Secretary of State can direct them to do so if necessary.

Why amalgamate and not just close?

Both governing bodies recognise that the Woodfield site is a valuable asset to the local community for educational purposes and by pursuing an amalgamation they can secure its future for the benefit of local children. The amalgamation ensures education provision remains located in the heart of the Woodfield community.

Why Grove Road and not another local school?

Grove Road has a good Ofsted rating and is in close proximity to families whose children currently attend Woodfield Community Primary School. Grove Road has already successfully welcomed many families who previously attended Woodfield and leaders from Grove Road worked with Woodfield school in 2020 and at the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Both schools have a similar ethos in relation to inclusive education.

Why is this proposal exciting for Grove Road?

The sites are within a mile of each other, which would make it easy to facilitate movement between locations during the school day. This creates an exciting opportunity to enhance the facilities of Grove Road Community Primary School, organising sustainable education across both sites, aiming for the best possible provision for all pupils, and importantly ensuring that the Woodfield site continues to be used for education of the wider community.

Why are the proposals being put forward now?

The latest Ofsted monitoring report of Woodfield Community Primary School in July states that “Leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures” and it is important to recognise the efforts of all those who have been involved in this improvement journey. However, the current arrangements can only be temporary and the absence of an academy sponsor means that Woodfield School faces an uncertain future. These proposals would keep education provision within the Woodfield community.

What are the timescales?

Public consultation runs from 2 December to 28 January. Parents will be provided with a consultation document containing further details about the proposals and a response form for their views. There are public consultation meetings where parents of children at both schools can find out further information, ask questions, and put forward their views.

On 22 February, the County Council’s Executive committee will consider all the responses to the consultation and decide whether to proceed with the next step of the proposal. This would involve publishing statutory proposals on the County Council’s website and putting statutory notices in the local press and on the school gates. This would give a further four weeks during March for representations to be made. A final decision would then be made by the County Council’s Executive in April, and if agreed, Woodfield school would close on 31 August and Grove Road would assume use of the site currently occupied by Woodfield school from 1 September 2022.

Where have these proposals come from?

The proposals have been developed by members of the school governing bodies and LA officers over several months. The two governing bodies carefully considered the proposals before the autumn half term, and both agreed to ask the County Council to start a consultation.

How would the proposals work practically?

Our initial plans, to be considered as part of the consultation, are:

- From September 2022, all Nursery children would be based at the current Woodfield site (Grove Road Nursery); all Year Reception to Year 6 pupils would be based at the current Grove Road site.
- All families of children currently attending Woodfield school and who choose to join Grove Road Community Primary School can be accommodated at the existing Grove Road site
- From September 2023, all Nursery children and Reception pupils (2023 cohort) would be based at the current Woodfield site (Grove Road Early Years); all Year 1 to Year 6 pupils would be based at the Grove Road site.
- Growth is expected to continue so that eventually Grove Road Early Years and Grove Road Key Stage 1 would be located at the current Woodfield site and Grove Road Key Stage 2 would be accommodated at the current Grove Road site.

What if I have children at both sites?

The intention is to have a walking bus, across the iron bridge to the back of the Woodfield playing field, that enables parents to drop their child at either school and then children who need to will be able to walk safely to the other site accompanied by school staff. We will look at the timings of the school day to ensure that parents who choose to drop off or collect children from both sites are able to do so. Grove Road school also have wrap around care provision that will continue to be available from 7:30am to 5:30pm. Other opportunities, including clubs, will be looked at closely across both sites.

We'd welcome parents' ideas and views as part of the consultation process.

How would the amalgamated school meet the needs of my child?

The school would work closely with parents, as both Grove Road and Woodfield Schools do now, to meet the needs of individual children. The school would ensure early identification of needs and appropriate support in school and with partner agencies and services as required.

What if I want to move my child to another school?

We would encourage you to share your concerns with your child's Headteacher in the first instance.

There will be opportunities for children and their families to visit Grove Road school and meet key staff as part of the proposal, however if parents feel it would be

Appendix 1: Consultation document and FAQs

beneficial, families are invited to contact the school for an earlier visit. Of course, parents may wish to explore a transfer to another school in the area. If so, please see the information about applying for an in-year school place at:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/changing-schools-and-year-applications>

The County Council's School Admissions Team can be contacted by email or telephone. Email: schooladmissions@northyorks.gov.uk Tel: 01609 533679

What about admissions for Reception for September 2022?

Parents can apply to either Grove Road or Woodfield School this year to join Reception in September 2022, and if the amalgamation goes ahead, from September 2022, Reception children would be educated at the current Grove Road school site. Children who join the school as part of the September 2023 Reception intake would be based at the current Woodfield site and would remain there until the end of their Year 2.

The deadline for making an application to join reception in September 2022 is 15 January 2022:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/apply-place-primary-or-secondary-school>

How can parents get involved?

The public consultation period runs from 2 December to 28 January. You can send your ideas by online response form or post. There are public consultation meetings, where you can find out more information, ask questions, and put forward your views.

What if I have any concerns now?

Please contact:

Margaret Beagle, Grove Road Chair of Governors via cofg@groveroad.northyorks.sch.uk

Janet Booth, Woodfield Chair of Governors via cofg@woodfield.northyorks.sch.uk

Mr Parkhouse via headteacher@groveroad.northyorks.sch.uk

Mr Atkinson and Miss Marwood via headteacher@woodfield.northyorks.sch.uk

Appendix 2: List of consultees

Woodfield/Grove Road Primary School – List of Consultees

Parents, staff and governors at Woodfield and Grove Road Community Primary Schools

Local Primary Schools: within 1 mile radius of Woodfield Primary	Bilton Grange Primary
	Coppice Valley Primary
	New Park Primary Academy
	Richard Taylor CE Primary
	St Joseph's Catholic, Harrogate, A Voluntary Academy
	St Robert's Catholic, A Voluntary Academy
Local Primary Schools: within 1 - 2 mile radius of Woodfield Primary	Hookstone Chase Primary
	Killinghall CE Primary
	Oatlands Infant
	Oatlands Community Junior
	Saltergate Infant
	Saltergate Community Junior
	St Peter's CE Primary
	Starbeck Primary Academy
	Western Primary
	Willow Tree Community Primary
Local Primary Schools: within 2 - 3 mile radius of Woodfield Primary	Aspin Park Academy
	Knaresborough St John's CE
	Meadowside Academy
	Pannal Primary
	Ripley Endowed CE
	Rossett Acre Primary
	Scotton Lingerfield Primary
	St Mary's Knaresborough, A Voluntary Catholic Academy

Unions and Professional Associations: (as at September 2021)	NAHT
	NASUWT
	NEU (formerly NUT & ATL)
	VOICE
	ASCL

Appendix 2: List of consultees

	UNISON
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Diocesan Directors	CE Diocese of Leeds
	RC Leeds Diocese

Local County Councillors - Woodfield: (Bilton & Nidd Gorge)	Paul Haslam
	Matthew Scott
Local County Councillors – Grove Road: (Harrogate Central)	Richard Cooper
	John Edwin Fletcher Mann
Harrogate Borough Councillors – Woodfield (Bilton Woodfield)	
	Matt Scott
Harrogate Borough Councillors – Grove Road (Coppice Valley)	Sue Lumby

Local Parish/Town council (no local councils)	Harrogate Borough Council
Community Organisations	Harrogate Bilton Children’s Centre
	Harrogate Town Children’s Centre
	Harrogate West Children’s Centre
	Library Service

Local MP	Andrew Jones
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RSC	
Secretary of State:	

Early Years Providers within 1 mile radius from Woodfield and Grove Road Primary Schools	Acorns Playgroup
	Actacademy Uk & Performatots
	Harcourt Pre School Nursery
	Little Dragons Day Nursery
	Little Explorers Day Nursery

Appendix 2: List of consultees

	Playaway Day Nursery
	St John's Playgroup
	St Joseph's Playgroup Harrogate
	Sunbeams Ltd (Harrogate)
	Highfield Prep (Harrogate Ladies College)
	Safehands Day Nursery Ltd
	Tiny Teapots Private Day Nursery
	& 6 childminders

Appendix 3: Notes of public meetings

Record of Online Public Meeting concerning the proposed amalgamation of Woodfield Community Primary School and Grove Road Community Primary School, Harrogate

First public meeting held on 10 January 2022 at 6:30 PM using Microsoft Teams.

Present: County Councillor Patrick Mulligan (Executive Member for Education and Skills, NYCC), Chris Harrison, Interim Co-Headteacher, Grove Road School, Margaret Beagle, Chair of Governors, Grove Road School, Matthew Atkinson, Acting Executive Headteacher, Woodfield Primary School, Holly Whyte, Acting Headteacher, Woodfield Primary School, Janet Booth, Chair of Governors, Woodfield Primary School.

Amanda Newbold (Assistant Director, Education and Skills, NYCC) Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager, NYCC), John Lee, Matt George (Strategic Planning Team, NYCC).

Apologies: Chris Parkhouse, Headteacher, Grove Road School.

Approximately 32 people attended.

Janet Booth, Chair of Governors at Woodfield School, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced representatives from the two schools.

Patrick Mulligan introduced himself as County Councillor for the Airedale division in Craven and Executive Member for Education and Skills. He regretted that the meeting could not take place face-to-face but the spread of Omicron was rapid and it would have been highly irresponsible to meet face-to-face at this time. This was a consultation event and a written note of the meeting would be made and submitted to the County Council's Executive as part of the decision-making process. To assist with this, the meeting would be recorded. The recording would then be discarded once the written note had been compiled.

Andrew Dixon and Chris Harrison provided a presentation which covered:

- Background to the proposal, including the Woodfield Ofsted inspection and the Directive Academy Order
- Pupil numbers and financial projections
- Amalgamation proposals for September 2022 and September 2023
- Benefits for all pupils
- What would happen to staff at Woodfield School?
- What happens now?

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan then opened the meeting to questions.

A parent of a child at Grove Road asked what will the leadership structure be across both sites, and with a move to a part-time Headship, how will that work to ensure continuity across both sites?

Chris Harrison replied that they are not moving to a part-time Headship but a co-Headship model and a large part of this was to give a broader scale of capacity across the two sites. He was full-time in school and would be taking active headship on Mondays and Tuesdays. He would mirror Mr Parkhouse and they were on the same page in terms of the direction of the school. They had a broad leadership team already at Grove Road which would work

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closely with Woodfield staff to grow leadership across the two sites. As they open the nursery on the Woodfield site, the nursery lead is already part of the senior leadership team, and each phase leader is actively involved in the senior leadership team. Having cross pollination of staff across both sites would be critical in staff development and leadership. The school runs IRIS connect, an inter-school, inter-staff support network to support staff development. He can be based at one site and watch and coach staff teaching at the other site using the IRIS platform. It would be one school across the two sites with their team very carefully distributed across those two sites. They would grow new leaders as the school always has, to support the school as it grows and take on those challenges as they go.

A person asked on behalf of parents with children with SEN, especially autism, are Grove Road prepared to take on a large number of pupils with SEN and prepared to meet the needs of the autistic learners at Woodfield?

Chris Harrison replied that Grove Road already has a significant percentage of their children on the special needs register, just over 35%, and they have an intricate network of support in school including their targeted mainstream provision. They have some high quality expertise on site led by their Special Needs Co-ordinator and Assistant Headteacher. Having that full-time SENCO in place will be a key part in supporting children. Autism is a very common area where they have been supporting their special needs intake. They have the expertise in-house and the capacity in terms of supporting children. They are careful in the way that they allocate children's classes to make sure that the balance is right so that the support can be given as best they can. As for any child coming into school they would go through those processes and supporting and integrating the children in the best way that they could.

They would be very actively involving the staff from the two sites and making sure that the people who know those children best and know what support is working would be part of that process, making sure those children are helped and keeping parents and carers actively involved the whole time. They want the process to be smooth for families. If anybody has questions or wants to see what it might look like in practice, they are more than happy to set up visits for parents and carers to come across to Grove Road and see the provision, and to take people on tours around school and to talk about the provision that is in place.

Amanda Newbold asked if Mathew and Chris might talk about the transition plans, particularly for children and people with SEND - what the arrangements could be and what families might expect to see in preparing children should the proposal go ahead to move from Woodfield School to Grove Road?

Chris Harrison replied that families had free choice where their children go and it depends on what choices are made. They offer school tours and he would be happy to talk through their curriculum model. There would be a need to support children leaving Woodfield and coming to Grove Road and dialogue between the two sites would be critical, in meeting needs, particularly for the most vulnerable learners, and in making sure they are supported.

Mathew Atkinson supported this and added that they would be looking at transition activities throughout the summer if the proposal went ahead. He had met last week with Mr Parkhouse to discuss this and how they would support children. Children would come down to the Woodfield site and up to Grove Road as well. There would be handovers between key personnel in school, including class teachers, teaching assistants, and the Special

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Educational Needs co-ordinator.

Chris Harrison added that they can explore the use of the IRIS connect platform in terms of cross pollination of ideas and support within the staff teams towards the end of this academic year to make sure that everyone is on the same page before September comes. They want to be able to hit the ground running if it all goes ahead.

A parent of a child at Grove Road School with a younger child who would start reception in 2024 said that under the proposals, the younger child would go down to the Woodfield site, and she spoke about the potential problems of dropping off and picking up her children from two different sites. She would have to drop off earlier to allow her elder child to walk half an hour, who could get freezing cold and soaking wet. She didn't think that walking between the two sites is a viable option. She currently uses the after school club for one child. Is it going to be subsidised? If she chooses to put both children in this provision, will one have to walk to the other school for the after school club or will she have to pick up from two sites? It didn't seem like it was going to work and be a sensible option. Children would be absolutely freezing and there is going to have to be half an hour at either end of the day to allow for walking. It didn't seem feasible.

Chris Harrison replied that they are thinking carefully about how parents and carers are going to be able to manage across the two sites. Having staggered starting and finishing times would be part of that but also at Grove Road the children can start coming in from 8:40 in the morning into school even though the school day doesn't start until 9:00. These intervals of transition build time at the beginning and the end of the school day. They will very carefully plan out what works best at both sites involving the parents and carers and staff in those conversations about exactly what times work best.

He added that in terms of the wrap-around provision, the breakfast and after school clubs, they are going to continue to provide those free of charge for disadvantaged families with children receiving free school meals. For others it is a paid for provision but having the staggered start and end times and the broader pick up and drop off times will help. They will also have the walking bus in place dropping off at one site and then going across Skipton Road and across the Iron bridge (depending on which site it goes to and from) and that would mean dropping both children off at one site. He appreciated it can be a bit of a hike for little legs so they were also looking at opening up the back entrance of the Woodfield site to cut the walk down significantly. They were doing everything they could to minimise the impact on children having to move between two different sites.

The parent added that she did not have any sort of extra support so she would have to pay to put her children over two sites and have additional ferrying round between two sites picking up. She thought she was going to have to drop off earlier to allow for her elder child to walk to the school to allow that extra 30 minute walk. This meant getting both children up earlier to take them to school and she might as well just drive round Harrogate. It didn't seem like it would work in her opinion.

Chris Harrison added that the pupil premium fund is there so if children are entitled to free school meals then that can be part of the supportive process with the wrap around care.

The parent clarified that she was not entitled to anything.

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Chris Harrison replied that it would probably be more likely that parents would drop off younger ones and have the walking bus for the older children because they would be able to walk more quickly. They go to the gardens across the road from Grove Road School on a regular basis and the trickiest part is getting across Skipton road but having a lollipop man on site makes that significantly easier. Having him as part of that process to make sure children cross safely will be paramount. They appreciated the input on these conversations and they will be actively involving families to make sure that whatever process is discussed and then put in place works.

Councillor Mulligan thanked the parent for the comments and said that the purpose of the consultation process is to identify issues such as these and he was sure that the school leadership would be having a good look at that these.

A parent of a child at Woodfield School asked if a parent from either school decides that they want their child to go elsewhere, what would be the provision to facilitate that, particularly for parents at Woodfield, who would have the most significant change in the short term?

They also asked, in the first and second years, most of the Woodfield site would be empty. Were there any proposals about what to do with this largely empty facility in the first couple of years? It would be very expensive to run.

Chris Harrison replied that in terms of children moving elsewhere, this would go through the usual school applications process. Mathew and the team at Woodfield would be happy to signpost schools and be part of that supportive process as would Grove Road. They had their application process online on their website. Every school would be happy to take a phone call and talk through the process for applying for a new place.

Andrew Dixon added that should this proposal go ahead, those parents with children at Woodfield would automatically transfer on to roll at Grove Road from September 22 but if parents wish to look at other schools and consider other options then there is the North Yorkshire mid-year transfer process. This is available via the website and also manually. This information can be provided through Woodfield School.

Chris Harrison said that regarding the use of the Woodfield site, they hoped to use both sites, with a lot of children from Grove Road coming across to use the outdoor space, to set up Forest Schools, and to look at possibly setting up an urban farm. Some classrooms might be used as breakout spaces and intervention rooms. At Grove Road, where they were going to have more space it would gradually morph into specialist provision, intervention spaces, library spaces and subject specific spaces like science labs.

The parent added that it would be such a shame if the site was not used.

A parent with a child at Woodfield asked why can't the children that are already there stay on the Woodfield site as it is going to be mainly empty, since it is going to take years to do the whole process. With Covid children have been through so much already. Taking them away from their friends to somewhere totally different and twice as big could just send their mental health over the edge.

Chris Harrison acknowledged that it would be a big shake-up for a lot of children, but potentially coming across to Grove Road there might be some familiar faces as so many

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Woodfield children had come across to the site. Purely from a staffing point of view there would not be an equal split of children to distribute staffing equally enough. It would be too much of a juggling act to put a lot of children across to one site rather than put a few children across to another site. There will be work put into the transition process so children can get used to the site and get to know teachers. Also with the school running Thrive provision, they can support emotional welfare because there is capacity built into the system. It is something they needed to be mindful of and making sure the children are happy and healthy going through the process is their top priority. He recognised that it would be difficult for some children going through the process, however, there is not a way of splitting the classes across the two sites and splitting a phase lead across the two sides. It was something that needs to be grown organically.

The parent said that she wasn't sure that she agreed as he had said that all the teachers will be kept on that are already at Woodfield, and there only need to be about three members of staff for the children that have to filter out of Woodfield.

Chris Harrison replied that in terms of growing a collaborative model as a single school going forward they need to have a starting point and supporting the children where they are going to thrive best academically around a specialist team in place. There is not going to be a right or wrong answer in terms of the children moving, and it would be a difficult balance, but the support and the additional staffing at Grove Road that that might not necessarily be able to be put in place at the Woodfield site, is going to support those children. Having the Thrive provision and practitioners on the Grove Road site is going to be intertwined in that transition process.

The parent said that in her personal opinion, regardless to what any parent or child at Woodfield says, your minds are made up and the children will have to suffer for it.

Chris Harrison urged parents at Woodfield to speak to parents and carers who had come to Grove Road and ask about the transition process. The feedback from families had been overwhelming positive. Nothing was set in stone and this was the time to try to get this right. There was no one answer that would work for every single person but they needed to look at what worked best for the vast majority. He emphasised that this was another change and Covid did not make this any easier. They all needed to work together as one school community across the two sites. He added that nothing was set in stone, they were going through the process of trying to work out what is going to work.

Councillor Mulligan said that he shared what had been said, Covid had made it very difficult for children. One of the difficulties with academisation is when the schools commissioner cannot find a multi-academy trust to take on a school. There was another example recently at Burnt Yates near Harrogate, where they had a failed Ofsted, and the schools commissioner couldn't find a multi academy trust and the school closed. He had concerns about this as with maintained schools North Yorkshire would be able to work on the necessary school improvement and this would provide a breathing space so when Ofsted came back there would hopefully be a better result. Now with an academy order, if a trust cannot be found, the school must close if it is considered unviable. There are other examples where school closure would seem likely but, with the proposal for Grove Road to come in the Woodfield site would stay open.

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Chris Harrison added that as a parent, if you want to visit Grove Road School, you are more than welcome to. You can bring your children and have a look around the site too, and see what learning looks like.

A parent with two children at Woodfield said that the presentation had talked about if this goes ahead. What happens if it doesn't?

Andrew Dixon replied that the Regional Schools Commissioner had exhausted any solution for securing a Multi Academy trust to sponsor the school as required by the Directive Academy order. The County Council reviewed other options to retain education provision in the Woodfield community, and the only and best solution appeared to be the amalgamation for Woodfield. Both governing bodies had considered this before asking the County Council to consult on this. If the proposal did not succeed, they would have to look at closure of the school as there would not be a solution either in the Multi Academy Trust sector or in the maintained school sector. This proposal was an opportunity to maintain education provision in the Woodfield community.

The parent then asked what would happen to the site?

Andrew Dixon replied that that would be for the County Council to consider supplementary to the primary decision to close the school. The site was owned by the County Council, and it would be considered in the medium to long term after closure of the school.

A parent said that it seemed that all options had been exhausted and it sounded like this was going ahead and the consultation was a bit of the formality. If all children from Woodfield decided to go to other local schools and there are no children to move to Grove Road will this still go ahead?

Andrew Dixon replied that they are waiting to see the feedback from communities to the consultation and the level of support. The County Council's Executive and the two governing bodies would want to reflect on the level of support or otherwise. If there was a movement of a significant number of Woodfield children to alternative schools that would require a review of the finance and organisation proposals. It would depend on the level of movement by parents and what impact that would have on the overall proposal.

The parent asked how many children needed to move from Woodfield to Grove Road to make it a viable option?

Andrew Dixon replied that there would not be a single figure. The staffing structure in the financial projections is based on the current numbers and the published admission number of 50. If pupil numbers were less than projected then there would need to be a review of the staffing proposal and a review to see if it would be a viable proposal.

A parent said that as a parent at Woodfield she could say that half of those there now would not go to Grove Road.

Chris Harrison replied that it was families' free choice as to where to go but there was also the capacity of other schools in the area to consider. People will vote with their feet and choose which school which is best for their children. Schools will offer visits. Grove Road would have the capacity to take more children in based on the model proposed. Other schools might be more limited in the capacity they have, so there might be friendship groups

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breaking up or children having to travel further. They did not know until people started looking elsewhere if they wanted to.

The parent said that she travelled from Boroughbridge to Woodfield to take her children there, and could take her children to her local school. The reason that she did this journey every day was because of the grounds, teaching, friends, and the whole school. She and her siblings had gone to Woodfield. Now two years before one of her children has to leave, he has to move up the road.

Andrew Dixon said that since this proposal had become public knowledge with the request to start the consultation, they had seen very little movement, as yet, from Woodfield School. Parents of the two schools will be digesting the information through the consultation period and making their views known, and we need to wait and see the impact of their future position with regard to September 2022.

A parent said that she lived on St John's Road and it was already a 15 to 20 minute walk for her children. Her children loved Woodfield. She could have moved anywhere within the last three years but chose not to because they loved that school. Bilton Grange School is her closest school. She did not want her eldest child to walk further from Woodfield to Grove Road. There was a chance that Bilton Grange wouldn't take her children in. She could not drive and felt she was between a rock and a hard place. It sounded as if this proposal had already been decided.

Councillor Mulligan thanked her for her comments and said this was a consultation and the school leadership would be looking at these issues.

A parent asked, it had been said that the proposal was based on the numbers at Woodfield being 50, but the table in the presentation had shown that numbers there were already below 50, how did this affect this proposal now?

Andrew Dixon clarified that the proposal was based on the existing numbers plus year groups to come, of 50 per year group, across the two schools.

A parent said when he first heard about the amalgamation, from every school that he rang he was told it was oversubscribed or wouldn't take children with SEN needs. It felt like whether parents want their children to go to Grove Road or not, they would eventually go there; it felt a foregone conclusion and this removes choice.

Andrew Dixon replied that some schools will be fuller than others in some year groups. He suggested that anyone who received a response of that nature from an individual school would be best placed to contact the Harrogate admissions team, which can make enquiries on their behalf. Any parent who is declined a place has the right to a statutory admissions appeal.

The parent said that he rang Harrogate Admissions directly and found he could get a space for one of his children but not the other, and this was a problem for other families too.

Andrew Dixon replied that where a school can admit one child but not another, the parent would have the statutory right of appeal, but it would be down to the school, if they are their own admissions authority, to make that decision in the first instance.

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A parent said that she had chosen Grove Road School for her child because it was a good school. How would the school ensure that the quality of education would not be affected by amalgamating with what is currently an inadequate school. How would they ensure that her child was taught by good or outstanding teachers?

Chris Harrison said that the curriculum offer would be an umbrella offer across the two sites which was available on the school website. Children are at the heart of it. Children would have the same diet of learning and the same quality of offer. The broader leadership capacity would help maintain quality across the two sites. While Woodfield currently had an inadequate Ofsted judgement, there was a lot of quality among the staff on the site and as they came together they would need to bring those strengths and successes while making sure there was a robust monitoring system across the school. With IRIS connect system there was capacity to observe and record lessons even if they were not in the building. They run learning walks every 3 weeks on a 2 year cycle. Monitoring systems are robust, rooted in staff development, and make sure children get the absolute best out of their learning. This would be rolled out across the two sites.

The parent said she could write a wonderful presentation and upload it, but delivery could be shocking. She wanted to make sure the actual delivery was good.

Chris Harrison added that IRIS is an online video platform where whole lessons and half days can be videoed. There was also the option for in-ear coaching where someone can coach through an earpiece and this can be done across sites. They had the capacity to observe lessons. They did not use formal teaching observations any more. Recording is taking place on a weekly basis. There are staff film clubs where they can watch the teaching. The monitoring system includes checking the planning and book scrutiny but also involves staff joining other classes for 20 minutes followed by coaching conversations. On IRIS connect they had built curriculum pages and can bank quality-assured clips providing expectations of teaching for those new to the school. Part of Chris' role was to lead on curriculum monitoring and growth, to make sure children have a rich diet of learning.

A parent said that on the comment about the teaching at Woodfield, his children were really happy there. One of his children was on the SEN register and the SENCO provided so much support, and the teaching was great.

Chris Harrison added that a big part of this process would be merging the teams as there were a lot of strengths in Woodfield that they wanted to bring in.

A parent added that they didn't mean to cause any offence, as a Grove Road parent they wanted to ensure the best for all children.

Counsellor Mulligan thought that everyone could agree to that.

County Councillor Paul Haslam said that he had been a governor of Woodfield School since the school hit its problems. He wanted to reassure that the quality of teaching at Woodfield was now the best that he had seen it in all his time there. The Ofsted inspection related to leadership. There had been six different head teachers in a very short space of time. Pupil numbers had dropped badly. Leadership for the last two years had been excellent and had allowed the existing staff to flourish. The governors have had to consider the school numbers. If the school had the right numbers they would not be looking at this as a solution.

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They could not become an academy. The ability of the school rides on having a sufficient number of pupils and the school does not have enough currently. This solution he believed would give a better and enhanced offer for both schools, and give both schools access to brilliant facilities and air quality. He believed and he thought the other governors believed, it will give better education all round. The key to social mobility was great education and that was what this amalgamation option was about.

Dennis Richards said that he was a governor at Grove Road School for 5 years and had been head teacher of a large Harrogate secondary school for 23 years. He knew most of the Harrogate primary schools. The parents of families at Woodfield tonight had done a brilliant job. Grove Road had an outstanding reputation for dealing with children with special education needs, speakers of other languages, and those receiving free school meals. Governors had gone through this proposal with a toothcomb. If parents had any difficulty with the academy they should take it up with the MP. Matthew Atkinson would like to stay but financially it was impossible. He recommended to Woodfield parents that they take Chris up on his offer and go around Grove Road School and he was sure that they would be impressed with what they see.

Chris added that he would be more than happy if any parents had any further questions to visit around during the school day or outside school time. He totally understood the difficulties for some parents. It was not a done deal. They were trying to protect the Woodfield community, giving opportunities for children to stay together, for teaching teams to continue working together, and for teams to collaborate and grow across two sites. That seemed so much better than allowing the Woodfield site to close. They were hoping this could act as a safety net for many families. He hoped more people can start to see Grove Road extending friendship and growth across both sites.

For Grove Road parents there might be concerns about what the amalgamation might do in terms of quality across a larger site. Their leadership team was growing to match this with the co-headship model and growing new leaders on site. They would not have agreed to be part of the process as a school if they did not see significant benefits on both sites. There had been a lot of work to ensure that it was right for the children and communities on both sites. It was not a done deal and they need to involve all stakeholders in the conversation to quality-assure the process.

County Councillor Mulligan said that he would also encourage all parents to visit the school, see what is available, and keep an open mind.

Chris Harrison added that in terms of concern expressed by some Woodfield parents about the length of journey time and lack of access to transport, his school's pupil premium plan budgets in for facilitating taxis for families that find transport very difficult.

County Councillor Paul Haslam said governors had considered opening the rear entrance to the Woodfield School site and he was delighted to hear about this, improving access for pupils from the Claro Road area. On Woodfield Road, before April, there will be a 20 mile per hour speed limit outside the school with enhanced road protection. These additional measures coming would ensure safety and access to the school.

Councillor Mulligan thanked everyone for attending. He guaranteed parents that their points would be noted and taken up with the school leadership. He thanked the two school

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leaderships who had worked very hard to try to get to solutions. He hoped parents would be open minded and visit Grove Road School. They were welcome to make any further comments and the consultation was open until 28 January.

The meeting closed at 7:55 PM.

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Record of second Online Public Meeting concerning the proposed amalgamation of Woodfield Community Primary School and Grove Road Community Primary School, Harrogate

Second public meeting held on 17 January 2022 at 6:30 PM using Microsoft Teams.

Present: County Councillor Patrick Mulligan (Executive Member for Education and Skills, NYCC), Chris Harrison, Interim Co-Headteacher, Grove Road School, Margaret Beagle, Chair of Governors, Grove Road School, Matthew Atkinson, Acting Executive Headteacher, Woodfield Primary School, Holly Whyte, Acting Headteacher, Woodfield Primary School, Janet Booth, Chair of Governors, Woodfield Primary School.

Amanda Newbold (Assistant Director, Education and Skills, NYCC) Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager, NYCC), John Lee, Matt George (Strategic Planning Team, NYCC).

Apologies: Chris Parkhouse, Headteacher, Grove Road School.

19 people attended.

Margaret Beagle, Chair of Governors at Grove Road School, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced representatives from the two schools.

Patrick Mulligan introduced himself as County Councillor for the Airedale division in Craven and Executive Member for Education and Skills. He noted that this was a consultation event and a written note of the meeting would be made and submitted to the County Council's Executive as part of the decision-making process. To assist with this, the meeting would be recorded. The recording would then be discarded once the written note had been compiled.

Andrew Dixon and Chris Harrison provided a presentation which covered:

- Background to the proposal, including the Woodfield Ofsted inspection and the Directive Academy Order
- Pupil numbers and financial projections
- Amalgamation proposals for September 2022 and September 2023
- Benefits for all pupils
- What would happen to staff at Woodfield School?
- What happens now?

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan then opened the meeting to questions.

A parent governor at Grove Road School said he was impressed by the ethos, integrity and ethics of Grove Road. He thought the amalgamation was a fantastic idea for widening their community and was a big supporter of the process. He asked about the budget, as Grove Road was looking to achieve a budget surplus, which was forecast for 2026. How did the shortfall in budget at Woodfield School affect Grove Road School moving forward?

Andrew Dixon said that he understood that on the closure of Woodfield School, the budget position, which is forecast to be a deficit, would no longer be carried forward to Grove Road

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School. The Woodfield balance would have to be absorbed by the County Council on closure.

A parent from Grove Road School said that the parking at Grove Road is chaos already. How could they facilitate more students, parents, and cars, if they were catering for a community further away which might drive more. How could they make sure it would be safe?

Chris Harrison replied that there was much better parking at the Woodfield site. It was hoped that this, along with use of a walking bus, would negate the difficulties around parking. They could also extend out the staggered start to the school day to support parents and carers in the drop off phase. The school saw the benefit of this extended time as they had early bird maths running five days a week so children can get additional maths input at the start of the day every day. The Grove Road site was landlocked which made parking very challenging, but they would have access to the parking at the other site as well.

The parent asked if this meant asking people to drive past Grove Road, even if their child attended Grove Road, to go to Woodfield to park, and make their child walk from there?

Chris clarified that was not what he was saying, it was more for parents and carers making multiple drop offs that could take advantage of the staggered start and the walking bus.

County Councillor Paul Haslam, a governor at Woodfield School, said that during lockdown and over the Easter holidays of 2020 they had worked in coordination with Grove Road, with their parents walking between the two schools. They did not see any particular issues although he appreciated that the traffic could have been different then. They had worked this before and it was a successful joint operation during that time.

Chris Harrison said that they appreciated and respected the work that was going on behind the scenes at the Woodfield site. They appreciated it was difficult and challenging circumstances. He looked forward to welcoming and broadening their school community. If anyone on the Woodfield site - staff, parents, children - wanted to visit the Grove Road site they were welcome to do so. They wanted to help the Woodfield staff in this complex, difficult transition phase.

A parent asked about the leadership arrangements at Grove Road School. She had understood that from 1st February there would be a joint headship, but from what she gathered this was already happening. She was concerned because Mr Parkhouse had not been in school and there had been no communication. If they were going to have two sites, were they going to be kept up to date with what was happening and who the leadership team was? Mr Parkhouse had not been at either of the consultation meetings. It was a bit concerning that there was a lack of communication about leadership.

Chris Harrison clarified that Mr Parkhouse sent his apologies, he had had a positive Covid test. They would not normally communicate out to parents and carers if a member of staff was ill or unwell. It gave the opportunity to grow the co-headship sooner than intended. He appreciated that this could be potentially confusing and a few children would take a little time to settle into the routine. Mr Parkhouse was very frustrated he had not been able to attend

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tonight. The co-headship model was communicated out to families. It was to broaden the capacity of the leadership team and support Mr Parkhouse. They believed that running a co-headship model was the right way forward for the school and community. It offered greater leadership capacity across two sites and the scope for the rest of the staff to grow into positions of middle and senior leadership. Chris Harrison would be maintaining a teaching commitment throughout, which would be balanced when Mr Parkhouse was in school running his headship position. It also offered the opportunity to model a healthy work/life balance to staff and the community.

A member of staff who worked in Grove Road school in a supporting capacity asked how the amalgamation would affect funding because at the moment they were massively strained staffing-wise, especially in the support area. She hoped the amalgamation would ease that.

Chris Harrison replied that it depended on the number of children that came across to Grove Road and the nature of support that children need. If the amalgamation went ahead, there would be work done to look at the staffing structure to meet the needs of children. He appreciated that it can feel very stretched at times and COVID had not made this any easier but it was the nature of school budgets that staffing in schools can be very difficult to manage. They were hoping that the amalgamation would put them out of the deficit budget and give them more flexibility in supporting children. Potentially in the long term the school may even grow to two form entry. It depended entirely on the numbers. If fewer children came across, this would have an impact on the staffing model proposed. It depends on which schools families wanted their children to attend. He was sorry he could not be clearer at the moment.

Debbie Pitt, School Business Manager at Grove Road School, said that the way that money comes into the school would alter slightly if they moved to split sites. In terms of levels of support for children the actual method of funding would not change. Children would have the same level of funding coming into school. It comes down to pupil numbers. Support staff would be allocated according to pupil numbers and need, as they currently are.

A governor at Grove Road School asked about the potentially positive impact for children with Special Education Needs with the amalgamation. His view was that it was vast and offered the opportunity to support vulnerable children in the community.

Chris Harrison said the amalgamation offered the opportunity to expand the capacity of their school's existing targeted mainstream provision. They would be able to protect more children who can drop out of the system through their difficulties accessing the mainstream curriculum. They would be able to provide a more bespoke alternative curriculum outside the classroom, including forest schools, nurture, thrive provision, and an urban farm. In terms of children in class, they were very excited, as with one school on two sites they would be able to bring whole classes across to the forest school and the green open space, which would benefit children's mental health and well being and enable them to take part in healthy living, growing and planting. He looked forward to welcoming more people into the team. There was a lot of strength in the staff on the Woodfield site. They would bring more expertise, ideas, and strategies to support children with those levels of needs.

The governor then asked if the amalgamation did not take place, what would happen to the

Appendix 3: Notes of public meetings

Woodfield site?

Andrew Dixon said that if they could not find a solution within a maintained school scenario and there was no academy sponsor that could be found, so that there was no option to sustain education provision in the Woodfield community, they would have to consult on a school closure. What happened to the site would be a decision that would be taken subsequently to the closure decision. It was never a factor in why the County Council would close a school. It was always supplementary to the core decision of closure. If the amalgamation did not go ahead, Woodfield would face a very challenging future.

County Councillor Mulligan thanked Chris, governors, and officers. He thought this was a very good plan for education in the area and the best solution that could be hoped for. He reminded everyone that the consultation ran to the 28 January. All the comments made tonight had been recorded and would form part of the consultation. He thanked everyone for their contributions.

The meeting closed at 7:05 PM.

Appendix 4: Responses to the consultation

Observations and/or suggestions:	Interest/Status:
Why can't the older children filter out of woodfield if it's only going to be use for nursery in 2022? After the past 2 years the children have had I think the uproot out of a school the love and know is NOT got for the mental Health and a total disregard for the children and parents of woodfield	Parent
I've read that if the sites merge then Woodfield would eventually be used for nursery and KS1 children. I think this is an excellent idea, I hope that the playing fields are kept. Grove Road is more suitable for older children and maybe part of Grove Road could be used as offices or specialist units.	My son attended Woodfield and I attended Grove Road
Whereas I feel that an amalgamation is a valid proposal, I feel it would be more beneficial to move Grove Road school to the Woodfield site and take back the offices that were originally part of Woodfield. Grove Road site is not fit for purpose - there is very limited outdoor area and the children are being exposed to pollution from the constant stream of traffic. The lack of parking causes problems for local businesses and residents plus families sit in their cars with their engines running adding to the pollution. For the whole of Grove Road to have access to the grounds at Woodfield would be highly beneficial - the learning and social opportunities are huge. By just using the Woodfield site it would mean that the walking bus wouldn't be needed - in principal this idea would work but in reality it would be a logistical nightmare - if children are late and dropped to one school but one child needs to be at the other site who would manage this. Staffing a walking bus would require at least 4 staff - 2 from each site and would require parents to drop their children at the requested time.	staff
I think this is a great opportunity for both schools to benefit from what the other has to offer. Strong leadership/highly experienced teachers/support staff/large open grassy areas/newer building	School support staff
Our daughter will start school next year and I want my child to go to Grove Road School, not Woodfield site. We live in close distance to Grove Road School and I am not happy to walk her 30min to and then 30min from school instead of 5 min. I don't find walking bus a good decision. This will result in more cars on the road and bad traffic. Our family really hope that this amalgamate never happen, other wise our and many parents I know will choice there kids to go to St Peters School, because that is the only school for people living in the town centre and have kids in Reception and Key Stage 1.	Parent
Whilst I understand that the technical closure of Woodfield is difficult for everybody concerned, I firmly believe it is the only option available in order to secure education on the Woodfield site. Without this option I fear that Woodfield would close and no education would exist on this site. Having been involved with Woodfield for two years as the Interim Executive Headteacher I feel that this is the best option for the pupils and preserving the education on this site.	Interim Executive Headteacher
I think the opportunities the amalgamation will provide to our community and children will be unprecedented. It is an exceptionally rare and exciting time, and I believe the benefits to our current pupils and prospective ones will be enormous.	TA and parent

Appendix 4: Responses to the consultation

<p>The idea of a family having 2 children at 2 different sites will not work for families who are currently at grove road school. The thought of a walking bus and drop off at the one school will not work and I fear a huge safety issue and confusion for the children partially in bad weather staff shortages were to arise.</p>	<p>Parent</p>
<p>Having been a parent of a sen child at woodfield nearly 3 years ago spanning 6yrs I saw the decline in leadership and poor care of my child's needs in that time blocking him from accessing an ehcp, and was all down to staff just fundamentally not knowing how to apply for one or get specialist support/ advice and then follow that advice. We left this school because we were tired of fighting and getting nowhere. Grove Rd is an amazing school and they saved my boy. The knowledge on send is outstanding at Grove Rd, from day one my son was supported, there was no more fighting. As a parent of more than 1 send child this is invaluable, we already are under so much stress, and deal with an immense level of send admin caring for our kiddos, Grove Rd will be a huge asset to the woodfield site, the site itself is wonderful and will provide a fantastic green space for Grove Roaders. Grove Rd has a strong and supportive leadership team which is what Woodfield school has been in dyer need of for at least 6 years. I admit when I heard of this amalgamation idea I panicked as our experience was not good, but taking away the past poor leadership and horrific send provision and understanding that Grove Road will take it over settled my worry. I've no doubt under Grove Rd leadership woodfield site will become a thriving and flourished school again with huge opportunities for Grove Rd to expand and provide their wonderful support to more SEND children in the community desperately needing a safe welcoming and inclusive school to attend where they are being let down by others or having already fallen through the cracks. I have 2 younger children in ks1 at Grove Rd who love it and are both being supported and feel safe.</p>	<p>Parent of 2 Grove Rd children.</p>
<p>I am concerned that the amalgamation may stretch teacher/staff and financial capacity to an extent that may become detrimental to Grove road school. Birth rates are declining and I'm aware that new parents are reconsidering applying for GR as it will be a split site school (data that you may already be aware of with the applications received this month). These factors may impact on achieving the PAN needed to financially support both sites. Grove road is an amazing school which attracts families from very diverse backgrounds with varying levels of need, I am concerned that some of the families that you assume will want to attend GR from Woodfield school may not be as keen to do so. I think the outside space available at Woodfield would be an amazing asset to the school and having nursery in the same building as reception and KS1 has many advantages too. Within the GR site having space to develop additional sensory areas and quiet working spaces would be amazing, but my biggest concern is that if the number of children isn't achieved there will be no money to develop and staff any of these things.</p>	<p>Past governor</p>

Appendix 4: Responses to the consultation

<p>I do not support the proposed amalgamation. I have a child currently in Year 1 at Grove Road and a younger child who would be starting Grove Road nursery in September 2023. The amalgamation as proposed would result in my children never physically being at school together because they are 4 school years apart. This means juggling 2 children at 2 sites. I do not feel the walking bus is a fair option as realistically I would have to drop at Woodfield as my just turned 3 year old (August born) could not easily walk the distance and dropping at Woodfield is far less convenient. I do not consider it is fair to expect my eldest to walk from Woodfield in all weathers when we will have already walked a long distance to that point. As a result of the proposals I feel like my daughters would essentially be at separate schools in everything but name. Had I have known of this when I chose schools, it is not an option I would have picked. The proposal talks about the benefits, but I consider the proposals will be to the detriment of Grove road. Grove Road is an excellent school without the green space and extra facilities that Woodfield would provide. I think it will interrupt the school day ferrying children between sites and be disruptive for pupils and parents. As a working parent I use the breakfast and after school club. It is not clear from the proposals how that would work when I have 2 children at 2 sites each needing before and after school club provision. Will I need to collect from both sites? Life as working parents is challenging enough (especially with covid disruption) without having to add to multiple pick ups. I am currently considering moving from daughter to another school and have contacted NYCC to enquire about an in year move her. I have also spoken to a couple of other parents I know who were applying for primary places this year who had intended to put Grove Road as their 1st choice and now aren't putting it at all.</p>	<p>Parent of Grove Road pupil</p>
<p>I am against this merger. Woodfield School's problems should not become Grove Road's problem. Woodfield school should close if it not sustainable. Splitting Grove Road across two sites is disruptive to pupils. When I chose Grove Road for my daughter I liked the fact that it is a compact site and the feeling of community that results. That will be lost if the early years moves to the Woodfield site. I would end up with 2 children at separate sites. This will be a huge disappointment to my eldest who will never get to see her little sister when she starts in September 2023. She is looking forward to being able to 'look out for her' which will never happen if she remains at Grove Road. I don't see the space provided at Woodfield is a benefit. It will result in valuable school time spent switching between sites when Grove Road is a perfectly good school without the space at Woodfield. I think the proposals will make life more difficult for parents who have children at both sites and even for staff who will become separated. I think the proposals will effectively result in there being 2 schools (an infant and junior) that operate separately but happen to share a name. We have recently been informed that the headmaster role is now being shared at Grove Road which I expect has been put in place to allow one head to operate from each site. I think the amalgamation will be to the detriment of Grove Rd. I appreciate many existing Grove Rd parents will be unaffected by this change as the majority of parents will not have younger children who are due to join in the coming years and therefore existing children will be largely unaffected. My family will be hugely affected by this proposal and we will wait to see what the outcome of the consultation before we then decide whether to move our child to another school if it is to go ahead.</p>	<p>Parent</p>