

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE EARLS BARTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

[Note: this is a linked proposal and should be read in conjunction with the proposal to expand the age range of Earls Barton Infant School](#)

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that [Northamptonshire County Council proposes](#) to close Earls Barton Junior School. This proposal forms part of the linked proposal regarding primary education in [Earls Barton](#).

1. Name, address and contact details of proposer

Northamptonshire County Council, Strategic Planning Team, PO Box 216, John Dryden House, 8-10 The Lakes, Northampton, NN4 7DD.

2. Name, address and category of school

Earls Barton Junior School, Broad Street, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire, NN6 0ND, a community school

3. Date of implementation

Northamptonshire County Council proposes that the school would be discontinued with effect from 31st December 2016.

4. Objectives and reason for closure

The closure is proposed so that Earls Barton Infant and Junior Schools can be amalgamated to operate as an all-through, 4 – 11 primary school. This involves the technical closure of the Junior School and the alteration of the age-range of the Infant School.

The objectives of the closure of the Infant School are:

- To aid in the delivery of the curriculum in a consistent manner and share best practice across the primary age-range.
- A seamless transition between Key Stage 1 (Infants) and Key Stage 2 (Juniors), national data indicates that children educated in full primary schools, generally, achieve better levels of attainment and progress
- Greater capacity to track pupils progress between Key Stages
- All-through primary schools are more attractive to prospective members of staff. Allowing the school to attract the highest possible quality of candidate for future roles
- More development opportunities for staff, including shared training and an understanding of all Key Stages across the primary phase of education, that will ultimately benefit pupils

- Increased time for relationship between pupils, parents and staff to develop, allowing the school to better understand each child's individual needs
- Increased financial viability in the long term

5. Pupil Numbers and admissions

The Junior School currently has a published admission number (PAN) of 75 pupils per year group and a maximum total roll of 300 pupils. Girls and boys aged 7 – 11 attend the school for the Key Stage 2 phase of their primary education. The school does not provide reserved places for children with special educational needs.

The new, amalgamated primary school would admit 75 pupils at the beginning of each academic year into its reception cohort and pupils would remain at the school until the end of Year 6.

6. Displaced pupils

The pupils on roll at Earls Barton Junior School will become part of the new Earls Barton Primary School. [There will be no change to the overall number of school places available in the primary phase within the area of the School as a result of this proposal.](#)

7. Impact on the community

It is the view of Northamptonshire County Council that the proposals will have a positive impact upon pupils attending the newly amalgamated school for the reasons outlined in section 4.

The proposals are not expected to have any impact on other schools, academies or educational establishments in the area.

8. SEN Provision

There will be no overall change to SEN provision as a result of these proposals.

9. Travel

There will be no increase in travel resulting from this proposal. The newly, amalgamated primary school will be housed in the existing Infant and Junior school buildings.

10. Consultation

Public consultation regarding the school organisation arrangements connected with amalgamation and expansion took place between 5th September and 17th October 2016.

The results of this consultation were considered by the Cabinet Member for Learning, Skills & Education on Tuesday 1st November 2016 and the decision was made to issue the relevant statutory notices and proposals.

The proposal has been the subject to a six week period of consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including Earls Barton Parish Council and Borough Council of Wellingborough.

85 consultees contributed to the initial period of consultation conducted in relation to the Earls Barton proposal. 81 people (95.3% of respondents) expressed their support for the proposal, whilst 4 respondents (4.7% of respondents) expressed their opposition. The clear majority of consultation responses indicated that they were in favour of the proposed amalgamation.

[Earls Barton Junior School is a designated rural primary school for the purpose of section 15\(4\) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. In reaching its decision to make this proposal, Northamptonshire County Council has had regard to the matters set out in Section 15\(4\)](#)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any interested party may; support, object to, or make comment upon the proposal by writing to:

Strategic Planning Team, Northamptonshire County Council, PO Box 216, John Dryden House, 8-10 The Lakes, Northampton NN4 7DD. Or via;

schoolconsultation@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Date: 10th November 2016