

Statutory process for amalgamation of Earls Barton Infant school and Earls Barton Junior School

The amalgamation of a linked Infant and Junior School is achieved through a 'technical' closure of one of the school's involved and an extension of the age-range of the other to become a full primary school. As such, the statutory process NCC is required to follow in this situation is as follows;

Stage 1 Before 31/08/16	Cabinet member decision to begin consultation on amalgamation	Followed by 5 day 'call-in' period before next stage can begin.
Stage 2 5/9/16 – 17/10/16	Consultation	For a minimum of 6 weeks (taking into account school holidays). NCC would provide all consultation literature and conduct the consultation on schools' behalf. To include meeting with Trade Unions and informal briefing for all staff – to be arranged after first Cabinet Member decision
Stage 3 Before 22/10/16	Cabinet Member decision to issue statutory notice of closure	Made by Cllr Matt Golby. Followed by 5 day 'call-in' period before next stage can begin.
Stage 4 27/10/16	Publication	Public Notices of closure/extension of age-range published outside of schools involved/in local paper and on NCC website
Stage 5 27/10/16 – 24/11/16	Representation	Begins on day of publication for 4 weeks. Allows any interested party last opportunity to make views on proposal known to NCC.
Stage 6 13/12/16	Decision	Made by full Cabinet of NCC. Followed by 5 day call-in period.
Stage 7 01/01/17	Implementation	Date one school closes and the other extends its age-range to become a full primary school.

As discussed, the relevant Governing Bodies at both Earls Barton sites will need to formally resolve to begin consultation on the proposal to amalgamate each Infant and Junior School. This will need to occur prior to the beginning of the summer holidays.