

Proposed reorganisation of Braunstone Frith Infant and Junior Schools

Have your say



Leicester
City Council

Introduction

This leaflet sets out proposals to change the organisation of Braunstone Frith Infant and Junior Schools and explains what is being suggested and why and how this affects you and your child. We would like to hear your views on the proposal. You can do this by attending one of the meetings, filling in the reply form, or both.

About the Schools

Braunstone Frith Infant School is a community school providing education for children of 3 – 7 years of age (Key Stage 1). The School was inspected in November 2010 and judged to be “good”.

Braunstone Frith Junior School is a community school providing education for children of 7 – 11 years of age (Key Stage 2). The school was inspected in February 2012 and judged to be “inadequate”. In addition the Headteacher at that time secured a headship at another school and left the school at the end of the Spring Term 2012.

Braunstone Frith Junior School has since made good progress towards the required improvements and is jointly being led by Jane Ridgewell, Executive Headteacher and Amelia Smith, Headteacher of Braunstone Frith Infant School and Acting Headteacher of Braunstone Frith Junior School. Many of the systems that have been introduced to improve learning are now common across both schools.

Both schools are situated on the same site and serve the same community as the majority of pupils at the Infant School move on to the Junior School.

The Proposal

The Proposal is to change the age range of Braunstone Frith Infant School to become an ‘all through’ primary school (3 – 11 years) and to close Braunstone Frith Junior School. The proposal is being led by the Local Authority and supported by both governing bodies.

The governing bodies of both Braunstone Frith Infant and Braunstone Frith Junior Schools have stated their wish to make this change as they and the Local Authority believe this will offer the highest quality educational experience for all children.

Before any decision is made by the City Council, we would like to hear your views on the proposal. We believe that the changes we are proposing will provide the pupils, parents and members of this community with excellent provision.

Your views are important to us. Please take the time to read this information and if possible, attend one of the consultation meetings and let us know what you think of the proposal.

When are the changes proposed to happen?

If, after the consultation, the City Council agrees to make the changes, they are proposed to take effect from September 2013, the start of the new academic year.

The proposals are designed to ensure there is minimum impact and disruption for the schools, pupils and their families.

What are the benefits?

The proposal offers significant benefits. These include:-

- Consistency of provision, school policies and effective school systems;
- Children will benefit from not having to transfer across schools at the end of key stage one. They will not need to learn new procedures and will already be familiar with the staff across the school;
- The climate for learning and personal development will be better as children are nurtured from a young age right up until they are ready for secondary school;
- The children will benefit from opportunities to work collaboratively with younger and older children;
- Further opportunities for recruiting and retaining well qualified staff leading to higher quality teaching and learning;
- Improved support and professional development opportunities for class teachers to enable them to develop their professional practice across the primary age range;
- Greater purchasing power and increased value for money – for example the purchase of specialist services.

What would happen to admissions to the existing Junior School for Year 3 entry?

If the proposals are agreed by the City Council in line with the proposed timescale, then Parents/Carers of pupils currently in Year 2 of the Infant School would not need to complete an application form as part of the 'Transfer to Junior School' process. The pupils would remain at the new 'all through' school and automatically move from Year 2 to Year 3 in September.

If the proposals are significantly delayed or are not agreed, then Parents/Carers will be

informed of the 'Transfer to Junior School' process and will need to complete an application form for their child.

Teaching and Support Staff

Both schools have committed and effective teaching and support teams. It is very important that their skills/knowledge and expertise are assimilated into the new school to continue pupil attainment.

It is presumed that with a similar number of pupils across one school, the level of staffing will be maintained although there may be a need for review in some areas due to the needs of an all through primary school. Full consultation will take place with the staff and their representatives as part of the process.

We would like to hear what you think

Please let us know what you think about these proposals online at:
www.leicester.gov.uk/bfij

or please send the enclosed form to:

**School Organisation Manager
Education and Children's Services,
Leicester City Council,
New Walk Centre, Welford Place,
Leicester, LE1 6ZG**

All responses should be received by the City Council by **Sunday 14th October, 2012.**

We would also like to invite you to attend either of the meetings below to hear more about the proposals:

- **Tuesday 25th September, 6:00pm at Braunstone Frith Junior School**
- **Thursday 27th September, 2:30pm at Braunstone Frith Infant School**

At each meeting you will be able to hear from Local Authority officers and the Headteachers of the Schools. After a short presentation you will be able to ask any questions you may have. Each meeting should last about 45 minutes. Infant and Junior parents/carers are welcome to attend either meeting.

The meetings are mainly for parents and carers of pupils but school staff and their representatives, governors and pupils may also attend, although dedicated meetings for these groups will be held during the consultation.

Further Information

If you would like to see more information about the proposals please look at the dedicated webpage:

www.leicester.gov.uk/bfij

If you would like to discuss anything within the proposals, please call:

Rob Thomas, School Organisation Manager, Leicester City Council

0116 373 7469

What happens next?

A number of people and organisations including pupils, parents/carers, staff and their representatives, governors, local schools, local MP and the community will be consulted on these proposals during the consultation period of Monday 17th September to Sunday 14th October.

All responses to the consultation will be presented to the City Council Executive to enable a decision on the way forward to be taken. If it is decided to proceed with the proposal, then a statutory notice will be published to seek formal representations. At the end of this period, the City Council Executive will determine whether to implement the proposal to take effect in September 2013.

As each stage of the proposal's progress, all current information will be available on the City Council website and each school will also keep you informed as appropriate.

If you need help reading this publication or require it in a different format please contact: 0116 252 7000