

**Consultation on the proposed amalgamation  
of St Ursula's Catholic Infant and  
St Ursula's Catholic Junior schools**



**St Ursula's  
Catholic Federation**



*Diocese of  
Brentwood*

## **Consultation on the amalgamation of St Ursula's Catholic Infant and St Ursula's Catholic Junior schools**

This document is designed to:

- Notify you of Havering Council and the Diocese of Brentwood's proposal to amalgamate St Ursula's Catholic Infant School and St Ursula's Catholic Junior School. This will result in a single primary school.
- Explain why this change is being proposed
- Invite your comments on this proposal
- Inform you of and invite you to a consultation meeting to be held at St Ursula's Catholic Junior School on **Wednesday 5 February 2020 from 6:30- 8:00pm**

### **The statutory process**

The Department for Education (DFE) has set out the requirements and processes for amalgamating and making changes to maintained schools in the guidance 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools.', and 'Opening and closing maintained schools'

The purpose of the guidance is to ensure that the local authority does not take decisions that will have a negative impact on other schools in the area and that changes can be implemented quickly and effectively where there is a strong case for doing so. It is also expected that, where possible, additional new places will only be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding'.

The guidance also sets out the processes required to implement this proposal and this consultation period is the first stage in that process.

### **Why are we proposing to amalgamate St Ursula's Catholic Infant and St Ursula's Catholic Junior schools?**

Currently, St Ursula's Catholic Infant and St Ursula's Catholic Junior schools are federated. This means they have a single governing body and one executive headteacher but they are still two separate schools. Pupils at the infant have to apply for a place at the junior and the transition from one school to another can cause disruption for pupils.

The two schools have stated that they wish to amalgamate. The governing board and the Diocese of Brentwood are in support of the proposal.

If St Ursula's Catholic schools amalgamate, pupils will benefit from a seamless transition through the school, and parents will not need to apply for a place at the junior school. As one school, pupils will benefit from consistent education plans, curriculums, and policies. This will allow teachers to monitor pupils' progress more consistently. Appropriate interventions can be put in place at an early stage enabling the pupils to realise their potential to the fullest. Amalgamation will allow the school to be more financially efficient. It will have a single DfE Number, and will be able to buy supplies and services as a single school.

## The amalgamation proposal and process

The process of amalgamation is made up of three legal changes:

- The lowering of the age range and the enlargement of the premises at St Ursula's Catholic Junior School
- the technical closure of St Ursula's Catholic Infant School

As they are VA schools, the process to amalgamate must be carried out by the LA or the Diocese of Brentwood on their behalf

### The Proposal

St Ursula's Catholic Infant School currently takes children from age 3 to age 7 and is rated as a 'Good' school by Ofsted. St Ursula's Catholic Junior School admits pupils from age 7 to 11 and is rated as an 'Outstanding' school by Ofsted.

At the point of implementation, a primary school will be created with an age range 3 to 11. The capacity of the two schools is 420 pupils and this will be no different to the new primary school. All pupils currently at the two schools will be guaranteed a place at the new primary school, which will be renamed as St Ursula's Catholic Primary School. The new primary will retain the Ofsted rating of St Ursula's Catholic Junior School, which is the enlarged school.

As no pupils are being displaced and no additional pupils added, it is not expected that the proposal will have a negative impact upon any local schools.

### The Process

The following timescale will be adopted for the process of amalgamating the two schools and implementing the new primary school.

Stage	Description	Timescale
	Pre-publication Consultation	20 January- 17 February 2020
Stage 1	Publication (Statutory proposal/notice)	6 March 2020
Stage 2	Representation (formal consultation)	4 weeks following the date of the statutory notice publication (6 March- 3 April 2020)
Stage 3	Decision	End of April 2020
Stage 4	Implementation	September 2020

### The next stage

This is an opportunity to express your views and ask questions regarding the proposal to **amalgamate St Ursula's Catholic Infant and St Ursula's Catholic Junior schools** during the pre-statutory consultation period.

The pre-statutory consultation period starts on **Monday 20 January 2020** and will close on **Monday 17 February 2020**.

A Parents' consultation meeting on the proposal will be held at St Ursula's Catholic Junior School on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 from 6:30 – 8:00pm**

All responses will be considered after the consultation ends on **17 February 2020**.

If the Council then decides to proceed to the statutory stage of the process, it will publish a statutory notice and other information on **6 March 2020**, followed by a four week 'representation period' during which there will be a final chance to express views.

Subject to the outcome of the representation period, the Council intends to make a final decision on the proposal by **April 2020** for implementation from **September 2020**

### **Have your say.....**

You can state whether you support this proposed amalgamation or not by completing the consultation response form below or online by clicking on the link below;

<https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/education/st-ursulas-amalgamation>

Further information on the proposed amalgamation including some **frequently asked questions** are also available via the consultation response link above.

Please return your completed response form to either St Ursula's Catholic Infant or Junior school's reception office.

If you have any other questions regarding this proposal, please call Pooneeta Mahadeo; School Organisation Manager on 01708 431092 or email; [pooneeta.mahadeo@havering.gov.uk](mailto:pooneeta.mahadeo@havering.gov.uk)

This consultation document is being sent electronically to all parents/carers, governors, teachers and support staff of St Ursula's Catholic Infant School and St Ursula's Catholic Junior School.

Electronic copies are also being sent to all the borough schools/academies including special schools, teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at the school, ward members, MPs, Church Dioceses, all primary schools governing boards/academy trusts, all early years' providers, community groups, other local authorities, trade unions and professional associations.

A hard copy of this document and/or information in different format/language can also be made available on request by contacting Ada Egot on 01708433841 or email [ada.egot@havering.gov.uk](mailto:ada.egot@havering.gov.uk).

**Proposed amalgamation of St Ursula's Catholic Infant and St Ursula's Catholic Junior schools**

**Consultation Response Form**

**Are you?** (tick as appropriate)

A Parent of a pupil at St Ursula's Catholic Infant school  A Parent of a pupil at St Ursula's Catholic Junior school  A Parent of a pupil at another school in the area   
Teacher/other staff at St Ursula's Catholic Infant school  Teacher/other staff at St Ursula's Catholic Junior school  Governor at St Ursula's Catholic Infant & Junior schools  Board member of an academy trust or Governor at another school   
Early years provider  Local resident  Teacher/other staff in another school   
Other  - please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Do you support the proposal to amalgamate St. Ursula's Catholic Infant and St Ursula's Catholic Junior schools?**

Yes  No  (tick as appropriate)

**2. I support the proposal to amalgamate St. Ursula's Catholic Infant and St Ursula's Catholic Junior schools for the following reason(s)**

**3. I do not support the proposal to amalgamate St. Ursula's Catholic Infant and St Ursula's Catholic Junior schools for the following reason(s)**

**Do you have any other comments in respect of this proposed amalgamation?**