



To: Parents, Staff & Governors of Fort Hill Community School & Cranbourne Business & Enterprise College

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My reference

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E-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk

Dear Consultee,

Amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College, Basingstoke including the Fort Hill Special Educational Needs resourced provision.

At the request of the governing body of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College (CBEC), Hampshire County Council is undertaking a consultation on a proposal to amalgamate the two schools including the Fort Hill Special Educational Needs (SEN) resourced provision.

This would be achieved through the closure of Fort Hill Community School and setting up of the amalgamated school on the CBEC site. The schools are currently federated under the leadership of one governing body.

Why is amalgamation being considered?

In recent years Fort Hill Community School has seen a substantial decline in pupil numbers. This decline has had a significant impact on the school's budget which is directly linked to the number of pupils it has on roll. Low numbers, when combined with a reduced budget, limits a school's ability to provide an appropriately broad curriculum and extra curricular offer. For 2017, 39 current year 6 pupils have identified the school as their first preference, this is against a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 145.

Using the Department for Education's preferred school performance measures it can be demonstrated that pupil achievement at Fort Hill needs improvement. The school is due to be inspected later this academic year and it is the view of Hampshire County Council's School Improvement Team that it is unlikely to secure a good judgement.

The governing body of the federated schools has met to discuss the situation with County Council officers. They feel that to ensure pupils in the area can attend a strong and stable educational provision, amalgamating Fort Hill with Cranbourne, on the Cranbourne site, is the best way forward for both schools.

Director of Children's Services
Steve Crocker

The Consultation

The consultation has opened today (19 January) and will run until 2 March 2017.

Officers will collate the responses and take a report on the outcomes of the consultation to the Executive Member for Education. If it is concluded that the amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College should proceed, a statutory notice setting out this intention will be published. A notice will also be published relating to the closure and re-provision of the Special Educational Needs provision.

Should notices be published there will be a four week period during which representations can be made. Any representations will then be taken into consideration before the County Council finally decides whether or not to proceed with the amalgamation of Fort Hill and Cranbourne schools. If it is agreed, the anticipated implementation date would be 1 September 2017.

How can my views be made?

Further information, together with frequently asked questions, and a consultation response form can be found on the County Council's consultation website:

<http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx>

Additionally, consultation drop-in sessions have been arranged as follows:-

Wednesday 8 February 2017 at Fort Hill Community School 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Thursday 9 February 2017 at Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Wednesday 15 February 2017 at Westside Community Centre 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Hampshire County Council officers will be available to discuss the proposals, answer questions and receive comments at these meetings.

If you are unable to attend one of these sessions or access the consultation online and wish to make a comment, please write to Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, Elizabeth II Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by 2 March 2017.

Yours sincerely



**Glenn Parkinson
Strategic Development Officer
Children's Services Department**