

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL DECISIONS**

**DATE: 10 NOVEMBER 2020**



**LEAD OFFICER: LIZ MILLS, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE**

**SUBJECT: STATUTORY NOTICES TO CREATE A NEW SCHOOL AMALGAMATING CHRIST CHURCH C OF E INFANT SCHOOL AND ENGLEFIELD GREEN INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERIES**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

In partnership, Surrey County Council, the Guildford Diocesan Board of Education and the Governing Bodies of Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries, published statutory notices to open a new school by amalgamating the two schools into a single institution from September 2021. It is proposed that the new school would be a voluntary aided Church of England school and would be situated on the existing site of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries.

In order to amalgamate Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries:

1. Surrey County Council and the governing body of Christ Church C of E Infant School are proposing the closure of Christ Church C of E Infant School
2. Surrey County Council and the governing body of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries are proposing the closure of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries
3. The Diocese of Guildford is proposing the opening of a new voluntary aided school and nursery with Church of England character under section 11 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 on the site of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries

The Leader of the Council is asked to review the summary of the evidence in the report and the consultation analysis and decide whether to determine the statutory notices

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that:

1. The Leader of the Council determines the statutory notices.
2. If approved that work commences to close the existing infant schools on 31 August 2021 and open the new school on 1 September 2021.

## **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Both Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries have experienced a decline in admissions in recent years. This has meant there has been a surplus of places and the school budget has reduced as school budgets are based on the number of pupils on roll, in the schools. Forecasts are showing that whilst pupil numbers are expected to increase in more urban parts of Runnymede, they are not expected to increase in Virginia Water and Englefield Green.

The new infant school would work closely with the local junior school, St Jude's C of E Junior School, with potential for a more formal partnership in the future.

The three schools share similar values and educational expectations, having worked closely for a number of years as part of a wider informal collaborative partnership of Church of England schools and schools affiliated with the diocese. Each school is rated 'Good' by Ofsted. By amalgamating the two infant schools, opportunities for further joint working with St Jude's Junior School are offered in a more cost effective and strategic manner than at present with two separate infant schools. This will, in turn, make the school more sustainable in the long-term.

The educational vision of the new school is to build an outstanding school that meets the needs of children aged two to seven years in the community it serves.

This proposal is supported by the governors of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries, Christ Church C of E Infant School and St Jude's C of E Junior School. The result of the amalgamation and continued collaboration with St Jude's will be that there will be provision for 60 places for children in newly amalgamated infant school in Englefield Green from reception to year two matching the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 year 3 places at St Jude's Junior School.

## **DETAILS:**

### **Background**

1. The schools are currently two distinct institutions:
  - Christ Church C of E Infant School admits up to 30 places into reception year, also known as one form of entry (1FE) and this gives an overall capacity of 90 places.  
The school is a voluntary aided school which means it operates fully within the maintained education sector and has a Church of England foundation. Revenue funding comes from the local authority (LA), Surrey County Council in line with legislation. Capital funding is administered by Guildford Diocese. The school must comply fully with the DfE's School Admissions Code and is its own admission authority.
  - Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries admits up to 60 places into reception year, also known as two forms of entry (2FE) and this gives an overall capacity of 180 places.  
The school is a community school and maintained by Surrey County Council. The LA decides the admissions criteria and offers places to

pupils. Revenue funding comes from the local authority (LA), Surrey County Council in line with legislation. The school also has a nursery provision onsite offering up to 80 places.

2. The leaders from the two schools have worked closely for several years, along with leaders from the local junior school St Jude's C of E Junior School and share similar values and educational expectations. Each school is rated 'Good' by Ofsted.
3. The informal consultation proposed that the new school would open in September 2020. Due to the impact of restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 the statutory notices were paused in March 2020. The statutory notices were published from 14 September to 12 October with 1 Sept 2021 as the proposed opening date for the new school.
4. Michelle McNamee, Headteacher, Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries and Vicki Chiverton, Headteacher, St Jude's Junior School were appointed as Joint Headteachers at Christ Church C of E Infant School for the school year 2020/21. This has strengthened the partnership between the three schools.

### **Proposal**

5. In partnership, Surrey County Council with the Guildford Diocesan Board of Education and the Governing Bodies of Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries, is proposing to amalgamate the two schools into a single institution from September 2021. It is proposed that the new school would be a Church of England voluntary aided school and would be situated on the existing site of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries.
6. In order to amalgamate Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries:
  - i. Surrey County Council and the governing body of Christ Church C of E Infant School are proposing the closure of Christ Church C of E Infant School
  - ii. Surrey County Council and the governing body of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries are proposing the closure of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries
  - iii. The Diocese of Guildford is proposing the opening of a new voluntary aided school with Church of England character under section 11 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 on the site of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries
7. It is proposed that the nursery provision currently offered by Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries remains unchanged and will be managed in the same way by the new school. There will be no reduction in current provision

### **Reasons for the proposal**

8. The initial proposal was made by the Chairs of Governors of Christ Church C of E Infant School, Englefield Green Infant School and

Nurseries and St Jude's C of E Junior School. The Guildford Diocesan Board of Education and Surrey County Council have supported the schools in shaping a proposal that supports partnership, sustainability and high quality education in the future.

9. Both Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries have experienced a decline in admissions in recent years. This has meant that the school budget has reduced as school budgets are based on the number of pupils in the schools. The schools have introduced mixed age classes to help sustain teaching with a lower number of pupils.
10. The pupil numbers in the autumn term 2019/20 are shown in Table 1. This illustrates that at the time of the informal consultation, surplus places at the schools were high in relation to the capacities at the schools.

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Christ Church Infant School</b>	90	19	23	11	53
<b>Englefield Green Infant School</b>	180	43	37	41	121

11. The pupil numbers in October 2020 are shown in Table 2. This illustrates the current surplus places remain high.

<b>Table 2</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Christ Church Infant School</b>	90	6	24	19	49
<b>Englefield Green Infant School</b>	180	57	44	38	139

12. Projections of future demand for school places show that the surplus of places in both schools is projected to continue if they continue as two separate schools with combined Published Admission Numbers (PAN) of 90.
13. Admission first preferences to the schools are shown in the Table 2. The number of pupils expressing first preferences is low. Across the three years shown in Table 2 there is a general decline in the number of first preferences up to 2019/20. The informal consultation had been published when parents submitted first preferences in 2020 and may have influenced parental preference where there was an increase in first preferences for Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries and a continued decline in first preferences for Christ Church C of E Infant School.

<b>Table 2 – first preferences</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
<b>Christ Church Infant School</b>	12	8	7	4
<b>Englefield Green Infant School</b>	40	38	34	49

(On-time first preferences)

14. This proposal is supported by the governors of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries, Christ Church C of E Infant School and St Jude's C of E Junior School. The two infant schools are currently named feeder schools in St Jude's C of E Junior School's admissions criteria. The result of the amalgamation and continued collaboration with St Jude's will be that there will be provision for 60 places for children in newly amalgamated infant school in Englefield Green from reception to year two matching the 60 places at the local junior school, St Jude's Junior School.
15. The new school will provide:
  - One stable school
  - Greater certainty around the employment of teaching and other support staff and broader staff development opportunities
  - A better curriculum offer for age appropriate classes or groups
  - A sufficient budget to manage the school and provide the necessary resources for teaching and learning, and support the infrastructure of the school
  - Long term viability of the school
16. By amalgamating the two infant schools, opportunities for further joint working with St Jude's C of E Junior School are offered in a more cost effective and strategic manner than at present with two separate schools. This will, in turn, make the school more sustainable in the long-term.
17. Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries has been chosen as the site to locate the new school. The school building is larger and modern, it is easily accessible and needs no further development in order to accommodate the additional pupils.
18. Due to low preferences at Christ Church, pupils in areas of Runnymede (where there have been deficits of places) have been offered places at Christ Church C of E Infant School, when they have not been able to secure a place at any of their preference schools. Less than 10 pupils attending Christ Church C of E Infant School have a post code in the local area of Virginia Water.

### **Reasons for the new school to be a voluntary aided Church of England School**

19. A partnership of Surrey County Council, the Diocese of Guildford and the governing bodies of Christ Church C of E Infant School, Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries and St Jude's C of E Infant School considered different options for amalgamating the two infant schools.
20. It was agreed that a new C of E voluntary aided school would bring the strengths of both infant schools to a new school to support the development of outstanding educational provision and make way for a strong and effective partnership with St Jude's C of E Junior School in the future. The new school will be a Church school which serves the local community, including children and families from the two neighbouring parishes of Englefield Green and Christ Church Virginia Water. The new school will build on the legacy and traditions of the two former schools in a way which will honour the vision, values and character of both schools.

21. An Equality and Impact Assessment has been undertaken throughout the informal consultation and statutory notices. Positive impacts have been identified for families with Christian beliefs who had chosen Christ Church C of E Infant school because it is a church school. Considerations have been taken of negative impacts for families who chose Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries as a community school because they have other religious beliefs or no religious beliefs. However, the school is already affiliated with the Diocese and almost all pupils move on to the local Church of England junior school so the decision is to provide the same offer in year R to 2 as in years 3 to 6.
22. The new school will be a church school for the community and therefore will be inclusive of families of all faiths or with no religious beliefs. The current Englefield Green Infant School admissions policy will not change in the first year of the new school. If changes are made to the admissions criteria in the future this would be subject to a separate consultation and is not part of the current proposal.

### **CONSULTATION:**

#### **Statutory Notices**

23. Statutory notices were published from 14 September to 12 October 2020. A full analysis of responses is published with this report

#### **Key points from the statutory consultation responses**

- 37 people submitted responses to the statutory notices. This is a much lower number than submitted responses during the informal consultation (222)
- The majority of respondents (86%) do not agree with the proposal
- Although 8 respondents disagreed with the new school being a Church of England School, none of these identified as parents or potential parents of a child at the schools and only one was an extended family member
- 35% of respondents raised negative impacts for children and young people including traveling further to school and coping in larger classes or a larger school.
- Only 3 parents from **Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries** responded to the consultation all of whom **agreed** with the proposal
- Only 15 parents from **Christ Church C of E Infant School** responded to the consultation. 90% **disagreed** with the proposal.

#### **Qualitative Responses**

##### **Key themes from the consultation**

24. There were seven key themes that emerged from the consultation response

##### **New school and Implementation**

25. Respondents mentioned hopes and fears for the new school. Some respondents mentioned the larger size of the school and classes (3%) and were concerned about the impacts on pupils from Christ Church.

*“Please also take into consideration that some parents did not want a big school for their children and by putting Englefield Green and Christchurch together you are making a big school.”*

26. Some respondents were concerned about the new school being a church school with some respondents in support of the idea (5%) and some against (22%). It is noted that the 8 respondents who are against the religious designation of the new school live outside of the local area of Virginia Water and Englefield Green and only one stated they are an extended family member of a pupil at the school. There were also 2 (5%) responses tagged as “loss of links to the local church” that were not given the tag of “Church of England character – For” as they do not want the new school to be in Englefield Green.

### **Traffic and Transport**

27. 16% of respondents commented regarding traffic and transport barriers. Some were concerned about the additional traffic in Englefield Green. Some respondents were concerned about additional journey time to the new school, particularly for pupils at Christ Church who already travel from Chertsey to Virginia Water.

*“I am against this proposal, there has been no consideration for the parents that live in Chertsey to travel to Virginia Waters.”*

*“how can you justify making children under the age of 8 travel over 7 miles just to get an education”*

### **Admissions and Place Planning**

28. 8% of respondents commented on admissions and place planning. Some respondents mentioned the need for more school places in Chertsey and waiting lists for places at other schools in the area. One respondent mentioned the struggle in having one child at school in Chertsey and one in Virginia Water, with a move to Englefield Green making this journey harder.

*“Why is it necessary to now close this school which is used as an overflow from Chertsey where they are 3000 new homes being built?! The waitlist for ALL other schools are ridiculous.”*

29. 5% mentioned new housing developments particularly in Longcross and Chertsey. One respondent felt Christ Church C of E Infant School should remain open and then be moved to be nearer to the Longcross development.

### **Loss in closure of Christ Church C of E Infant School**

30. 41% of respondents mentioned loss to Christ Church pupils and families with many parents mentioning positive experiences at the school and expressing worry that this will be lost in a new school.
31. 43% of respondents mentioned loss to the community in Virginia Water, with previous pupils commenting on their positive experience at the school

and some respondents hopeful that their children would attend in the future.

*"I will never forget my experience at the school, it was the best school experience I have ever had."*

32. 5% commented on the loss of links to the local church, Christ Church Virginia Water.
33. 24% of respondents asked what will happen to the site that Christ Church C of E Infant School is currently on. Several respondents were concerned that there were already plans to use the site and were suspicious that financial gain from the site will drive the decision. Some respondents stated that they had heard the site would be transferred to Surrey County Council and did not feel this should happen. Some respondents were worried the site would be sold to developers and wanted the site to either remain an infant school or be used for other educational purposes.

*"This is clearly a property money making exercise, as the site on Virginia water is worth millions"*

### **Positive Impacts**

34. 8% of respondents mentioned positive impacts for children. 8% commented on positive financial impacts mentioning the new school would be a better sustainable offer and 3% mentioned positive impacts of the partnership.

*"The leadership at EGIS is exceptional. The Head is driven, passionate and caring and her deputies are just as accomplished. The children are cared for and protected."*

*"Would be best to have a bigger school with more possibilities and more space for the kids"*

### **Distrust**

35. 22% of respondents felt distrust in the reasons behind the proposal. Some respondents felt that they had not been listened to when they had already disagreed with the proposal during the informal consultation. Some respondents felt that there were plans to sell the site of Christ Church C of E Infant School were driving the decision.

*"SCC have decided to opt for short-term financial gain"*

*"This proposal puts financial gain ahead of the interests of the community and long term planning"*

### **Negative Impacts**

36. 13% of respondents felt there were negative impacts for children and young people in amalgamating the two schools particularly for pupils currently at Christ Church who may need support in transitioning to a larger site and will have a longer journey to school. 6% mentioned

negative impacts for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

*“With all special needs children this is important one big school can be detrimental to their learning and development it can be overwhelming.”*

### **Additional analysis of parent/carers responses at both schools**

#### **Christ Church C of E Infant School**

37. The majority of parent/carers who responded from Christ Church Infant School disagree with the proposal. There were 15 responses and there are currently 49 pupils in the school, 30 in years R and 1 who will be affected by the consultation.
38. The comments left by parents who disagreed (90%) with the proposal mention the value of the current teaching at Christ Church, value of the current site and small school, concerns about transition particularly for pupils with special needs. Also, concerns about increased distance to travel to the new school and particular concerns from families in Chertsey who currently travel 4 miles to Virginia Water, and the journey would increase to 6 or 7 miles.
39. The comments left by parents who agree (10%) with the proposal mentioned the stability in the new school and improved facilities and funding.

#### **Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries**

40. There were 3 responses from parents of pupils at Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries all of whom agree the proposal. There are currently 139 pupils at the school, 101 in years R and 1 who will be affected by the consultation.
41. The comments left by parent/carers who agree (100%) with the proposal mentioned opportunities for the future building on strengths of both schools, positives of becoming a Church of England school, stronger links with St Jude’s Junior School and sustainability for the future. One respondent suggested the new name should be St Jude’s Infant School and the uniform could match St Jude’s Junior School to reduce pressure on parents to buy a new uniform for year 3.

#### **Additional response with business plan**

42. A parent/carers group at Christ Church C of E Infant School has submitted a business plan to run the school over the next three years within budget. The plan sets out to generate £10,000 a year in order to make up the running costs for the school.
43. Initially the idea is to reduce staff hours for admin, clerical and cleaning staff to save £10,000 a year and replace these jobs with volunteers.
44. The group would then consider the following ideas to generate income:

- Onsite Breakfast and After School Club
- Holiday Clubs
- Gardening Club, Allotment and Farm Shop
- Online shopping links such as Amazon who give the school 15% on sales
- Own wine label and landing page with Vinopolis with 10% on sales (we would look to sell this to local restaurants such as The Wine Circle and other independents as well as use them for raffle prizes, wine tasting evenings etc)
- Hire of Hall, Car Park, Trim Trail, Field for sports.
- Host Afternoon Teas in the Hall for local residents and people visiting Virginia Water Lake
- Talks from local Historians, Councillors and other experts

### Informal Consultation

45. An informal consultation ran from 22 January to 26 February 2020. Two public meetings were held one at each of the current infant schools. A full analysis of those responses is published with this report.
46. There was a difference in the views from parents at both the current schools. The majority of parents of pupils at Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries agreed with the proposal (58%), however the majority of parents of pupils at Christ Church C of E Infant School disagreed with the proposal (68%).

### Key points from the informal consultation responses:

- The majority of respondents **did not agree** with the proposal (63%)
- 32% of all responses were from parents of pupils currently at both schools
- The majority of parents of pupils at Christ Church C of E Infant School **disagreed** with the proposal (68%)
- The majority of parents of pupils at Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries **agreed** with the proposal (58%)
- Some respondents commented on the new school being a church school with 29 in support of the idea and 40 against.
- Out of the 70 responses from parents of pupils at both the current schools only 21 made comments in relation to the religious designation of the new school, 16 were for the school being a Church of England school and 5 were against.

<h3>Risk Management and Implications</h3>
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47. The statutory notices have been completed in compliance with the relevant legislation governing such decisions. Therefore, there is no outstanding risk associated with this.
48. There are associated risks whether the decision is taken to proceed with the proposal or halt. Work is being undertaken to mitigate against the risks associated.
49. Statutory notices were initially published in March 2020 but were paused due to the government guidelines for restrictions to reduce the risk of Covid-19. Government guidelines and impacts on Surrey County Council,

the Diocesan Board of Education and schools continues to be monitored throughout this process.

50. Some responses from parents and residents express a lack of trust and concern that the monetary value of the site at Christ Church C of E Infant School is driving the decision. The following section of this report outlines financial and value for money implications. The initial proposal was made by the Chairs of Governors of Christ Church C of E Infant School, Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries and St Jude's C of E Junior School. The Guildford Diocesan Board of Education and Surrey County Council have supported the schools in shaping a proposal that supports partnership and sustainability in the future. The future use of the site at Virginia Water is not part of this proposal and therefore there are no current proposals for the future of the site. Decisions on the future of the site cannot be made until the Leader has decided on the current proposal. Any changes to the use of the site would need to be agreed by the Secretary of State for Education.

#### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

51. This proposal means that the current site of Christ Church C of E Infant School will no longer be required by the new school. There are no current proposals for the future use of the site. The ownership of the building and land is split between owners including the County Council and diocesan site trustees. Any changes to the use of the site would need to be agreed by the Secretary of State for Education.
52. It is proposed that Surrey County Council transfer the building and land of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries to be held in trust by the current trustees of the Christ Church C of E Infant School (who will become the trustees of the new school). The trustees will in return transfer to Surrey County Council their Virginia Water site, subject to valuation advice that the sites are of equal value.
53. There are no identified building requirements on the site at Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries which will become the site of the new school.
54. By amalgamating the two schools and reducing the combined PAN of 90 to 60 it is expected that the new school will run with fewer surplus places and will offer a financially sustainable future based on the running costs of one school on one site for 60 pupils.
55. The revenue budget to fund the additional travel and uniform costs for some children will need to be identified within Council resources as these are not able to be funded with DSG funding.
56. Any additional costs associated with the merger are expected to be contained within existing school or non DSG Council budgets.

#### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

57. Although significant progress has been made over the last twelve months to improve the Council's financial position, the medium-term financial

outlook is uncertain as it is heavily dependent on decisions made by Central Government. With no clarity on these beyond 2020/21, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium-term. As such, the Section 151 Officer supports the proposals within this paper and notes the potential school or non DSG costs which will need to be delivered within existing revenue budgets or factored into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

#### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

58. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on the Council to secure that efficient primary and secondary education is available to meet the needs of the population in its area. In doing so, the Council is required to contribute to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the Council to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in its area.
59. The best value duty is contained in s3 of the Local Government Act 1999 as a result of which the Council is under a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The relevant guidance states that Councils should consider overall value, including economic, environmental and social value when reviewing service provision.
60. The Council owes a fiduciary duty to its Council taxpayers, analogous to that owed by trustees responsible for looking after property belonging to other people. Accordingly, in deciding to spend money a local authority must take account of the interests of Council taxpayers who have contributed to the Council's income and balance those interests against those who benefit from the expenditure. It will also need to act in a prudent way having regard to the short and long term consequences of the decision.
61. In considering this Report, Cabinet must give due regard to the results of the informal consultation and statutory notices as set out in the report attached and the response of the Service to the consultation comments and conscientiously take these matters into account when making its final decision.

#### **Equalities and Diversity**

62. An Equality Impact Assessment completed throughout the informal consultation and statutory notices is submitted with this paper.
63. Positive impacts have been identified for families with Christian beliefs who had chosen Christ Church C of E Infant school because it is a church school. Considerations have been taken of negative impacts for families who chose Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries as a community school because they have other religious beliefs or no religious beliefs.

The school is already affiliated with the diocese and almost all pupils move on to the local Church of England junior school, so the decision is to provide the same offer in year R to 2 as in year 3 – 6.

64. Positive and negative impacts have been identified in terms of travel to the new site for families from Christ Church C of E Infant School. Consideration is being taken on how to reduce negative impacts particularly for low income families.

#### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

65. The needs of Looked After Children affected by the proposal would be prioritised through school admission arrangements whereby Looked After Children are the highest criterion

#### **Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications**

66. Safeguarding vulnerable children is a high priority in Surrey schools. Schools have considerable expertise in safeguarding vulnerable children and adhere to robust procedures. The current schools will continue to apply good practice in the area of safeguarding as will the new school if the statutory notices are determined. Safeguarding is monitored when Ofsted carries out inspections of schools.

#### **Environmental sustainability implications**

67. If the site at Christ Church Infant School were to close, there would be implications on families residing close to the school, or further away from the new site at Englefield Green, travelling further and in turn on carbon emissions. However, some families will have shorter journeys based on their current addresses or having siblings at St Jude's C of E Junior School

#### **Public Health implications**

68. The well-being of children and their families could be affected the additional pressures of needing to change school, transition to a new setting and for some a new site, potential additional costs associated and the impact of additional travel for some

#### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

69. If the Leader of the Council determines the Statutory Notices, the next steps are:
- A project implementation team will be set up to proceed with setting up the new school for Sept 2021, this will include transition plans for pupils and staff.
  - Surrey County Council and the Diocesan Board of Education will support the current schools in preparing for closure on 31 August 2021

- The new voluntary aided Church of England infant school will open on 1 Sept 2021
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**Contact Officer:**

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**Consulted:**

Christ Church C of E Infant School  
Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries  
Governing bodies of both schools  
Diocese of Guildford  
Christ Church Virginia Water  
Parents/carers of pupils attending both schools  
Local residents  
St Jude's C of E Junior School (Headteacher, Governing Body, Parents and Carers)  
Local schools in Runnymede  
Local County Councillors  
Borough Councillors  
Parish Council  
Borough Council  
Julie Iles, Lead Cabinet Member for All Age Learning  
Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council  
Liz Mills, Director for Education Skills and Lifelong Learning  
Jane Winterbone, Assistant Director for Education

**Annexes:**

1. Statutory notices
2. Informal Consultation Analysis Report
3. Statutory Notice Analysis Report
4. Equalities Impact Assessment
5. Letter from Governing Body of Christ Church C of E Infant School
6. Letter from Governing Body of Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries
7. Letter from Governing Body of St Jude's C of E Junior School

**Sources/background papers:**

- The Education Act 1996; the Education Act 2002; the Education Act 2005; the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
  - Consultation document regarding the proposal to open a new school by amalgamating Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries
-