

CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MARCH 2020

CABINET MEMBER FOR ALL-AGE LEARNING

1. PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NEW SCHOOL AMALGAMATING CHRIST CHURCH C OF E INFANT SCHOOL AND ENGLEFIELD GREEN INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERIES

Details of decision

1. The Lead Cabinet Member for All Age Learning approved the publication of statutory notices
2. Following approval, Surrey County Council will publish statutory notices to close Christ Church C of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries at the same time as the Diocese of Guildford publish related statutory notice to open a new voluntary aided infant school on the site at Englefield Green Infant School and Nurseries.

Reasons for decision

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 leaders from all three schools have worked closely for a number of years and share similar values and educational expectations. Each school is rated 'Good' by Ofsted. By amalgamating the two infant schools, opportunities for further joint working 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.

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 PAN of 60 places at St Jude's Junior School from year 3 to year 6.

(Decision taken by the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning – 10 March 2020)

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