

Statutory proposal for the closure of Downs Way School (Community)

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, that Surrey County Council, in cooperation with the Governing Body of St. Mary's C of E Junior School and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, intends to discontinue **Downs Way School**, with effect from 31 August 2018. This proposal is related to the proposal to extend the age range at St. Mary's C of E junior School. The closure of Downs Way School reflects one half of the process of amalgamating the two schools, with the extension of the lower age range of St. Mary's C of E Junior reflecting the other essential step in this respect.

Contact details

Name and address of Local Authority publishing the proposal:

Surrey County Council, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DN

Name, address and category of school proposed to be discontinued:

Downs Way School (Community), Downs Way, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0NZ

Contact details during statutory representation period:

This is a four week consultation, which begins on Wednesday 25 January 2017 and concludes at midday on Wednesday 22 February 2017. Any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending representations to:

Oliver Gill, Surrey County Council, Room 326, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2DN

Email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

Web: www.surreysays.co.uk

Implementation

Date on which it is proposed to close the school:

31 August 2018

Reason for closure

Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Governing Body of St. Mary's C of E Junior School and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, is proposing that Downs Way School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School amalgamate to become one primary school from 1 September 2018, admitting pupils from 4 to 11 years of age. The amalgamated school would have an intake of 60 pupil places in Year R, in line with the intake of Downs Way School.

It is proposed to implement the amalgamation through the closure of Downs Way School and a prescribed alteration to extend the lower age range of St. Mary's C of E Junior School from 7-11 (Junior) to 4-11 (Primary), so that it becomes a Primary School from this date. The schools serve the same geographic area and are on adjacent sites. The proposal will formalise existing partnership working; augment the cohesiveness of the school community; provide for more streamlined transitions between key stages and allow for the most efficient allocation of resources.

All children on roll at either school as of 1 September 2018 will automatically continue to have a place at the amalgamated school.

Pupil numbers and admissions

The numbers for whom provision is currently made at the school:

Downs Way School currently provides for 146 pupils from Year R to Year 2, with capacity for 60 places in each year group. The school is coeducational and does not presently provide dedicated specialist facilities for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Displaced pupils

This proposal forms part of an amalgamation and, as such, no pupils at the school will be displaced. The decision on the closure of Downs Way School will be linked to the decision to extend the lower age range of St. Mary's C of E Junior School. If the latter decision is not approved, this proposed closure will not proceed. Should both proposals be approved by the relevant body, from 1 September 2018, pupils currently at Downs Way School will have places at St. Mary's C of E Junior School, which will have been rebranded as a Primary School by that stage.

Overall, it is proposed that capacity will be enlarged, relative to the current situation. Presently, Downs Way is a 180-place Infant School, providing 60 places per year from Reception to Year 2, and St. Mary's C of E Junior School is a 360-place Junior School, providing 90 places per year from Year 3 to Year 6. The current format of the two schools is shown in the below tables:

Downs Way School:

Year	Capacity
YR	60
Y1	60
Y2	60
Total	180

St. Mary's C of E Junior School:

Year	Capacity
Y3	90
Y4	90
Y5	90
Y6	90
Total	360

Combined Total	540
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These schools will be amalgamated into a new 660-place Primary School, providing 60 places per year from Reception to Year 2 and an additional intake of 60 pupils at Year 3, giving 120 places in total from Year 3 to Year 6. Consequently, there is no scope for pupils to be displaced through these proposals. The final proposed format of the new, amalgamated school is shown in the below table:

New Primary School:

Year	Capacity
YR	60
Y1	60
Y2	60
Y3	120

Y4	120
Y5	120
Y6	120
Total	660

From September 2019, the Year 3 PAN at St. Mary's C of E Junior School will be reduced from four Forms of Entry (120 places) to two Forms of Entry (60 places), to reflect the fact that pupils in Year 2 will automatically transition to Year 3 in the new primary school.

Impact on the community

Downs School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School serve the same geographic area and are adjacent to each other. The proposal will provide certainty of progression to junior phase and offer a cohesive all through primary education. Consequently, it is not anticipated that there will be an adverse impact on the local community.

Travel

Should the proposal to close Downs Way School be approved, this would be related to the decision to extend the lower age range of St. Mary's C of E Junior School and the effective amalgamation of the two schools into a single Primary School. As such, no pupils would be displaced as a function of this closure and there is no anticipated impact on travel patterns.