



# **Pre-publication (Stage One) Consultation: Proposal to amalgamate Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School**

**Cowley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2LX**

**Consultation period:**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## **Introduction**

Hillingdon Council are proposing to undertake a formal consultation on the future of Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School to form a single Primary School. To start this process the local authority is conducting a pre-publication (stage one) consultation (referred to as the consultation) in line with statutory guidance, to gather the views of staff, families, local residents and any other stakeholders.

This is a formal process governed by statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), and it is a technical process. As a result of this we are expected to use a range of technical language which we will look to make accessible to all stakeholders. If you have any queries or questions regarding the language or descriptions within any of our documents, please do not hesitate to contact our team by any of the ways set out in the documentation.

## **What is the proposal?**

The proposal is that Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School are amalgamated to form a single Primary School from 1st September 2026. The newly formed Primary School would continue to use the existing buildings and site as the Infant and Junior schools. The amalgamated school would continue to provide 630 places in Reception to Year 6 (90 per year group) and offer places for children aged from 3 to 11 years old. The consultation will start on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 9:00am and will end on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 5:00pm.

If you would require this document in another language, please contact either Whitehall Infant School, Whitehall Junior School or our team to request this.

## **Why are we proposing the change?**

Hillingdon Council are seeking your views on a proposal to amalgamate (also referred to as merging) Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School.

The headteacher of the Infant School has confirmed her intention to retire at the end of this academic year in August 2026, which means the Infant school meets one of the key triggers outlined in the [Councils Amalgamation Policy](#), representing a good opportunity to bring two good schools together.

The new primary school would be built on a strong foundation, benefiting from the existing strengths and effective practices of both schools, which already collaborate to serve their local community. Over time, this partnership would create further opportunities to enhance whole-school strategies and improve teaching and learning across all key stages.

## **What are some of the advantages of amalgamation?**

The Council see significant advantages in combining the existing schools into a new primary school. Both schools would benefit from working closer together with some of the key benefits to amalgamating Infant and Junior schools including:

- A consistent approach to the ways in which children are taught and supported, recognising the current strengths of both schools.
- Increased opportunities for children in all key stages to come together for pastoral, social and creative activities.
- Consistency of parental involvement throughout the primary phase of education by having the ability to foster longer-term relationships with families within one school;

- Communication between school and parents will be simplified, especially for parents with children in both schools. It would remove any duplication and ensure a joined up approach for events, training and other matters;
- Removes the need for parents to apply for a place at the Junior School as children would automatically continue their education as part of one school.
- Increased career development opportunities for staff through the sharing of a wider range of expertise and the possibility to gain experience and an understanding of all Primary Key Stages.
- Greater opportunity for cost effectiveness through economies of scale e.g. in purchasing, ensuring the best provision possible for the children

### **Will there be any changes to the size of the school and the school buildings?**

No, the size of the school and school buildings will remain exactly the same. The proposed Primary school will have a *published admission number* equal to the sum of the current Infant, Nursery and Junior schools' numbers. Therefore there would be no change to the capacity of the proposed amalgamated Primary school, or the use of the buildings as if the decision were made to proceed.

### **How would an amalgamation be implemented?**

In order to amalgamate the two Whitehall Schools it is proposed to (technically) close one school and expand the age range of the other school. As both schools are community maintained schools, the Local Authority are proposing that Whitehall Infant School will (technically) close, and Whitehall Junior School would expand its age from 3 to 11 year olds. The new school would then be one Primary School. The combined school would retain the same DfE number as the current Junior School.

### **Will the school be renamed Whitehall Primary School if the schools amalgamate?**

If the schools do progress to amalgamation, then the governing body together with the Senior Leadership Team can liaise with staff, parents and carers on a possible new name for the all-through primary school.

### **What would an amalgamated school look like?**

Whitehall Junior School would increase the age range of children it accepts from the current age range to 3 to 11 year olds (from Nursery - Year 6) and would then change its name, to reflect that it educates a wider age range. At the same time Whitehall Infant School would formally (technically) close. The primary school would provide 90 places per year group from Reception to Year 6 and a total of 630 places. All children on roll at the Whitehall Infant School at the point of amalgamation would continue as pupils of the primary school.

### **Admissions**

If the proposal is agreed and both schools amalgamate, the following would apply:

- Children at Whitehall Infant School will automatically be enrolled at the newly amalgamated Primary school.
- Children who have applied for Reception places at Whitehall Infant School for September 2026 would be offered places at the newly formed Primary school through the standard admissions process, using the schools current agreed Admission's Policy.

- Children who have applied to transfer from Whitehall Infant School to Whitehall Junior School for September 2026 will automatically have a place at the Primary School.

## **Will there be any Financial Implications from amalgamation?**

Currently, both Whitehall Infant School to Whitehall Junior School receive separate lump sum allocations. If the proposed amalgamation is approved by Cabinet, the combined primary school will lose one of these “lump sums” (amounting to approximately £159,000) over a two-year period. However, this reduction in funding will be offset by efficiencies gained through economies of scale and reduced staffing costs, particularly due to the planned retirement of the Infant School headteacher at the end of the 2025/26 academic year.

As part of the amalgamation, reviewing how resources are allocated and deployed will help the school offset the impact of losing one lump sum. This process can be supported by using the Gov.uk Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool to compare spending across both schools with similar schools in England, identifying opportunities for greater efficiency.

## **When would an amalgamation happen if it is approved?**

The amalgamated school could be established from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026, which would be subject to the statutory consultation process and approval from Cabinet.

## **Who will be the governors of the primary school?**

If amalgamation does go ahead, the Governing Body of Whitehall Junior School will review its Instrument of Government to ensure it accurately records the term of office for each category of governors needed to support the new school with a balanced and effective governance structure. If vacancies exist for new governors, they would be recruited following the same process that is currently in place. We would expect governors from the existing Infant and Junior school to be involved in this process.

## **The consultation process**

The consultation will start on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 9:00am and will end on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 5:00pm.

The closing date for online responses is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 5:00pm and any hard copies returned by hand or post must be submitted to The London Borough of Hillingdon office by 5:00pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

## **How can I make comments about the proposals?**

Parents, carers, staff, governors and members of the public are invited to share their views by responding to the consultation by any of the following; completing the on-line consultation form, writing directly to the Council, or attending an on-line event during the consultation period as set out below:

- Parents, carers, staff, governors and members of the public are invited to send their comments by replying using the online survey available at [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/have-your-say](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/have-your-say)
- You can also use the response form (or any other written format) at the end of this document to record your views. It can be sent to:

London Borough of Hillingdon  
2W - School Place Planning Team  
Civic Centre, High Street,  
Uxbridge,

or emailed to: [Schoolamalgamations@Hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:Schoolamalgamations@Hillingdon.gov.uk)

If you or anyone you know would like a paper copy of this form or in any other format, please email [schoolamalgamations@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolamalgamations@hillingdon.gov.uk).

If you would require this document in another language, please contact either Whitehall Infant School, Whitehall Junior School or our team to request this.

<b>On-Line drop-in session</b>			
<b>Location</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
Microsoft Teams <a href="#"><u>Join the meeting now</u></a>	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January  12:30pm – 1:30pm (all stakeholders)	On-line - Question and Answer	Drop in Session - Public Meeting
Microsoft Teams <a href="#"><u>Join the meeting now</u></a>	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January  5:00pm – 6:00pm (all stakeholders)	On-line – Question and Answer	Drop in Session – Public Meeting

Comments made at the meetings will be recorded in written format and will contribute to the consultation outcomes. A separate meeting will be arranged for staff members and governors of both Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior Schools only, to discuss any questions they may have. The staff members and governors are also welcome to join any or all of the other meetings as well.

### **How will the decision about the proposed amalgamation and expansion of the schools be made?**

After the consultation is complete, all the responses regardless of whether they are comments in support of the proposal, objections, or other suggestions will be collated and considered by the Council. Officers will have regard to the information and feedback and consider whether to request approval to progress to a statutory proposal being published to amalgamate the two schools. If agreed, this process will then commence with the issuing of a Public Notice and the statutory proposal. The representation period will last for four weeks during which time a formal consultation will take place.

Officers will present the proposal to amalgamate the two school to the Children, Families and Education Select Committee for comments during the consultation process. After the formal consultation has closed, the consultation responses and recommendations will be submitted to Hillingdon Council Cabinet, along with a summary report requesting them to make a final decision on whether the schools should amalgamate and agree the date of when this should happen. If Hillingdon Council Cabinet decides not to accept a recommendation to amalgamate, the schools will continue as separate infant and junior schools.

### **Guidance for the amalgamation process**

The proposal would follow two separate guidance processes: [Opening and closing maintained schools](#) and [Making significant changes \('prescribed alterations'\)](#) to maintained schools.



## INFORMAL CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

### **Proposal to Amalgamate Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School**

The proposal is to bring together Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School to form a single 3 form-entry Primary School from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026. The newly formed Primary School would use the existing buildings and site as the current schools.

We are keen to hear your views about the proposal. and would be grateful if you would spend a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. Responses must be submitted to London Borough of Hillingdon, 2W - School Place Planning Team, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW by **5pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026** and are anonymous.

You can also complete the form online available at [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/have-your-say](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/have-your-say) where responses must be received by

- 1. Do you agree with the proposal to amalgamate Whitehall Infant School and Whitehall Junior School to form a single three-form Primary School?**

Please circle as appropriate

YES / NO / Don't know

- 2. If you agree with the proposal, please say why you think it is a good idea:**

**3. If you disagree with the proposal or 'don't know', please provide details why:**

**4. If you have any other comments, issues or questions, or have any other suggestions, please advise them here.**

The following questions are about you and are optional. Your answers will be kept in strict confidence and not shared with any third party.

**5. Are you completing this questionnaire as (tick or cross next to the relevant answer):**

- A parent/carer/guardian
- A staff member
- A local resident
- Prefer not to say
- Other
- Blank

**6. How many children under the age of 18 live in your household? (a tick or cross next to the relevant answer):**

- None - 1
- 2 - 3
- 4 - 5+

**7. Which school(s) does your child(ren) currently attend?**

- Whitehall Infant School
- Whitehall Junior School
- Other Primary School in Hillingdon
- Other Secondary School in Hillingdon
- Out of borough Primary School
- Out of borough Secondary School
- N/A

**8. If you would like to provide any other comments on the proposal, please put them below.**