

FAQ (for parents) – proposal to merge St Andrew’s CE Infant School and Great Linford Primary School

Proposal

1. What is being proposed?

Milton Keynes City Council, in conjunction with the governing boards of both schools, is considering a merger of St Andrew’s CE Infant School with Great Linford Primary School.

2. Why is this being proposed?

Due to a significant drop in birth rates and a continued decline in pupil numbers, the school is facing a growing budget deficit and is no longer financially sustainable, even within a federation. Given the close proximity and strong existing partnership between St Andrew’s CE Infant School and Great Linford Primary School, there is an opportunity to merge them into a single, sustainable school. This would provide a strengthened, consolidated high-quality education solution for the local community.

3. Why can’t Great Linford Primary School merge with St Andrew’s CE Infant School?

St Andrew’s school site is too small with no playing field facilities and is not suitable for pupils in Year 3 to Year 6. There is sufficient accommodation at the Great Linford Primary School site to accommodate all the children from both schools.

4. Why can’t the schools be merged gradually with children leaving naturally

Gradual merging will make the financial position more challenging as with pupil numbers reducing the school will attract less funding but still have the same operating costs.

Process and Timeline

5. What is happening now?

An eight week consultation was launched on 30 April 2025 to gather opinions on the proposal for St Andrew’s CE Infant School to merge with Great Linford Primary School. The purpose of this consultation is to gather feedback and take into account views on this proposal and the principles of it before a decision is made on whether to proceed.

6. Is this definitely happening?

At this stage, a decision on whether the two schools will merge, has not been made. This is the first stage of five where the council seeks to gather views on the proposal and hold open events to enable stakeholders to find out more.

7. What happens next?

The current consultation, open until 25 June 2025, is the first of five stages. Feedback will be reviewed in July 2025 by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, who will decide whether to move to the next stage.

If approved, official notices will be published in September 2025, followed by another four-week consultation (stages two and three). A final decision could be made in December 2025. If agreed, the merger would likely be completed in time for children returning after the Christmas break (stages four and five).

8. Can't this change be made for September?

Unfortunately, for changes of this kind, the steps and timelines are set by law and must be followed. This means the process cannot be completed any quicker than the timeframes outlined in the consultation document.

9. If the merger goes ahead, what will happen to children that currently attend St Andrew's CE Infant School?

If the merger goes ahead, children currently attending St Andrew's CE Infant School will automatically move to Great Linford Primary School. Parents won't need to fill out any applications

10. What happens to children that have been allocated a place at St Andrew's CE Infant School for September 2025?

Children who have been offered a place at St Andrew's CE Infant School for September 2025 can still start there as planned. A decision about the possible merger won't be made until later in the autumn term of 2025. If the merger goes ahead, the school will work with parents to plan a smooth transition for the children.

If parents are not happy with the place offered at St Andrew's, they can request a change and apply for a different school in Milton Keynes, including Great Linford Primary or any other Village School Federation school.

11. What if I don't want my children to go to Great Linford Primary School?

If this change goes ahead and you do not want your child to attend Great Linford Primary School then parents can make an in-year application as per the normal process to any other school in Milton Keynes. This would include any of the other schools within the Village Schools Federation.

12. My child attends St. Andrew's CE Infant School and currently has an EHCP. If this is progressed with what happens?

If the proposal to merge the two schools goes ahead and the named school on the EHCP is St Andrew's CE Infant School, a minor amendment to change the named school on the plan to Great Linford Primary School would be made.

13. My child attends St Andrew's CE Infant School and is currently being assessed for an EHCP. What will happen now?

The assessment process will continue as planned. If your child is awarded an EHCP, and the plan is finalised ahead of the outcome of this proposal, a minor amendment changing the named school on the plan would be made.

Great Linford Primary School

14. What SEND provision does Great Linford Primary School have?

Great Linford Primary School offers strong support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The school focuses on creating a calm, caring, and inclusive environment where all children feel safe and supported.

For children with higher levels of need, the school has a dedicated area called '**Bluebells**'. This is a teacher-led area with both indoor and outdoor facilities, designed for small group support. Children usually access Bluebells through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or similar assessment. It supports a wide range of learning levels, from below Early Years to Key Stage 2.

You can find more details about the school's SEND support, including their latest SEND information report, on their [website](#).

15. How can I find out more about Great Linford Primary School?

Parents of both schools are welcome to attend the joint parent drop in session at Great Linford Primary School on Monday 16 June 2025 from 4.00pm to 5.00pm. You are also able to engage directly with the Executive Headteacher at Great Linford Primary School using the email address consultations@greatlinfordprimaryschool.co.uk.

St Andrew's Site

16. What will the St Andrew's CE Infant school building be used for if the merger goes ahead?

If the proposal goes ahead, the ambition is to keep using the St Andrew's site for education, such as additional SEND provision. The Diocese owns the building and will make the final decision, but we are working closely with them to explore the options.

Have Your Say

17. What can I do now?

We are keen to hear as many views as possible about this proposal. If you haven't done so already, please go online and complete the [response form here](#) or you can send an email to sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk to tell us what you think. This consultation will end on 25 June 2025.