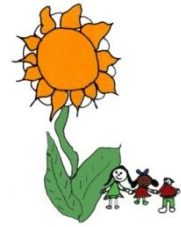




# The Brambles Nursery School & Goldsmith Infant School

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**Dear Parent/Carer, Staff Member and other interested persons,**

## **Consultation on the proposal to close Brambles Nursery School (Maintained) and open Full Day Care**

Following discussions with the Governing Body of Brambles Nursery School and Goldsmith Infant School and after consideration of a range of options, it has been agreed that a consultation be undertaken to consider the following proposal.

### **The Proposal**

The proposal is to close The Brambles Nursery School (Maintained) and for Goldsmith Infant School to operate Full Daycare comprising a 0 – 4 provision alongside the infant school. The ‘new’ Infant School and Nursery will provide 180 infant places and 148 FTE childcare places for 0 – 4 year olds. The proposed ‘new’ Infant School and Nursery would therefore be the same size as the current organisation, maintaining one Governing Body and one Headteacher.

All the pupils attending the two existing schools will automatically transfer to the roll of the ‘new’ Infant School and Nursery, which would operate on the current site of the existing schools.

This means that the two existing schools would close on **31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**, and the ‘new’ Infant School and Nursery would open on the **1<sup>st</sup> April 2017**.

At the point of federation in September 2012 the Governing Body agreed that the new organization would seek a new name to fully reflect our joining together. The time is now right to put this in place. So, alongside the closing of the Nursery School (Maintained) we are intending to rename ourselves **Bramble Infant School and Nursery**. There is an historic precedent as well as geographic reason for choosing this name. Until 1966 Goldsmith Infant School was called Bramble Road Infant School and obviously the school is geographically placed on Bramble Road and like many other local schools our name would again reflect our location.

### **Why close the Nursery School (Maintained) and open Full Daycare?**

The Brambles Nursery School and Goldsmith Infant have ‘formally’ operated as a hard federation since September 2012 under one single governing body and one senior leadership team but with separate budgets and legal identities. The schools share one site and upon the completion of our current building project (Autumn 2016) will also share one building. The time is right for the schools to be officially formalised into one entity. Through this process we are proposing to dissolve the existing ‘stand-alone’ maintained nursery and create Full Daycare attached to the infant school.

The process will ensure the maximisation of the organisation’s growth and sustainability; it will further bring us together to deliver an enhanced and more cohesive service. This process will give a greater sense of unity to both children, parents, staff and the wider community.

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Nursery Tel: (023) 9281 5460 or (023) 9282 8606

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Infant Administration & Finance Officer: Mrs Christine Thomas

Nursery School Office - [ccenquiries@brambles.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:ccenquiries@brambles.portsmouth.sch.uk)

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## **Our Joint Vision ~ Better Together**

***In an ever-changing world our vision is to work with our community to develop our provision in a way that is flexible to meet its evolving needs:***

- Working together to support children on their 0 – 7 journey and beyond
- Nurturing the growth and development of the whole child
- Ensuring excellent teaching and learning and truly effective interventions, removing all barriers to learning

With our children this means laying the foundations for them to:

- Become lifelong learners
- Develop the resilience, resources and reflectiveness they need to enable them to achieve the best they can
- Be confident and self-assured
- Be a good friend and have good friends
- Be aware of themselves; their values, strengths, feelings and choices
- Know they are valued
- Aspire to be themselves and discover the things that fulfil them
- See themselves as part of the community
- Understand how they affect others and are affected by them
- Take responsibility for themselves and their impact on others

With the parents and families of our children this means:

- Welcoming and valuing them
- Joining with them to support children to learn and develop
- Sharing the tools and information families need to enable their children to excel

Whilst both schools have already been working under a joint model of leadership and governance there are many reasons for taking this further step.

### **The Key Benefits of this Proposal will be:**

- Enabling us to continue, consolidate and further develop the successes and benefits we have already seen from federating which include:
  - The benefits of cross phase leadership which have contributed to an upward trend in pupils' attainment and progress over the last few years.
  - The sharing of expertise from the infant school e.g. Early Years Teachers and the early identification of and support for pupils with additional educational needs.
  - The development of a rich curriculum that supports all children throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage.
  - Sharing one agreed vision and set of values to continue to drive up standards and promote continuity and progression of practice.
  - To continue to build upon the access pupils and their families have to both family learning and a developing range of Inclusion Services e.g. the support of our newly introduced Pastoral Support Manager.
- To make the whole organisation more sustainable for the future by:

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- Supporting the recruitment and retention of staff. Our 0-7 provision would give staff greater opportunities to work cross-phase and provide a rich environment for professional development
- To enable the School Governing Body to make efficiencies in the running of the 'new' school, releasing more resources for staff and allowing more teaching and learning resources to be shared across the 'new' Infant School and Nursery.
- The day to day operation of managing one budget will improve financial and all administration duties which will lead to reduced bureaucracy with one single budget instead of 3.
- Reducing the burden or duplicated inspection regimes:
  - There would be one financial audit instead of two
  - There would be two OFSTED inspections instead of the current three (Childcare, Nursery School and Infant School)
- The coming together of the two buildings by the Autumn of 2016 when the building work ends will give us a new school fit for purpose and provide new opportunities which we can make best use of in a completely joined up organisation. For example:
  - Supporting our developing offers to families in our new Community Room
  - Improved classroom spaces, corridors to ease circulation around both school buildings, one large shared staffroom, a larger reception/office space, community room, library and dedicated Early Years outside area.
- Currently, approximately 60% of children within the Nursery School apply for a school place at the Infant School. Whilst parents would still have to follow Local Authority admission procedures for the Infant School we would be able to continue our already excellent transition processes for both children and their parents. For a large majority of children there will be seamless provision on one site from 0 – 7 years old.
- The Headteacher, Nursery Manager and Governing Body have been leading both schools under the hard federation arrangements and would continue to lead and manage the 'new' Infant School and Full Daycare.

We believe therefore that there are significant benefits that this proposal will bring to the whole school community.

### **What will the new Organisation look like to Parents and Children?**

In effect, apart from the new building, outwardly very little will seem to have changed for parents and children but a lot will have changed behind the scenes which will put us in a much better position to improve and grow together over time.

In the background it means the two existing schools will officially close on one day and re-open as the 'new' Bramble Infant School and Nursery on the next. We will of course be talking to you about how to celebrate this new beginning once the consultation is over and we have more details about the precise timings.

### **What Happens Next?**

We are consulting widely from **6<sup>th</sup> June 2016** to hear and collect your views. We will report these to Portsmouth City Council and to the Cabinet Member for Children and Education, who will assess these views and a number of other factors, and decide at a Council Committee (which is open to the public) whether to proceed to the next stage of consultation – this is the 'statutory' consultation and would involve the publication of a 'statutory' notice.

This notice will then be followed by a four-week period to allow comments or objections to be sent to Portsmouth City Council. At the end of this period, Portsmouth City Council will make a final decision.

If the proposals are approved, we will prepare for the closure of the Nursery School (Maintained) to make way for the 'new' Infant School and Nursery .

### **Target Timeline: Expected Key dates in the Decision Making Process**

<b>6<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>	Start of consultation period
<b>1<sup>st</sup> July 2016</b>	Consultation period ends
<b>21<sup>st</sup> July 2016</b>	Report sent to Portsmouth City Council Cabinet Member for Children and Education on the outcome of the consultation and the decision of the Governing Body. The Cabinet Member will carefully consider and review the responses to the consultation before deciding if the proposal should proceed to the next stage and the publication of a statutory notice
<b>5<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b>	If agreed, statutory notices are published
<b>5<sup>th</sup> September - 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016</b>	Statutory consultation period (four weeks)
<b>13<sup>th</sup> October 2016</b>	Report sent to Portsmouth City Council Cabinet Member for Children and Education for a decision on the outcome of the statutory consultation
<b>October 2016</b>	Refer to School Adjudicator if required for final decision
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April 2017</b>	'new' Infant School and Full Daycare would open as Bramble Infant School and Nursery

### How Can You Have Your Say?

We will be holding public drop in meetings where anyone who would like to discuss these proposals would be welcome to attend.

Everyone is welcome to attend at the times set out below. Please come along and ask us any questions you may have about what this means for the schools and the community.

You can also fill in the attached questionnaire, and return it to Portsmouth City Council at the address below, or return completed questionnaires to the school offices at either the Infant or Nursery Schools.

If you prefer, you can ring Portsmouth City Council on 023 9268 8570, and they will note your comments, or email the information to [Chris.Williams@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Williams@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

Meetings will be held as follows:

#### Public drop in meetings:

To be held in Brambles & Goldsmith Hall – on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 3.00pm – 4.00pm

To be held in Brambles & Goldsmith Hall – on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 3.00pm – 4.00pm

#### Staff Meeting:

To be held in Brambles & Goldsmith Hall - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 6.15pm – 7.00pm

Thank you

Mrs Share D'All  
Chair of Governors

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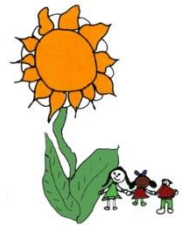
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# The Brambles Nursery School & Goldsmith Infant School



## Response Form

Pre-Statutory Consultation

Proposed closure of Brambles Nursery School (Maintained) and the opening of Full Day Care

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick:

Parent  Governor  Staff  Other (please state)  \_\_\_\_\_

Please state which school:

Infant  Nursery

**Do you support the proposal to close Brambles Nursery School (Maintained) and open Full Daycare**

YES  NO

**Comments (please attach separate sheets of paper if necessary):**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

It is important that you sign and date this form.

**Responses must be received by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.**

**Please return Response Forms either to the School Office, or by post to:**

Chris Williams, Education-Strategic Commissioning, Portsmouth City Council, Floor 2, Core 1, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth. PO1 2EA. Tel No: 023 9268 8570, or email [Chris.Williams@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Williams@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

The information you provide will be used for the analysis of responses received as part of the Pre-Statutory Consultation on the proposal to close Brambles Nursery School and open Full day care provision and for the purpose of compiling recommendations for Portsmouth City Council. Personal information will not be shared with any other sections of the Council.

You can get this Portsmouth City Council information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 9284 1717



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