

Appleshaw St Peter's CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Ian Hickman



Working Together: consultation on the future working relationship between Appleshaw St Peter's CE Primary School and Pippins Pre-School

Dear Parents and stakeholders,

The Governors of Appleshaw St Peter's Church of England Primary School and the Committee of Pippins Pre-School, Appleshaw have had discussions during the past few weeks about how we can work better together in the future.

Both groups think that a closer working relationship in the future would be mutually beneficial for several reasons:

1. Improved outcomes for pupils, both in terms of 'school readiness' and also therefore in rates of progress through Appleshaw School, including improvements to the transition process
2. Increased expertise across both organisations
3. Better opportunities for staff development
4. Improved continuity of leadership and management through a shared governance structure
5. Greater consistency of provision for our families that currently access both organisations
6. An opportunity to explore the feasibility of moving Pippins on to the school site and with it the possibility of being able to offer wrap-around services for school pupils
7. Greater flexibility in the provision offered at Pippins

There are of course important considerations that both organisations will have to think about, especially around the financial situation of both the school and pre-school (both would need to retain their financial independence), staffing, governance structure and so on.

There are two options that we would especially like your thoughts on:

Option 1

Pippins would be run directly under the control of the governing body of the school. Pre-school staff would become employees of the school and the governing body of the school would effectively become the registered provider.

Consideration would need to be given as to how to integrate the over-sight of the quality of provision and financial management of the provision into the work of the governing body. This may be through a dedicated committee or through the existing structures used to monitor and hold leaders to account for educational outcomes and financial management in the school.

The governing body would want to use its skills audit to ensure the governing body had governors with knowledge of early years provision or undertake training to ensure they could acquire it to provide the strategic lead, financial over-sight and accountability for outcomes.



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Option 2

The school would lower its age range and register the children as pupils. Pre-school staff would become employees of the school as in Option 1 and existing structures that are already in place at the school for monitoring quality of provision and financial management would apply.

This is not a unique situation and other pre-schools and schools in Hampshire and across the country have successfully merged their provision to improve sustainability and to improve outcomes for pupils. One such setting that has gone through this process recently is Stockbridge Primary School and Pre-School. You might like to look at their website to get a flavour of their provision: <http://stockbridgeprimary.co.uk/our-pre-school/>

We are very keen to seek the views of parents, staff and the local community in pursuing this venture and invite you to contribute in the following ways:

1. Respond to the attached questionnaire and return it to either the school or pre-school
2. Write a letter outlining your thoughts addressed to Rosie Wilson, Chair of Governors % Appleshaw School or Gemma Coombes, Chair of the Pre-School Committee, % Pippins Pre-School
3. Attend the public meeting on Wednesday 18th April at 7:00pm at Appleshaw School

This public consultation is the next step in the process. The consultation period will start as of the date of this letter and will end on April 28th at midday. After the 28th April members of Appleshaw School's Governing Body and Pippins' Pre-School committee will meet together with Ian Hickman, Headteacher of Appleshaw School and Sharon Palmer, Pre-School Leader, to consider the responses to the consultation and to plan the next steps.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Rosie Wilson, Chair of Governors, Appleshaw St Peter's CE Primary School
Gemma Coombes, Chair of the Pippins Pre-School Committee