

Appleshaw St Peter's CE Primary School

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

Frequently Asked Questions

When will it happen? Is it planned for Sept?

There is no set timetable for the merger. It will depend on a number of factors, not least consultations with staff, the Local Authority and the Diocese of Winchester. However, if feedback from the consultation is positive, then September would be a good target to aim for.

Will Pippins move up to the school site? When?

Currently there is no capacity on the school site for Pippins to move. In the future, if sufficient funding were found, then it would make sense for Pippins to be on the same site.

What about parking at the school with all the extra parents?

If Pippins does end up moving to the school site, then the Governors would work with parents to find suitable ways of managing the extra traffic.

Will Pippins still run at the same times?

That would be a matter for the Governing Body, but Pippins would only be looking to increase the number of sessions available to parents. Session timings would be set to best meet the needs of parents and children.

Will Pippins capacity stay the same or will it take more pupils?

It is in the best interests of Pippins that sessions are full and that there is a waiting list for new pupils. Early Years settings are subject to strict rules around adult:child ratios and so pupil numbers would always need to be what's called 'in ratio', i.e. the setting has enough adults to safely care for the number attending that session.

Will the Pippins fees stay the same?

The future determination of fees for attending Pippins would be determined by the Governing Body and would need to ensure that the setting is sustainable and able to offer the highest level of care, support and teaching possible.

Why can't we leave things as they are?

Currently Pippins is run through a committee. The make-up of that committee undergoes regular change (sometimes annual change) which makes running the setting very challenging. Finding people willing and



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able to take on the responsibility is increasingly hard and so we see this merger of providing Pippins with security and sustainability of management, leadership and governance going forward.

Will Mr Hickman be in charge of Pippins?

The Governing Body of Appleshaw School, probably through establishing a special sub-committee in the short to medium term would in effect become responsible for leading the strategic development of Pippins, but yes, Mr Hickman would take on the day-to-day leadership and management of Pippins, delegating many responsibilities to the current manager.

How will it affect Appleshaw St Peters?

In the short term there would be little noticeable change to parents and pupils at Appleshaw St Peter's. Most things will continue as before and it will be 'business as normal'. There will be certainly changes to how staff work and how they are line managed and we would hope that all staff (and therefore pupils) will improve their practice as a result of working more closely together.

What will be the interaction between the pre-school and the primary school?

Over time both settings will look to work together more closely. Inevitable, this process will start with the younger children and their staff at Appleshaw School finding ways to support each other.

What infrastructure will be used? Who is paying for it?

Both settings will have to retain their financial viability. Neither can be in the position of 'propping up' or subsidising the other. If the funds could be found to move Pippins up to the school site then consideration would need to be given to financing the running costs of the new building.

If I send my child to Pippins does it guarantee them a place at Appleshaw?

There are never any guarantees when it comes to administering school places. Admission to a school is based on a number of factors, which are ranked. The Governing Body may be in a position in the future to change its Admissions Policy to give children attending Pippins an advantage, but would need to give due consideration to a range of need and go through a rigorous consultation process, as is currently the case each year. The admissions policy for admission to school in September 2019 is due for publication in the next few weeks and so the earliest there would be any change is for September 2020 in any case.