



**Merger of Winchcombe Infant and
Winchcombe Junior Schools**

Consultation Document

June 2004

Appendix 11(A)

To: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Dear Colleague

CONSULTATION ON THE MERGER OF WINCHCOMBE INFANT AND WINCHCOMBE JUNIOR SCHOOLS.

The West Berkshire Council wishes to consult on the merger of Winchcombe Infant School and Winchcombe Junior School.

There will be a public consultation meeting on:

Wednesday 7th July 2004
At 7:30pm
Winchcombe Junior School
Maple Crescent, Shaw, Newbury
Berkshire RG14 1LN

to which you are invited.

This booklet is designed to give you background information on the issues raised and you will be able to seek more information at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting or wish to put your comments in writing to John Powell (full details enclosed) you should do so by **Wednesday 18th August 2004.**

I hope you will be able to attend.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Mollie Lock

**Portfolio Member
Children and Young People**

Richard Hubbard

**Corporate Director
Children and Young People**

CONSULTATION ON THE MERGER OF WINCHCOMBE INFANT SCHOOL AND WINCHCOMBE JUNIOR SCHOOL

West Berkshire Council is consulting on the merger of Winchcombe Infant School and Winchcombe Junior School.

A public meeting to discuss this matter will be held at:

**Winchcombe Junior School, Maple Crescent, Shaw,
Newbury Berkshire RG14 1LN**

7:30pm
Wednesday 7th July

Representatives from West Berkshire Council will be present to hear your views. Written responses can be sent to:

John Powell
Service Development Manager (Access)
Education Services
Avonbank House
West Street
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 1BZ
E-Mail: JRPowell@westberks.gov.uk

CURRENT POSITION

West Berkshire needs to reduce the number of surplus places in the primary sector.

Guidance from the Audit Commission indicates that surplus places of between 5% and 10% is the appropriate level to allow for efficient use of resources, whilst also meeting some level of parental preference. In accordance with this, West Berkshire council was given the brief to look at reducing the number of surplus places in West Berkshire. To do this a list of criteria was drawn up for consideration which included: level of surplus places; unit cost; pupil mobility and turbulence; trend in number on roll; rural deprivation and community impact. Following research into these areas, the option of merging Winchcombe Infant School and Winchcombe Junior School seemed to satisfy these criteria.

In analysing this option, West Berkshire Council used information taken from West Berkshire's May 2003 Surplus place return to the DfES. This shows that Winchcombe Nursery and Infant School has 47 surplus places, equivalent to

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26.1% of its capacity. In addition to this, pupil numbers have been falling in recent years and this downward trend is expected to continue. Winchcombe Junior School shows 38 surplus places, 14.9% of its capacity. Like the Infant School, it too has seen a drop in pupil numbers which, given the downward trend at the Infant School, is set to continue.

Therefore it is proposed that Winchcombe Nursery and Infant School and Winchcombe Junior School be merged into a 1.5fe (form of entry) primary school. There would need to be some capital expenditure on whichever of the two sites any new school was to be based yet no transport issues are anticipated with this option.

OPTIONS

The following options are under consideration.

Option 1: The status quo should be maintained, including maintaining the surplus places.

Option 2: Merge Winchcombe Infant School and Winchcombe Junior School to form a new community primary school of 315 pupils.

Option 3: Some other course of action that may be proposed during the consultation period.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

No decisions have been made. West Berkshire Council wishes to consult widely, particularly with parents and members of the public who live in the area and local schools. The consultation process will take place as follows:

1. This paper will be circulated widely. All those interested are invited to comment by Wednesday 18 August 2004 by writing to: John Powell, Service Development Manager, Education Services, Avonbank House, West Street, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1B7 or e-mail: JRPowell@westberks.gov.uk
2. A public meeting to discuss the matter and ask further questions will be held on Wednesday 7th July at Winchcombe Junior School, Maple Crescent, Shaw, Newbury commencing at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

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3. West Berkshire Council will consider the feedback received. If it is decided that a change in provision is required, the Council will publish a statutory notice which provides for an eight week period during which formal objections/comments may be submitted.
4. If, following the responses to statutory notices, it is agreed to go ahead, the School Organisation Committee has the power to make the final decision about the Council's proposals and they will see all responses received, before making their decision. If there are no objections then the Council itself may determine whether or not to implement the proposals.

The School Organisation Committee is independent of West Berkshire Council and it has different interest groups represented upon it in a structure laid down by statute. In West Berkshire there are five groups which are, Local Education Authority elected members, the Church of England Diocese, the Roman Catholic Diocese, the Learning and Skills Council and the Schools' Group (agreed by the West Berkshire Association of Governors).

A summary of consultation process – assuming agreement to each stage

Step One:

Consideration and response to the proposals in this document by attendance at the public meeting on Wednesday 7th July or by written response up to and including Wednesday 18th August 2004.

Step Two:

Report to Council Executive recommending proceeding with option implementation (9th September 2004).

Step Three:

Publication of Statutory Notice which provides for an eight week period for objections/comments (mid September 2004).

Step Four:

Report to the independent Schools Organisation Committee to determine proposals (within one month of step three).

Step Five:

Proposals to be implemented by West Berkshire Council (during 2005).

INDICATIVE PUPIL NUMBERS

Appendix 1 shows an indication of pupil numbers in the primary schools within a two mile radius of the proposed school until 2009.

GOVERNANCE

It would be necessary to appoint a temporary governing body to lead the development of the new school including decisions regarding the appointment of the Headteacher. Those interested in getting involved in this are asked to inform Rosie

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Bass West Berkshire Governor Services. Mrs Bass can be contacted at Avonbank House, on 01635 519739 or email Rbass@westberks.gov.uk.

The governing body would have a constitution which decides its membership depending on a variety of factors including the size of the proposed school but would include potential parents. Experienced governors would be appointed if at all possible.

ADMISSIONS

The new school will start with those pupils already on the roll of the existing Infant and Junior Schools, and will be supplemented with a new cohort of Reception pupils. This would be, in effect, no change for the Infant School but would remove the need to go through an admissions process for parents of Infant pupils expecting to move on to the Junior School. The LEA would ensure that proposals are published in the Parents' Guide for Admissions to give parents advance knowledge along with a new Admissions Number calculated for the new school as a whole.

TRANSPORT

Transport to school would be provided in line with normal policy i.e. to pupils living within designated area living beyond 2 miles in the case of pupils aged under 8 and over 3 miles in the case of pupils aged over 8.

INCLUSION

The school will be designed and organised to support inclusion of pupils of all abilities. The Infant School hosts a 10 place specialist resource for pupils with speech and language difficulties. This is a well established and very successful provision which would be maintained if the outcome of the consultation is the merger of the two schools. In fact, the creation of a primary school may create an opportunity to extend the resource to include Key Stage 2 pupils.

STAFFING

The temporary governing body would appoint a Headteacher designate. One of the first tasks of the Headteacher designate would be to agree an appropriate staffing structure with the governors.

The new school would in the first instance look to appoint staff displaced by the re-organisation to the new structure.

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CAPITAL IMPLICATIONS

Initially, both sites will continue to operate whilst the Council works with the shadow governing body and headteacher designate to determine the building requirements of the new school. Focussing the new school on one site will free resources to enable the creation of extended schools at the heart of the community, delivering services and facilities for community use.

REVENUE IMPLICATIONS

The costs of running the new school would be decided through the funding formula for schools. This is based upon the numbers of pupils, their ages and needs. The budget would be delegated to the governing body.

INDICATIVE TIMESCALE

Circulation of Consultation papers	June 2004
Public Consultation meeting	7 July 2004
Consultation period ends	18 August 2004
Consideration of feedback	August/September 2004
Publication of statutory notices	September 2004
Meeting of School Organisation Committee	December 2004
Implementation of Proposals	September 2005

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APPENDIX 1

Indicative Pupil Numbers – showing schools within 3 miles

(Forecast base date May 2003)

WINCHCOMBE INFANT

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	16	49	39					104
2004	17	51	46					114
2005	16	54	48					118
2006	15	51	51					117
2007	18	48	48					114
2008	18	57	45					120
2009	18	57	54					129

WINCHCOMBE JUNIOR

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003				60	47	44	65	216
2004				42	60	47	44	193
2005				42	44	63	47	196
2006				44	44	46	63	197
2007				47	46	46	46	185
2008				44	49	48	46	187
2009				41	46	51	48	186

DUNSTON PARK INFANT

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	35	46	41					122
2004	49	53	45					147
2005	39	60	52					151
2006	36	60	59					155
2007	39	55	59					153
2008	39	60	54					153
2009	39	60	59					158

ST. MARY'S JUNIOR

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003				38	57	50	59	204
2004				29	37	58	49	173
2005				42	29	38	57	166
2006				49	41	30	37	157
2007				55	48	42	30	175
2008				55	54	49	41	199
2009				51	54	55	48	208

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COLD ASH ST MARK'S

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	28	26	30	24	27	26	23	184
2004	23	28	26	30	27	27	27	188
2005	22	26	28	27	30	27	27	187
2006	20	25	26	28	27	30	27	183
2007	24	23	25	27	28	27	30	184
2008	24	27	23	26	27	28	27	182
2009	24	27	27	24	27	27	28	184

STOCKCROSS

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	16	15	16	18	12	17	10	104
2004	15	16	15	16	17	12	17	108
2005	14	15	16	15	15	17	12	104
2006	15	15	15	16	14	15	17	107
2007	16	15	15	15	15	14	15	105
2008	16	16	15	15	14	15	14	105
2009	16	16	16	15	14	14	15	106

SPURCROFT

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	27	32	23	30	33	35	35	215
2004	27	33	37	28	34	38	40	235
2005	31	33	37	42	32	39	42	254
2006	29	37	37	42	45	37	43	268
2007	31	35	41	42	45	45	41	278
2008	33	36	38	45	45	45	45	287
2009	32	36	37	39	45	45	45	279

ST. FINIAN'S

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	25	30	28	26	23	29	21	182
2004	25	25	30	28	26	22	28	184
2005	25	25	26	30	28	25	21	180
2006	23	25	26	26	30	27	24	181
2007	26	23	26	26	26	29	26	182
2008	26	26	24	26	26	25	28	181
2009	26	26	26	24	26	25	24	177

WHITELANDS PARK

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	48	49	47	49	53	41	56	343
2004	41	54	47	45	49	50	42	328
2005	30	54	52	45	45	47	51	324
2006	26	54	52	50	45	43	48	318
2007	35	54	52	50	50	43	44	328
2008	35	54	52	50	50	48	44	333
2009	35	54	52	50	50	48	49	338

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PARSONS DOWN INFANT

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	46	86	76					208
2004	78	80	86					244
2005	58	80	80					218
2006	55	80	80					215
2007	60	80	80					220
2008	60	80	80					220
2009	60	80	80					220

PARSONS DOWN JUNIOR

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003				85	84	75	107	351
2004				75	85	84	74	318
2005				86	75	85	83	329
2006				79	86	76	84	325
2007				79	79	86	75	319
2008				79	79	80	85	323
2009				79	79	80	79	317

CURRIDGE

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	11	17	18	20	19	15	17	117
2004	15	13	17	18	20	19	14	116
2005	14	15	13	17	18	20	18	115
2006	11	15	15	15	17	18	19	110
2007	14	13	15	15	15	17	17	106
2008	14	15	13	15	15	15	16	103
2009	14	15	15	15	15	15	14	103

ROBERT SANDILANDS

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	26	34	29	31	27	33	30	210
2004	26	30	32	30	31	28	33	210
2005	21	30	28	32	30	31	28	200
2006	19	30	28	29	32	30	31	199
2007	24	29	28	29	30	32	30	202
2008	24	30	27	29	30	30	32	202
2009	24	30	28	28	30	30	30	200

FIR TREE

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	31	18	29	21	21	21	30	171
2004	19	31	17	29	21	19	20	156
2005	17	27	30	17	28	19	19	157
2006	15	27	26	30	17	25	19	159
2007	19	27	26	26	29	15	24	166
2008	19	27	26	26	25	26	15	164
2009	19	27	26	26	25	22	25	170

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GREENHAM COURT

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	28	34	28	29	38	33	39	229
2004	22	46	32	26	27	34	32	219
2005	20	36	43	30	25	24	33	211
2006	19	33	34	40	28	23	23	200
2007	25	31	31	32	37	25	22	203
2008	25	41	29	29	30	33	24	211
2009	25	41	38	27	27	27	32	217

SHAW- CUM- DONNINGTON

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	13	15	13	9	9	12	10	81
2004	11	13	15	13	9	10	12	83
2005	12	11	13	15	13	10	10	84
2006	11	12	11	13	15	13	10	85
2007	13	11	12	11	13	15	13	88
2008	13	13	11	12	11	13	15	88
2009	13	13	13	11	12	11	13	86

SPEENHAMLAND

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	39	42	41	41	37	40	44	284
2004	42	40	42	41	41	38	38	282
2005	33	42	40	42	41	41	37	276
2006	31	40	42	40	42	41	39	275
2007	39	40	40	42	40	42	39	282
2008	39	40	40	40	42	40	40	281
2009	39	40	40	40	40	42	38	279

JOHN RANKIN INFANT

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	57	55	47					159
2004	57	60	60					177
2005	54	60	60					174
2006	52	60	60					172
2007	60	60	60					180
2008	60	60	60					180
2009	60	60	60					180

JOHN RANKIN JUNIOR

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003				60	53	56	70	239
2004				44	60	53	56	213
2005				56	51	60	56	223
2006				56	60	51	60	227
2007				56	60	60	54	230
2008				56	60	60	60	236
2009				56	60	60	60	236

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ST. JOHN'S INFANT

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	27	67	65					159
2004	28	60	67					155
2005	22	60	60					142
2006	21	60	60					141
2007	25	60	60					145
2008	25	60	60					145
2009	25	60	60					145

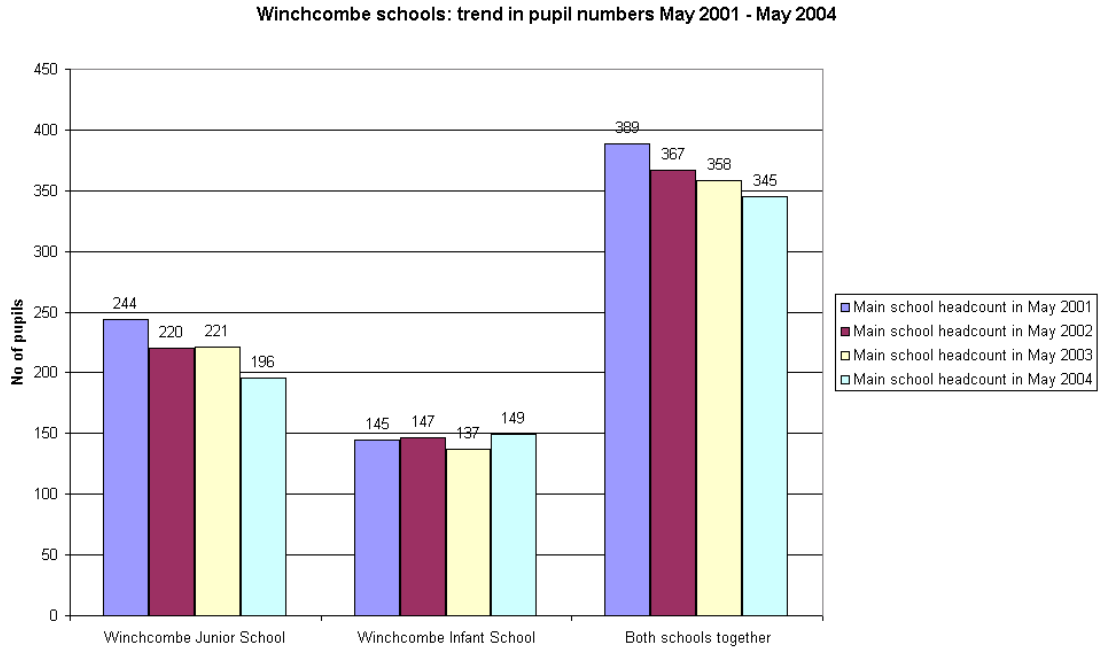
ST. NICOLAS JUNIOR

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003				63	54	63	63	243
2004				65	63	53	63	244
2005				67	65	62	54	248
2006				57	67	64	62	250
2007				57	58	66	64	245
2008				57	58	57	66	238
2009				57	58	57	58	230

FALKLAND

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2003	51	59	58	59	60	63	59	409
2004	51	60	60	60	60	60	63	414
2005	50	60	60	60	60	60	60	410
2006	48	60	60	60	60	60	60	408
2007	57	60	60	60	60	60	60	417
2008	57	60	60	60	60	60	60	417
2009	57	60	60	60	60	60	60	417

**APPENDIX 2
Pupil Numbers Trends**



The capacity of the schools is as follows:

Winchcombe Infant School - 180

Winchcombe Junior School - 255