



**Merger of Calcot Infant and Calcot
Junior Schools**

Consultation Document

June 2004

Appendix 7(a)

To: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Dear Colleague

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

West Berkshire Council wishes to consult on the merger of Calcot Infant School and Calcot Junior School

There will be a public consultation meeting on:
Monday 20th September 2004
At 7:30pm
Calcot Junior School
Curtis Road, Reading
Berkshire RG31 4XG

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 **Friday 15th October 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**

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

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

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

Calcot Junior School, Curtis Road, Calcot, Reading, Berkshire RG31 4XG

7:30pm

Monday 20th September

Representatives of 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 Calcot Infant and Calcot 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 information shows that Calcot Infant School has 62 surplus places, equivalent to 24.5% of its capacity and has shown a decrease in the number on roll in recent years. This downward trend is forecast to continue. In addition, the Junior School has 57 surplus places, 17% of its

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capacity. Like the Infant School, it too has seen a drop in pupil numbers which, given the downward trend at the Infant School, seems certain to continue.

It is therefore proposed to merge Calcot Infant School and Calcot Junior School into one primary school of 2fe (forms of entry). There would be no transport issues associated with this option, as the two schools share the same site and catchment area. There would undoubtedly be a need for some capital expenditure on whichever of the two sites any new school was to be based. However the Council considers this option to best satisfy the criteria outlined earlier.

OPTIONS

The following options are under consideration.

- Option 1:** The status quo should be maintained, including maintaining the surplus places.
- Option 2:** Merge Calcot Infant School and Calcot Junior School to form a new community primary school of 420 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 Thursday 30th September 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 Monday 20th September at Calcot Junior School, Curtis Road, Calcot, Reading commencing at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.
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 a six 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

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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 Monday 20th September or by written response up to and including Friday 15th October 2004.

Step Two:

Report to Council Executive recommending proceeding with option implementation (December 2004).

Step Three:

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

Step Four:

Report to the Independent Schools Organisation Committee to determine proposals (within two months of step three).

Step Five:

Proposals to be implemented by West Berkshire Council (during 2006).

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 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.

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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.

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.

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.

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INDICATIVE TIMESCALE

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Circulation of Consultation papers | June 2004 |
| Public Consultation meeting | 20 th September 2004 |
| Consultation period ends | 15 th October 2004 |
| Consideration of feedback | November 2004 |
| Publication of statutory notices | November 2004 |
| Meeting of School Organisation Committee | February 2005 |
| Implementation of Proposals | During 2006 |

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APPENDIX 1

Indicative Pupil Numbers – showing schools within 3 miles

(Forecast base date May 2003)

CALCOT INFANT

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 32 | 70 | 64 | | | | | 166 |
| 2004 | 30 | 78 | 67 | | | | | 175 |
| 2005 | 31 | 73 | 75 | | | | | 179 |
| 2006 | 38 | 75 | 70 | | | | | 183 |
| 2007 | 38 | 84 | 72 | | | | | 194 |
| 2008 | 38 | 84 | 81 | | | | | 203 |
| 2009 | 38 | 84 | 81 | | | | | 203 |

CALCOT JUNIOR

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | | | | 58 | 61 | 72 | 88 | 279 |
| 2004 | | | | 59 | 57 | 61 | 71 | 248 |
| 2005 | | | | 62 | 58 | 57 | 60 | 237 |
| 2006 | | | | 69 | 60 | 58 | 56 | 243 |
| 2007 | | | | 65 | 67 | 60 | 57 | 249 |
| 2008 | | | | 66 | 63 | 67 | 59 | 255 |
| 2009 | | | | 75 | 64 | 63 | 66 | 268 |

BURGHFIELD ST MARY'S

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 17 | 18 | 133 |
| 2004 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 17 | 134 |
| 2005 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 137 |
| 2006 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 136 |
| 2007 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 136 |
| 2008 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 136 |
| 2009 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 136 |

GARLAND JUNIOR

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | | | | 52 | 63 | 39 | 43 | 197 |
| 2004 | | | | 51 | 53 | 62 | 40 | 206 |
| 2005 | | | | 52 | 52 | 52 | 62 | 218 |
| 2006 | | | | 59 | 53 | 51 | 53 | 216 |
| 2007 | | | | 59 | 60 | 52 | 52 | 223 |
| 2008 | | | | 59 | 60 | 59 | 53 | 231 |
| 2009 | | | | 59 | 60 | 59 | 60 | 238 |

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WESTWOOD FARM INFANT

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 54 | 65 | 61 | | | | | 180 |
| 2004 | 57 | 63 | 65 | | | | | 185 |
| 2005 | 57 | 63 | 63 | | | | | 183 |
| 2006 | 57 | 63 | 63 | | | | | 183 |
| 2007 | 59 | 63 | 63 | | | | | 185 |
| 2008 | 59 | 63 | 63 | | | | | 185 |
| 2009 | 59 | 63 | 63 | | | | | 185 |

WESTWOOD FARM JUNIOR

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | | | | 63 | 50 | 67 | 68 | 248 |
| 2004 | | | | 58 | 63 | 52 | 67 | 240 |
| 2005 | | | | 65 | 58 | 63 | 53 | 239 |
| 2006 | | | | 63 | 65 | 60 | 63 | 251 |
| 2007 | | | | 63 | 63 | 65 | 60 | 251 |
| 2008 | | | | 63 | 63 | 63 | 65 | 254 |
| 2009 | | | | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 252 |

PURLEY INFANT

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 20 | 23 | 15 | | | | | 58 |
| 2004 | 12 | 20 | 22 | | | | | 54 |
| 2005 | 13 | 17 | 19 | | | | | 49 |
| 2006 | 21 | 17 | 16 | | | | | 54 |
| 2007 | 20 | 21 | 16 | | | | | 57 |
| 2008 | 20 | 20 | 20 | | | | | 60 |
| 2009 | 20 | 20 | 19 | | | | | 59 |

PANGBOURNE

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 19 | 39 | 37 | 34 | 43 | 49 | 32 | 253 |
| 2004 | 19 | 38 | 39 | 36 | 34 | 43 | 49 | 258 |
| 2005 | 17 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 35 | 34 | 43 | 243 |
| 2006 | 20 | 36 | 38 | 37 | 37 | 35 | 34 | 237 |
| 2007 | 20 | 38 | 36 | 37 | 36 | 37 | 35 | 239 |
| 2008 | 20 | 38 | 38 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 37 | 240 |
| 2009 | 20 | 38 | 38 | 37 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 240 |

LONG LANE

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 19 | 27 | 27 | 31 | 51 | 48 | 50 | 253 |
| 2004 | 19 | 30 | 29 | 45 | 33 | 51 | 48 | 255 |
| 2005 | 16 | 30 | 30 | 47 | 47 | 33 | 51 | 254 |
| 2006 | 19 | 25 | 30 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 35 | 250 |
| 2007 | 19 | 30 | 27 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 264 |
| 2008 | 19 | 30 | 30 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 267 |
| 2009 | 19 | 30 | 30 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 267 |

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DOWNSWAY

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 25 | 33 | 38 | 26 | 33 | 38 | 29 | 222 |
| 2004 | 30 | 30 | 33 | 38 | 27 | 33 | 37 | 228 |
| 2005 | 24 | 30 | 30 | 33 | 38 | 28 | 32 | 215 |
| 2006 | 24 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 33 | 38 | 27 | 212 |
| 2007 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 33 | 37 | 216 |
| 2008 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 32 | 208 |
| 2009 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 205 |

BIRCH COPSE

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 44 | 49 | 49 | 47 | 40 | 49 | 58 | 336 |
| 2004 | 47 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 48 | 41 | 49 | 332 |
| 2005 | 43 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 44 | 332 |
| 2006 | 42 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 336 |
| 2007 | 45 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 339 |
| 2008 | 45 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 339 |
| 2009 | 45 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 339 |

SPRINGFIELD

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 37 | 47 | 39 | 35 | 42 | 39 | 38 | 277 |
| 2004 | 41 | 40 | 47 | 40 | 36 | 42 | 40 | 286 |
| 2005 | 37 | 41 | 40 | 47 | 40 | 38 | 42 | 285 |
| 2006 | 36 | 40 | 41 | 40 | 47 | 40 | 40 | 284 |
| 2007 | 39 | 40 | 40 | 41 | 40 | 47 | 40 | 287 |
| 2008 | 39 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 41 | 40 | 47 | 287 |
| 2009 | 39 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 41 | 40 | 280 |

ST. PAUL'S

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 52 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 45 | 29 | 28 | 252 |
| 2004 | 39 | 52 | 32 | 36 | 33 | 43 | 30 | 265 |
| 2005 | 36 | 39 | 51 | 34 | 36 | 32 | 43 | 271 |
| 2006 | 37 | 38 | 38 | 51 | 34 | 35 | 33 | 266 |
| 2007 | 39 | 38 | 37 | 38 | 51 | 33 | 36 | 272 |
| 2008 | 39 | 39 | 37 | 38 | 38 | 49 | 34 | 274 |
| 2009 | 39 | 39 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 37 | 49 | 278 |

ENGLEFIELD

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 5 | 15 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 13 | 95 |
| 2004 | 9 | 9 | 15 | 16 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 95 |
| 2005 | 6 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 16 | 15 | 93 |
| 2006 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 11 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 90 |
| 2007 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 11 | 15 | 15 | 89 |
| 2008 | 7 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 15 | 91 |
| 2009 | 7 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 91 |

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KENNET VALLEY

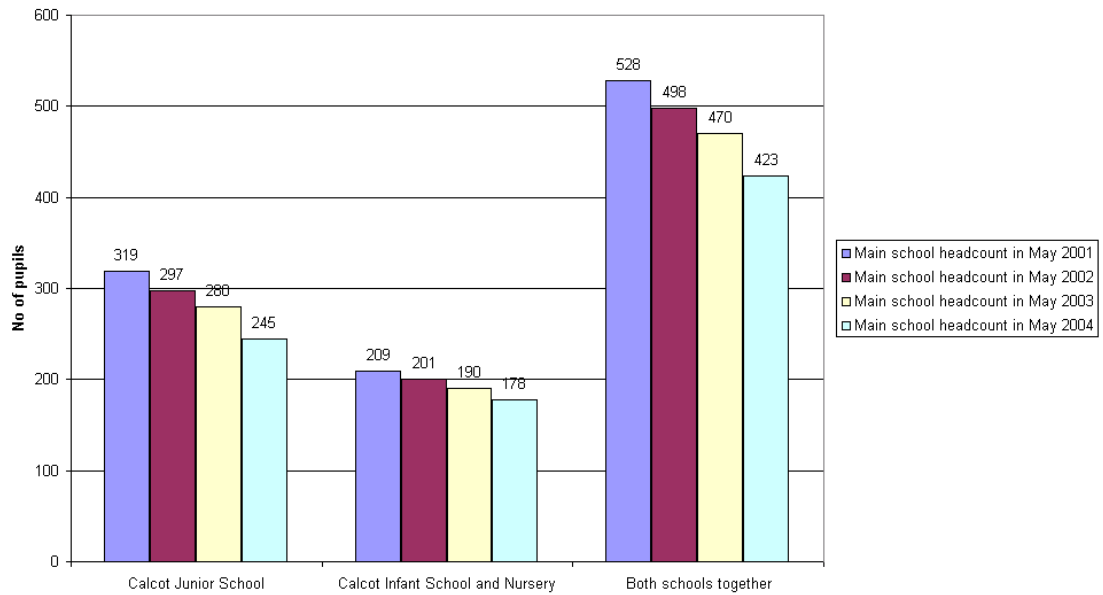
| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 30 | 29 | 26 | 30 | 41 | 33 | 29 | 218 |
| 2004 | 34 | 29 | 29 | 25 | 31 | 40 | 34 | 222 |
| 2005 | 25 | 33 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 30 | 40 | 211 |
| 2006 | 29 | 24 | 33 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 31 | 199 |
| 2007 | 28 | 28 | 24 | 32 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 195 |
| 2008 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 23 | 33 | 28 | 29 | 196 |
| 2009 | 28 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 24 | 32 | 29 | 194 |

THEALE

| | R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2003 | 26 | 29 | 39 | 32 | 37 | 30 | 24 | 217 |
| 2004 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 39 | 32 | 36 | 28 | 221 |
| 2005 | 24 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 39 | 31 | 34 | 218 |
| 2006 | 25 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 38 | 29 | 212 |
| 2007 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 36 | 211 |
| 2008 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 27 | 202 |
| 2009 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 27 | 202 |

APPENDIX 2
Pupil Numbers Trends

Calcot Infant School and Calcot Junior School: trend in pupil numbers May 2001 - May 2004



The capacity of the schools is as follows:

Calcot Infant School - 253

Calcot Junior School - 336