

Appendix 3

Consultation on Draft Proposal to Amalgamate
Mount Pleasant Infant School and Mount Pleasant Junior School

Introduction

This Appendix selects and responds to the main points raised during the consultation, including at the meetings with staff, governors and the community. The minutes of the meetings at each school are also attached to the report as appendices 2a and 2b. The actual responses received are available for inspection in the Members Library and will be available to Members at the Cabinet Meeting on 19 May 2008.

Points Raised and Response by Officers

Ref.	Point Raised	Response
1	The success and effectiveness of both schools must be taken into account.	Yes, this is an important part of the transition process to an all through primary combining the best of both schools, and would lead to improved outcomes and opportunities for all children through sharing of expertise and resources.
2	It will not be beneficial to expand either school.	This view, shared by many respondents, was taken into consideration when formulating the suggested proposal to close both schools and open a new primary school to serve the community.
3	Segregation of the younger children from the older children is important.	Most primary schools segregate pupils by age during active play. Although the policy for a new Mount Pleasant school would be a matter for the new governing body to determine, there is sufficient playground space available for this to be feasible.
4	Why not leave "good" things alone?	Although the existing schools are rated as "good", they are limited to some extent by their relatively small staff cohort, their buildings, and by the fact that the transfer from infant to junior school frequently results in a pause in the progress of individual pupils. The benefits of an all through primary should produce even better outcomes for all the children than maintaining the status quo.
5	As long as the needs of the children are met, there should be no	Yes, the needs of the children will be at the forefront of any changes. Parents have also mentioned the need for a safe environment and a transition that

Ref.	Point Raised	Response
	problem with the amalgamation.	impinges as little as possible on the children and with the minimum delay. We would ensure that these needs are met.
6	Will the new school get a new school building?	Shropshire County Council would work with the temporary Governing Body to put in place a buildings development plan based on the jointly developed vision for the new school. It is likely that this would include remodelling and refurbishing existing buildings, and possibly some new build. However, it is unlikely that a wholly new school would be constructed.
7	What would happen to the existing buildings and land?	Any surplus space in the existing buildings could be considered for community use. There are no plans to develop any of the land currently used by the schools except possibly for school or community use as part of the amalgamation project.