

Proposed Amalgamation of Morehall (Community) Primary School and Harcourt (Foundation) Primary School

1. Why are we consulting you?

We are considering whether Morehall (Community) Primary and Harcourt (Foundation) Primary schools should be amalgamated into a new Community Primary School, with the provision to offer around 420 school places.

We would like to know your views on this proposal. This document sets out the reasons for the proposal and the case for bringing the two schools together. It also explains the consultation process. No decision has yet been made and will not be made until the consultation process is complete and the views of all interested parties have been considered.

The consultation timetable is at the end of this document, which includes when the public meeting will be held.

PLEASE USE THIS CONSULTATION AS A CHANCE TO PUT FORWARD YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL.

2. The Kent Primary Strategy

The Kent Primary Strategy has been developed by a working party of head teachers and officers to address priorities for primary education into the 21st century. It carries 50 key recommendations aimed at shaping the future of primary education across Kent.

In Kent, and across the country, there are many more school places than there are children to fill them. This is a consequence of the fall in the birth rate. A number of the Kent Primary Strategy recommendations address the need to reduce the number of empty places while taking advantage of options to improve children's education and life chances.

Recommendation 27 of the Kent Primary Strategy states that wherever surplus primary capacity is projected to rise above 7% in any cluster area, proposals should be brought forward to reduce it to 5%.

3. Capacity in the Shepway District

In the Shepway district there are 36 Infant, Junior and Primary schools with a combined capacity of 8,990 places.

There are currently 8082 pupils (January 2006) attending these schools giving a surplus capacity of 10.1%. By 2010 it is estimated that the surplus will be 12.4%.

Appendix 1 provides details of the schools in the Shepway District, together with the number of children and places in each of these schools.

Folkestone is home to Shorncliffe Barracks. The existence of a garrison makes forecasting pupil numbers more difficult, however, the housing in the barracks is currently fully occupied. The battalion of Royal Gurkha Riflemen currently stationed at Shorncliffe is due to transfer to Brunei and the battalion stationed there will return to Shorncliffe. It is expected this will, in broad terms, result in a 'one for one' transfer of pupils into and out of local schools. We understand that there will be an increase in the number of Riflemen and their families moving to Kent. Army housing in Dover and Canterbury will accommodate many of these families. Accommodation in the private rental sector is being sought for approximately 200 families, but this might be within a 10-20 mile radius of Folkestone and Dover.

4. What is being Proposed?

It is proposed that Morehall Primary and Harcourt Primary schools should amalgamate to form a new community primary school based in the Morehall school buildings. The school would have capacity to admit about 420 pupils, aged 5 to 11 years, which is considered to be of a sufficient size to meet the needs of the community.

The amalgamation would be achieved by both schools closing and the new primary school opening at the earliest 1 September 2007. We would welcome your views on whether September 2007 or 2008 should be the date for opening the new school.

All children in Morehall Primary and Harcourt Primary Schools will be offered places in the new school.

Amalgamation provides an opportunity to unite the strengths of the two schools into one and so secure a more viable and flexible organisation from which to raise standards further.

There would be a larger team of staff to share experience, expertise, skills and responsibilities, and they would have access to a more flexible range of teaching resources. Opportunities for staff's professional development would also be greater.

5. Why these schools?

Morehall Primary and Harcourt Primary schools are located about half a mile apart from each other. The schools attract pupils from a similar catchment area. In January 2006, Morehall Primary School had 336 pupils on roll, with the capacity to accommodate 406 pupils. Harcourt Primary School had 170 pupils on roll (January 2006), with the capacity to provide 210 pupil places. This means both of these schools had 17% or more surplus capacity.

The combined roll of these two schools (as at January 2006) was 506. In 2008/09 the combined roll of these two schools is expected to be around 400. There is sufficient accommodation in the Morehall school buildings to accommodate this number of pupils.

Table 1 of Appendix 2 sets out the current roll details of the two schools.

It is recognised that the community near to Harcourt Primary School will need access to

a Children's Centre during the next phase of children's centre development. Part or all of the site could be retained for such a Centre.

In February 2005 Morehall School was found to have 'serious weaknesses'. Harcourt Primary School received a 'Notice to Improve' in November 2005. This means that both schools have been under-performing in educational terms.

Pupil attainment in Harcourt School in Key Stage 1 is below the national average and the progress pupils made during their time in Key Stage 2 (value added) was in the bottom 15% nationally (based on 2005 Key Stage 2 SATs results).

At Morehall School, the Key Stage 1 results indicate pupils' attainment levels are marginally above national average. The progress pupils made during Key Stage 2 was in the bottom 30% nationally (although this was a significant improvement on the position in the previous year).

Both schools are working hard, with support from the Local Authority, to bring about the improvement needed. However, the under-performance and significant surplus capacity in these two schools provides the rationale for identifying these schools for amalgamation.

Table 2 of Appendix 2 shows the schools within 3 miles of Harcourt and Morehall Primary schools, together with the current and forecast future demand for school places. This shows that there are 422 surplus places within a two mile radius of these schools. This surplus is forecast to rise to 608 by 2010. Table 3 of Appendix 2 shows the availability of school places within three miles of Harcourt and Morehall assuming all the reorganisation proposals in that area are implemented. The table indicates there would continue to be approximately between 300 and 400 surplus places within one mile of these schools throughout the forecast period.

6. What are the Transport and Road Safety Implications?

There should be no significant transport issues associated with this proposed amalgamation as both schools are located within one mile of each other.

Morehall School is already a two form entry school and this proposal does not seek to extend the size of the new school. The local road network has coped with the pupil and

traffic movement previously when Morehall's roll was approaching full. As the catchment areas of the two schools overlap, pupils are already travelling the local road network. Footpaths exist and there are crossing points on major roads.

7. Consultation Arrangements

If, having read this document, you would like to comment on the proposals, there are several opportunities for doing so:

- Complete and return the Response Form included in this document.
- Write to **David Adams, Area Education Officer (Ashford & Shepway) at Mid Kent Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU**. Please note that in the interests of economy, letters will **not** be acknowledged or responded to **BUT** careful note will be taken of their content.
- **LETTERS / RESPONSE FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 14 JULY 2006**
- Come to the **Public Meeting**, which has been arranged for:

Date: Monday 12 June 2006
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: Morehall Primary School
Chart Road, Folkestone

The meeting will be chaired by a County Councillor. Parents/carers and others will have the opportunity to put forward their views. Officers from the Local Authority will be present to talk about the proposals and to answer questions.

The County Councillor for the area is Mr Robert Bliss. Mr Bliss is recovering from ill health and has asked Mr Roland Tolputt to represent him on this matter. If you wish to discuss this proposal you can contact Mr Tolputt through the County Council's Members Desk on 01622 694434.

8. What happens next?

All of the views received, either in writing or at the public meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board at its meeting on 7 September 2006. Meetings of the School Organisation Advisory Board are open to the public and the press and reports presented to the Board are available on request from:

The County Secretariat
Sessions House
County Hall
MAIDSTONE
Kent
ME14 1XQ
Tel:01622 694269

Appendix 3 sets out the complete process for public consultation and decision making.

The proposals set out in this document are being put forward as a basis for consultation only. It should be emphasised that **NO DECISIONS** have yet been made and none will be made until the consultations have been completed and all local views have been carefully considered.

The County Council's major objective is to ensure that the outcome of this proposal has local support and is in the best educational interests of the children involved.

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS

Dr Ian Craig
Director of Operations
Children Families and Education
Kent County Council

5 June 2006

Shepway Primary Schools 2006

School	PAN 2006/07	Net capacity	2006 roll	Surplus /deficit	% surplus/ deficit
All Souls' CEP School	36	262	280	-18	-6.87%
Bodsham CEP School	7	52	55	-3	-5.77%
Brenzett CEP School	20	140	138	2	1.43%
Brookland CEP School	15	105	93	12	11.43%
Cheriton Primary School	58	406	383	23	5.67%
Dymchurch Primary School	58	351	249	102	29.06%
Elham CEP School	20	131	116	15	11.45%
Folkestone, Christ Church CEP School	60	413	420	-7	-1.69%
Folkestone, St Martin's CEP School	30	205	203	2	0.98%
Folkestone, St Mary's CEP School	60	454	436	18	3.96%
Folkestone, St Peter's CEP School	15	100	103	-3	-3.00%
George Spurgen Community Primary School	58	406	327	79	19.46%
Greatstone Primary School	49	343	348	-5	-1.46%
Harcourt Primary School	30	210	170	40	19.05%
Hawkinge Primary School	47	334	263	71	21.26%
Hythe Community School	56	270	142	128	47.41%
Hythe, St Leonard's CEJ School	56	221	206	15	6.79%
Lydd Primary School	47	329	279	50	15.20%
Lyminge CEP School	30	210	198	12	5.71%
Lympne CEP School	32	220	224	-4	-1.82%
Morehall Primary School	58	406	336	70	17.24%
Mundella Primary School	30	236	209	27	11.44%
Palmarsh Primary School	20	177	130	47	26.55%
Park Farm Primary School	60	420	426	-6	-1.43%
Saltwood CEP School	30	210	221	-11	-5.24%
Sandgate Primary School	60	417	416	1	0.24%
Seabrook CEP School	15	105	99	6	5.71%
Sellindge Primary School	15	105	117	-12	-11.43%
Selsted CEP School	15	105	70	35	33.33%
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Hythe	30	210	202	8	3.81%
St Eanswythe's CEP School	30	191	205	-14	-7.33%
St Nicholas C of E Primary School	60	420	368	52	12.38%
Stella Maris Catholic Primary School	30	196	208	-12	-6.12%
Stelling Minnis CEP School	15	105	91	14	13.33%
Stowting CEP School	15	105	94	11	10.48%
The Churchill School	60	420	257	163	38.81%
Total	1327	8990	8082	908	10.10%
2008 Forecast Roll and Surplus % if no Action Taken	1327	8990	7963	1027	11.42%
2010 Forecast Roll and Surplus % if no Action Taken	1327	8990	7872	1118	12.43%

Table 1: Roll details for Morehall Primary and Harcourt Primary Schools

School Name	Year 6 10+	Year 5 9+	Year 4 8+	Year 3 7+	Year 2 6+	Year 1 5+	Total Year R	Places offered for Year R in September 2006
Harcourt	21	29	30	19	26	24	21	10
Morehall	45	47	59	58	57	29	41	15
Total	66	76	89	77	83	53	62	25

APPENDIX 2

Table 2: Current school roll and capacity for 3 mile radius of Morehall Primary and Harcourt Primary Schools

School name	Distance from Harcourt/Morehall	Type	School capacity (2)	Forecast roll (3)				
				Actual roll	Jan-06	Jan-07	Jan-08	Jan-09
Harcourt PS	Less than 2 Miles	Primary	210	170	-	-	-	-
Morehall PS		Primary	406	336	-	-	-	-
All Souls' CEPS		Primary	262	280	-	-	-	-
Cheriton PS		Primary	406	383	-	-	-	-
Folkestone, St Martin's CEPS		Primary	205	203	-	-	-	-
Sandgate PS		Primary	417	416	-	-	-	-
Park Farm PS		Primary	420	426	-	-	-	-
Stella Maris Catholic PS		Primary	196	208	-	-	-	-
Churchill Primary		Primary	420	257	-	-	-	-
Folkestone Christ Church CEPS		Primary	413	420	-	-	-	-
Folkestone, St Peter's CEPS		Primary	100	103	-	-	-	-
George Spurgen PS		Primary	406	327	-	-	-	-
Hawkinge PS		Primary	334	263	-	-	-	-
Mundella PS		Primary	236	209	-	-	-	-
Seabrook CEPS		Primary	105	99	-	-	-	-
St Eanswythe's CEPS		Primary	191	205	-	-	-	-
Total pupils - within 2 miles		-	4727	4305	4225	4172	4116	4119
Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 2 miles (4)	-	-	422	502	555	611	608	
Folkestone, St Mary's CEPS	Less than 3 miles	Primary	454	436	-	-	-	-
Saltwood CEPS		Primary	210	221	-	-	-	-
St Augustine's Catholic PS		Primary	210	202	-	-	-	-
Total pupils - within 3 miles		-	5601	5164	5080	5030	4975	4981
Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 3 miles (4)		-	-	437	521	571	626	620

Notes:

- (1) Maximum number to be admitted for entry in September 2006
- (2) This is the assessed net capacity of the school
- (3) Forecast roll data is based on projections made in Summer 2005
- (4) A negative number indicates that there may not be sufficient places available to meet demand. A positive number indicates that there may be surplus school places

Table 3: Availability of school places within a 3 mile radius of Morehall and Harcourt Primary Schools assuming all reorganisation proposals in that area are implemented

School name	Distance from Harcourt/Morehall	Type	School capacity (2)	Actual roll	Forecast roll (3)			
				Jan-06	Jan-07	Jan-08	Jan-09	Jan-10
Harcourt and Morehall (amalgamation) (5)	Less than 2 miles	Primary	420	506	-	-	-	-
All Souls' CEPS		Primary	262	280	-	-	-	-
Cheriton PS		Primary	406	383	-	-	-	-
Folkestone, St Martin's CEPS		Primary	205	203	-	-	-	-
Sandgate PS		Primary	417	416	-	-	-	-
Park Farm PS		Primary	420	426	-	-	-	-
Stella Maris Catholic PS		Primary	196	208	-	-	-	-
Churchill Primary		Primary	420	257	-	-	-	-
Folkestone Christ Church CEPS		Primary	413	420	-	-	-	-
Folkestone, St Peter's CEPS		Primary	100	103	-	-	-	-
George Spurgen PS		Primary	406	327	-	-	-	-
Hawkinge PS (6)		Primary	315	263	-	-	-	-
Mundella PS (6)		Primary	210	209	-	-	-	-
Seabrook CEPS		Primary	105	99	-	-	-	-
St Eanswythe's CEPS (6)		Primary	210	205	-	-	-	-
Total pupils - within 2 miles		-	4505	4305	4225	4172	4116	4119
Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 2 miles (4)		-	-	200	280	333	389	386
Folkestone, St Mary's CEPS (6)	Less than 3 miles	Primary	420	436	-	-	-	-
Saltwood CEPS		Primary	210	221	-	-	-	-
St Augustine's Catholic PS		Primary	210	202	-	-	-	-
Total pupils - within 3 miles		-	5345	5164	5080	5030	4975	4981
Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 3 miles (4)	-	-	181	265	315	370	364	

Notes:

- (1) Future planned admission number
- (2) Future net capacity of the school (this may be adjusted as a result of change to the planned admission number)
- (3) Forecast roll data is based on projections made in Summer 2005
- (4) A negative number indicates that there may not be sufficient places available to meet demand. A positive number indicates that there may be surplus school places
- (5) Although the capacity of the new school will be less than the current combined roll, all current pupils will be offered a place at the amalgamated school
- (6) Net capacity will be adjusted to reflect changes to the school's accommodation

Consultation and decision making Timetable

w.c. 5 June 2006	Consultation period begins
12 June 2006	Public meeting in school hall at Morehall Primary School, Chart Road, Folkestone
14 July 2006	Final date for written comments
7 September 2006	*School Organisation Advisory Board
September/October	Cabinet Member Decision
4 October 2006	Public Notice issued
15 November 2006	Closing date for Representation Period
5 December 2006	*Kent School Organisation Committee
September 2007 or September 2008	Implementation

*These meetings are open to the public and will take place at County Hall in Maidstone. Times are available from the Council Secretariat on 01622 694287.

**Proposal to Amalgamate Morehall (Community) Primary
and Harcourt (Foundation) Primary Schools**

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 14 JULY 2006

To: David Adams
Area Education Officer (Ashford and Shepway)
Mid Kent Office, Kroner House
Eurogate Business Park
Ashford
Kent TN24 8XU

Fax: 01233 898500

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal to amalgamate Morehall (Community) Primary and Harcourt (Foundation) Primary Schools

Yes

No

If yes, should the proposal be implemented for September 2007

September 2008

I am:-

The parent of a child at the school

Morehall Primary School
Harcourt Primary School

The parent of a child at another school

A member of staff at the school

Morehall Primary School
Harcourt Primary School

A member of staff at another school

A governor of the school

Morehall Primary School
Harcourt Primary School

A governor at another school

Other interested party

Name of other school or interested party

My comments are as follows:
