

## **Report on the amalgamation of Our Lady's and English Martyrs' RC Primary Schools**

### **Summary**

1. This report seeks approval for the amalgamation of Our Lady's and English Martyrs' RC Primary Schools proposed by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough.

### **Background**

2. The two schools formed a hard federation in September 2006, following extensive consultation with staff, parents, parishes, the diocese and the wider community. Explicit in the federation agreement was the aspiration that the schools would go forward to amalgamation when funding became available to provide a new building capable of accommodating an amalgamated school.
3. The Primary Strategy for Change, which was widely consulted on across the city, gave the first priority to federations formed with a view to amalgamation. The approval of the Strategy released Primary Capital Programme funding, enabling the amalgamation proposal to move ahead.
4. Details of the proposal as required under The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 are attached at Annex 1.
5. The Secretary of State granted this proposal an exemption from competition on 16 December 2009.

### **Analysis**

6. Regulations require a notice of the proposal to be published and a formal 6-week consultation period to be opened from the date of publication. The notice was published on 28 May 2010 and closes on 9 July 2010.
7. All of the evidence supporting the information put forward to support the proposal is held at the Curial Office of the Diocese and available there for any interested party to examine and make representations. At the time of publication, no representation had been received, but should any be

received prior to the close of the notice period, they will be tabled at the meeting.

8. Officers have examined the evidence in support of the proposal and found it to be complete and satisfactory.

### **Corporate Objectives**

9. The proposals support the Learning City agenda, in providing a new build school fit to deliver education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The proposals also support the Sustainability City agenda by centralising two schools on one site and the efficiency savings that it will bring, for example in terms of energy consumption and the inevitable travel between the two sites that is currently required.

### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

10. There are revenue economies from moving to one school rather than two. Whilst this will be at least modest initially as the new school will fully accommodate all pupils from both existing schools, it is to be planned that the new building will be more energy efficient and require less maintenance than the two existing buildings.

#### **Human Resources**

11. There are no known HR implications. All current staff employed at the two schools will transfer to the new school.

#### **Equalities**

12. There are no known equalities implications.

#### **Legal**

13. Statutory requirements relating to this proposal have been fulfilled.

#### **Crime and Disorder**

14. There are no known crime and disorder implications. The design proposal has achieved "Secure by Design" status.

#### **Information Technology (IT)**

15. The new school will provide teaching staff and pupils access to the latest accessible IT facilities.

#### **Property**

16. The property implications are covered in the core sections of the report.

## Risk Management

17. The risk associated with this proposal is that the Authority is challenged in its decision-making process. In order to mitigate this, officers have examined all of the statutory processes to ensure that all have been fully complied with.

## Recommendations

18. The Executive Member is recommended to approve the amalgamation of Our Lady's and English Martyrs' RC Primary Schools as proposed by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Reason: To enable the Primary Capital Programme to progress.

## Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Pete Dwyer  
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Report Approved



Date 28 June 2010

## Specialist Implications Officer(s) *List information for all*

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### Wards Affected:

Holgate and Westfield

For further information please contact the author of the report

## Background Papers:

The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007

## Annexes:

Annex 1 – Information required to be included in Section 10 and 11 complete Proposals to establish a mainstream school outside of a competition

Annex 2 - Secretary of State's exemption from competition