

What happens next?

This leaflet marks the start of the formal consultation period, during which you are asked to submit your views on the proposals. After the formal consultation, the Local Authority will decide whether to publish the legal Notice setting out the proposals. (subject to the Secretary of State approval as outlined above). The legal Notice will contain the Local Authority's proposal to close St Dominic's Infants and Juniors and the proposal of the Catholic Archdiocese and Anglican Diocese to establish a new joint faith primary in their place. There will be a single legal Notice as the proposals are related, which will be published in the Liverpool Echo and will be posted on the school gates as well as other public places. A copy will also be issued to all other interested parties.

If the decision is made to publish the legal Notice there will be a six week representation period, during which you can submit any further comments or objections about the proposal. The final decision on the proposal will be made by the Local Authority.

The anticipated timeline for this proposal is as follows:

Consultation period	30 Jun - 15 Aug 2008
Publication of Statutory Notice	6 Oct 2008
Representation period for comments/objections	6 Oct - 17 Oct 2008
Decision by	17 Jan 2009
Implementation	1 Sep 2010

You can also get this information in other formats.
Please phone Customer Services on 0151 443 4031.

How do I have my say?

If you are a parent, a member of staff or a member of the governing body at either of the schools, meetings will be held in school on **Thursday 10 July** as follows:

St Dominic's Primary School

Pupil meeting with School Council -

1-1.45pm

Staff meeting -

3.30-4.30pm

Parents' meeting -

2-3pm

Governors meeting -

4.30-5.30pm

River Alt Resource Centre

Community meeting

Tuesday 15th July 5-7pm

The meetings offer the chance to find out more information or ask any questions about the proposals but if you cannot attend the meetings you can submit your views in writing to:

School Organisation, Directorate of Children and Family Services, Education Office, Huyton Hey Road, Huyton, Knowsley, L36 5YH or by email to lynne.bennett@knowsley.gov.uk

For more information contact School Organisation on telephone number 0151 443 3256.

Comments during the formal consultation period must be submitted by 15 August 2008.



Future Schooling in Knowsley: Towards 21st Century Learning Environments

Public Consultation on the Proposed Closure of St Dominic's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools and the establishment of a joint Catholic and Church of England primary school.



What is being proposed?

The proposal is for the closure of St Dominic's Catholic Infant School and St Dominic's Catholic Junior School, Southdean Road, Huyton, L14 8UL with effect from 31 August 2010.

It is proposed that there will be a new build two form entry joint Catholic/Church of England primary school established on the site of the new North Huyton Joint Catholic/Church of England Centre for Learning, as part of the learning and community campus with effect from 1 September 2010.

The school will prioritise places at the new school for Catholic pupils, Church of England pupils and the community. This joint Catholic/Church of England school will be able to offer places to all sectors of the community, and so creates a diverse and inclusive community facility.

If the proposals are agreed, the Directorate of Children and Family Services will arrange for all pupils on roll at St Dominic's Infants and Juniors to be transferred to the new primary school on 1 September 2010. This does not affect the rights of parents/carers to apply for a place at other schools.

Why is it being proposed?

Knowsley has been reviewing school provision within the borough since 2002, when an independent Schools' Commission was established. This was set up to respond to falling pupil numbers across the Borough and the Commission later published a report in March 2003.

The Council, together with the Catholic Archdiocese and Liverpool Diocese, published a Statement of Intent in October 2003, setting out a joint response to the Commission's report. Key stakeholders were given the opportunity to respond to the proposals in the Statement of Intent, which resulted in some changes before the Council published the final Statement of Implementation in October 2004.

In July 2006 Knowsley published Future Schooling in Knowsley: Towards 21st Century Learning Environments 2006 - 2008. This report set out new principles to transform education, increase services for children and families and a focus upon the neighbourhood agenda. The document also included more recommendations for school reorganisation across the Borough in light of continued falling pupil numbers and high surplus places.

The Future Schooling report contained a proposal for St Dominic's Infant and Junior Schools to close when a new joint Catholic/Church of England primary school had been built on the site of the North Huyton Centre for Learning as part of a learning and community campus.

This will result in the closure of St Dominic's Catholic Infant and Junior schools and the establishment of a new two form entry joint Catholic/Church of England and community primary school.

This will be funded in part through the North Huyton New Deal for Communities Regeneration Programme.

A new legal framework for the establishment of new schools

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (the Act), which came into force in 2007, places new duties on Local Authorities to promote high standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote fulfilment of educational potential, and to secure diversity in the provision of schools and increased choice for parents.

The Government is keen to develop a school system which is shaped by parents and the needs of their children. The Act positions Local Authorities as 'commissioners' of school places, championing the needs of pupils and parents. In order to promote this, the Act requires that a competition is held by the Local Authority for the establishment of any new maintained school, in order to encourage a wide range of new and existing promoters in the delivery of education.

Consequently, any organisation that might be interested in setting up and running a school can, as part of a school competition, submit relevant proposals to the Local Authority to run the new school.

When a new school proposal will increase diversity and meet a particular local need, the proposer of that new school can ask for permission from the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families to publish its proposals without a competition being held.

The Catholic Archdiocese and Anglican Diocese have made such an application to the Secretary of State for consent to publish their proposal for a new joint Catholic and Church of England Primary in North Huyton and are confident that their proposals will meet the criteria for approval.

However, if the Secretary of State refuses consent, it will be necessary for the Local Authority to hold a competition to establish the new school and we will need to consult you again.

