



**OUR LADY OF PEACE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
THE WAY FORWARD FOR OUR SCHOOLS**

INFORMAL CONSULTATION

Dear Staff member, Parent, Carer and member of the Community,

In 2012 Our Lady of Peace Parish will be celebrating 50 years of the establishment of a Catholic School in Burnham. The Infant and Nursery School will also be facing a change in Leadership due to the retirement in August 2012 of the current headteacher, Mrs Margaret Dickinson.

Following a meeting initiated by the Diocese the Governors of both schools felt this was an ideal opportunity to review the future structure of the two schools.

The Governors of both schools have met to discuss the way forward for our schools in this time of change and decided unanimously that an Informal Consultation was in the best interests of our Catholic Community.

In recent years we have been fortunate to have two very dedicated headteachers who work in very close partnership enabling both schools to offer an excellent education to its pupils.

As Governing Bodies we also wish to express clearly our Catholic commitment to all those who work in our schools; be assured that any final decision concerning the way forward would have to include the resolve to continue to value our existing staff who have contributed so much to the success of both schools.

Having taken advice from the Diocese, the Local Authority and an Independent Adviser who have had experience of guiding schools through the consultation process, the Governors of both schools have agreed to consult you on the following options:

- A. To maintain the present structure of two separate schools.**
- B. To form a Hard Federation of the two schools.**
- C. To combine both schools into one Primary School.**

Details of how these options would work are outlined in the following document.

We are asking for your view on these options. We hope you will take the time to study them carefully before responding on the attached Form which should be returned to either school marked "Attention Clerk to Governors" by **Thursday 9 February 2012**.

Meetings have been arranged at the **Infant and Nursery School** on the following dates to give you the opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification on points of interest:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • All school staff | Wednesday 1 February at 3.30pm |
| • Parents, Carers, Community | Thursday 2 February at 5.00pm |
| • Parents, Carers, Community | Thursday 2 February at 7.00pm |

The Governing Bodies will seriously consider all responses before deciding which option will best meet the needs of the school community.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Palasz
Chair of Governors
Infant and Nursery School

Mrs M Flannery
Chair of Governors
Junior School



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OPTION A - To maintain the present structure of two separate schools

This decision would allow for the current status to remain. The Infant & Nursery and the Junior Schools would remain separate teaching establishments.



- An advert will be placed for a replacement headteacher for the Infant and Nursery School with 330 pupils on roll.
- The Governing Bodies will not change.
- Budget allocations would remain the same.

Admissions:

- Admission for places at the Nursery will be by application for pupils at Age 3; There are 60 places available in the Nursery.
- Admission to the Infant School will be by application on the Common Application Form as at present – there are 90 places available. Pupils at the Nursery do not have an automatic right to a place in the Infant School.
- Admission to the Junior School will be by application on the Common Application Form as at present – there are 90 places available. Pupils at the Infant and Nursery School do not have an automatic right to a place in the Junior School.

Teaching and Learning:

- Staffing levels will remain the same.
- The curriculum offered and the school facilities will remain the same.



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OPTION B - To form a Hard Federation of the two schools

A Hard Federation involves the two schools coming together with a single governing structure and a shared headteacher. The schools remain separate educational establishments maintaining separate staffing, administration and policies including admissions policies .

Federation of The Two Schools



- The Infant and Nursery and Junior Schools will seek to form a Hard Federation.
- The Federation will have one headteacher leading both Schools.
- The Schools will have one Governing structure.
- Each school will have its own budget allocation but this can be used strategically across the federation.

Admissions:

- Admission for places at the Nursery will be by application for pupils at Age 3; there are 60 places available in the Nursery.
- Admission to the Infant School will be by application on the Common Application Form as at present – there are 90 places available. Pupils at the Nursery do not have an automatic right to a place in the Infant School.
- Admission to the Junior School will be by application on the Common Application Form as at present – there are 90 places available. Pupils at the Infant and Nursery School do not have an automatic right to a place in the Junior School.

Teaching and Learning:

- Staffing levels will remain the same.
- The curriculum offered and the school facilities will remain the same.



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OPTION C - To combine both schools into one Primary School

Combining the schools into one Primary School building on the existing partnership/collaboration that has developed over the past few years.

Combination of the Two Schools

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary & Nursery School

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Infant and Nursery School + Our Lady of Peace Catholic Junior School

Headship



Governance



School



- The Governors of the Infant and Nursery School will propose to the Secretary of State that they merge with the Junior School. The aim will be to provide a through Primary School offering education to pupils from the age of 3 to age 11.
- Two schools will become one Primary School of approximately 690 pupils with one headteacher.
- The school will receive one Budget allocation.
- The school will have one Governing structure.

Admissions:

- Admission for places at the Nursery will be by application for pupils at Age 3; there are 60 places available in the Nursery. Pupils at the Nursery do not have an automatic right to a place in the Primary School.
- Admission arrangements will be one application to the Primary School on the Common Application Form. Once a child has been placed on roll no further application will be necessary.



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Teaching and Learning:

- Staff will have the option to work across the whole of the Primary age range.
- Staffing levels will be maintained.
- The curriculum offered will remain the same.
- The school facilities will be reviewed.



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**INFORMAL CONSULTATION
RESPONSE FORM**

Please indicate your relationship to the school by circling

Member of Staff

Governor

Parent/Carer of child at OLOP Infant and Nursery

Parent/Carer of child at OLOP Junior

Member of OLOP Parish

Employee of the Local Authority

Other (Please state)

Please indicate your preference by circling A, B or C :

- A. To maintain the present structure of two separate schools.**
- B. To form a Hard Federation of the two schools.**
- C. To combine both schools into one Primary School.**

Comment:

Please continue overleaf.....

**RETURN TO THE SCHOOL FOR THE ATTENTION OF
CLERK TO GOVERNORS by Thursday 9 February 2012**