

The Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability should have regard to the following factors before reaching a final decision on the proposal to amalgamate St Thomas a Becket Catholic Infant and Junior Schools.

1	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements	The notice complied with statutory requirements as set out in 3.1 of the report.
2	Are the proposals related to other published proposals	The proposal to amalgamate St Thomas a Becket Catholic Infant School and St Thomas a Becket Catholic Junior School is not related to other published proposals.
3	Was consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices	The governing body undertook a period of consultation between 7 November and 16 December 2016.
4	Have any particular comments or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposals	No comments or objections were received during the representation period.
5	The effect on education standards and diversity of provision	There will be no effect on education standards and diversity of provision. The new primary school would continue to operate on the same site, retaining the existing high standards of Catholicity, teaching, learning and governance.
6	The impact on pupil numbers and admissions	<p>The Governing Body will continue to be the admissions authority. The admission number for the new primary school's reception year intake in the first year in which the proposals are implemented is 60.</p> <p>The primary school's pupil capacity will be 444 which is equivalent to the places currently available at St Thomas a Becket Catholic Infant School and St Thomas a Becket Catholic Junior School. The primary school will operate on the existing school site from 1 September 2017, under a single governing body and headteacher.</p> <p>At the time of the last published school census (October 2016) St Thomas a Becket Catholic Infant School had 209 pupils on roll and St Thomas a Becket Catholic Junior School had 266 pupil on roll.</p> <p>All pupils attending the schools on the day of implementation will automatically be given a place at the new primary school. No pupils will be displaced by the proposal.</p>
7	The impact on staff, parents and carers, other local schools and the local community	<p>Staff and parents and carers would see very little difference between how the infant and junior schools currently work and how a single primary school would operate in the future. The Governing Body is not proposing to build a new school; instead the two existing buildings would continue to be used in the same way with a single headteacher and a single governing body as is now the case.</p> <p>The main difference for parents and carers would be to remove the need for them to apply for a Year 3 place for their child(ren) in the junior school. Instead, once children are admitted to the school in Year R they would have a place at the school until the end of Year 6 when they transfer to secondary school.</p>
8	School travel	There should be no impact on school travel. The Governing Body is not proposing to change the current catchment area boundaries and the Council's transport policy will operate in the same way it does currently.
9	Equalities implications	There are no equalities implications arising from the proposal. The great majority of pupils already transfer from the infant school to the junior school and this would continue in the new primary school without the need for a 7+ admissions exercise.
10	Other factors	On 8 November 2016 St Thomas a Becket Catholic Infant School was inspected by Ofsted and was found to be a good school. On this basis the Governing Body published proposals to close the junior school and alter the age range of the infant school rather than close the infant school and alter the age range of the junior school. This was a change from what was initially consulted on but it does not change the overall objective of the proposal as it is considered a technical change, not a material change.

