



Liverpool
City Council

Consultation on a Proposal to amalgamate Lister Infant and Lister Junior Schools with effect from September 2026



1 The Proposal

The law says that to amalgamate the schools we have to close both schools and open a 'new' school. This means that the two schools would close, and the new school would open the next day.

The council is therefore consulting on a proposal to discontinue Lister Infant School and Lister Junior School on 31 August 2026, and to establish, in the premises of the existing schools, the newly amalgamated primary school for 420 pupils, mainly of the age range 4 – 11 years, with a 60 (full time equivalent) place nursery class and an admission number of 60 with effect from 1 September 2026.

All parents of existing pupils will be offered a place for their child at the newly 'amalgamated' Lister Primary School, but they would, in addition, be free to send their child to any other school with places available.

2 Consultation Meetings

Consultation meetings have been arranged for both schools to take place at Lister Junior School. This will give you an opportunity to have the proposal explained and to hear why it is being made. These meetings are your opportunity, whether you are a parent or carer, a member of staff, or a governor to express your views and any concerns, or to offer alternative ideas. The meetings have been arranged as follows:

Lister Junior School – Monday 13th October 2025
Parents at 2.15 pm
Staff at 3.30 pm
Governors 4.30 pm

3 Background

The Head teacher at the Infant School informed the governing body of her intention to retire with effect from the end of the academic year 2024/25. The current Headteacher of Lister Junior School has now taken on the role of Interim Executive Headteacher across both schools.

The council is committed to explore the amalgamation of infant and junior schools when the occasion occurs. The council seeks the views of stakeholders on a proposal to amalgamate to form a single all-through primary school and that a single school at the heart of the local community would offer a consistent vision and ethos to benefit pupils, staff, parents, and carers.

If the amalgamation happens, the headteacher of the junior school would become the headteacher of the amalgamated primary school.

The council is now consulting members of the school community on that proposal.

4 Benefits of an ‘All Through’ Primary School

There is a strong educational rationale for amalgamating separate infant and junior schools and many such separate schools have now amalgamated successfully. The following have been identified as some of the benefits of amalgamation.

4.1 Benefits for the Children

There would be continuity of education through the creation of one school from 3+ to 11 years of age and benefit the children in the following ways:

- consistency in leadership and management across the phases, meaning the same routines, policies, and practices
- a reduction in the difference between phases creating the environment to support better planning across the whole age range with additional benefits, for example, of enhanced continuity of curriculum methodology and policies

- strengthened tracking of pupil learning and achievement
- ensure there is a reduction in the potential for disruption as children transfer from one school to another at the end of Year 2; parents only need to apply for a place before reception and do not need to apply again
- align school term and holiday dates
- create the climate for a sense of ‘togetherness’ throughout the school community and allow the children to be together, whenever possible, for shared celebrations and services
- give greater opportunities for the academic, social, and moral development of older pupils using cross school projects, for example, working with and for younger children and buddy systems
- enable continuity of education through the creation of one school, from 4 to 11 years with staff being able to know the children in the school for a longer period of time, thus developing deeper knowledge of them - this would in turn, support seamless safeguarding, more informed assessment leading to better progression, better setting of individual targets and better tracking of individual pupils.

4.2 Benefits to the Staff

The larger “pool” of staff should mean:

- cross-phase opportunities for staff, such as shadowing colleagues in other phase, joint planning sessions
- that individual teachers have fewer areas of responsibility, albeit across a wider age range
- enhanced career opportunities for classroom teachers and learning support assistants as there is the possibility of teaching and supporting learning across a wider age range
- enhanced career prospects for senior staff from being a member of the leadership team or headteacher, deputy or assistant headteacher of a primary school

- greater professional interaction as discussions and decisions are informed by inputs from a wider group.

4.3 Benefits to Parents/Carers

- Continuity of education should ensure that parents do not, in most circumstances, have to re-assess their choice of school or get to know another school, its staff and policies only three or four years after their child has started school.
- The relationship between pupils, parents and the school can be built up over a longer period of time; better understanding of the needs of each child.
- Delivering a seamless and supportive transition from infant to junior school for children and their families.
- Both schools would have the same term and holiday dates.

5 Pupil Numbers

The table below shows the number of children, nursery to Year 6, attending both schools in recent years.

Numbers at January Census	2023	2024	2025
Lister Infant school	210	200	200
Lister Junior school	216	237	239
Combined	426	437	439

6 What Happens Next

Feedback from the consultation will be considered by The Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Cabinet Member for Employment, Educational Attainment and Skills. If, after considering the comments received, the decision is taken to continue with the proposals:

- a) Statutory notices proposing the closures of the two existing schools, and the establishment of the new all through primary school, would be posted at the schools and published in the Liverpool Echo.
- b) There would be a period of four weeks, during which people can comment or object.

Following the four-week representation period the proposal will be submitted to the Schools Adjudicator for the final decision. The Office of the Schools Adjudicator is unable to give a firm timeline for taking this decision however, previous decisions have usually taken between four and six weeks.

7 Timetable of Consultation

What happens	When
Consultation	29 September to 14 November 2025
Corporate Director and Cabinet Member consider results of consultation and decide whether to proceed to publish proposals	December 2025
If approved, Statutory Notices published with four-week representation period	5 January 2026 to 30 January 2026
Schools Adjudicator decision	March 2026
If approved, schools will close	August 2026
New school will open	1 September 2026

How to Respond

You can submit views in writing about the proposal to:

**Lister Schools Consultation
School Organisation Team
5th Floor, Cunard Building
Water Street
Liverpool L3 1AH**

or by e-mail to schoolorganisation@liverpool.gov.uk before the close of the consultation.

Any comments received, by letter or e-mail, will be reported to the Corporate Director and Cabinet Member via a Delegated Authority Report when it comes to taking a decision on the proposals.

Council papers are public documents and are posted on the Council website.

Any comments you make, therefore, will be made public, but the papers will be edited before publication, as appropriate, to preserve anonymity in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and to prevent copying of signatures.