

## **Briefing paper for Consultations at Ecclesall Juniors and Clifford Infants**

### **How did we get here?**

Ecclesall Infants is expanding to become a primary school to meet the local population growth seen in recent years. In deciding this, the Council agreed to support governors to look at the best way to move to this model.

Following further discussions across our school communities, governors of all three schools agreed two linked ways of moving forward: (i) moving pupils from the junior to new buildings at Ecclesall Primary in one go in 2018. (ii) Clifford moving to become a primary school incorporating the junior school site.

We collectively believe this is the best way to support all of our children, families, and staff, in moving to this model. It is in line with the overall views we heard from families and will secure strong schools, mutually supported at every stage, and reduces the length of the transition process.

Formally this means amalgamating CIS and EJS through the closure of EJS and the extension of age-range at CIS to become a through primary school. CIS are also looking to include early years provision so would cater for children from 3 to 11.

### **How would it affect different year groups?**

As has been described in previous discussions, under this proposal:

- Y3 to Y5 at EJS in September 2017 would relocate to the new community school in September 2018 to start Y4 to Y6.
- All year groups at CIS in September 2017 would form part of the church primary school – with Y2 moving up to the junior site during the academic year 2018-2019 to start Y3.
- All year groups at EIS in September 2017 would remain at EIS into September 2018 and beyond as part of the through primary school and therefore these proposals do not represent a change.

*\* Parents have the right to apply for a place at another school at any time and this would be subject to normal admissions processes*

### **What are the issues so far?**

These proposals have been subject to much discussion already, so Governors are aware of issues and concerns that have been expressed so far. We are keen to listen to all views through this process, in particular to make sure we do all we can to address these areas – in particular we welcome positive suggestions if there is more we can do.

#### i. Transition from EJS to the new primary school

There have been concerns about another transition, particularly for the Y3 who will have had a transition to the junior school in 2017. Should it be agreed, we would look to make the process of transferring to the new school as simple as possible and there **would not** be a requirement for parents to formally apply.

**All** pupils at the junior school would automatically be allocated a space at the new community primary school.

#### ii. Church-based education

There have been concerns from families who would move from EJS to the primary school about the move from a church school to a Community School. The staff, governors (EIS & EJS) and representatives of the church have established a working group and are developing plans to help address these concerns. There are a number of options being pursued which, if parents and pupils wish, would allow children to undertake additional activities. Links EIS already have with All Saints Church will also remain in place going forward.

#### iii. A growing junior phase for Clifford

Under this proposal the junior phase of Clifford would grow to capacity over 4 years. There have been some questions about the provision for a smaller number of pupils on the site, in terms of buildings and for the year group who are the first to move up and would be the eldest children as they move through to Y6. The leadership team and GB are in the process of developing plans for how the school will work. The steering group is looking at the linking of Ecclesall Primary and the new church school to ensure the children have a wider circle to enhance some activities such as sport.

The Council has committed to the removal of the mobile classrooms and the two governing bodies have started discussions to ensure that any work can be aligned with the future use as part of what would be a shared maintenance plan in the lead up to the handover.