

A statement from the Diocese of Guildford

A response to the decision by Councillor Tim Oliver, Leader of Surrey County Council, to open a New Voluntary-Aided School by Amalgamating Christ Church C Of E Infant School and Englefield Green Infant School And Nurseries

The Diocesan Board of Education welcomes the decision made by Councillor Oliver to open a new Voluntary Aided Church of England school by the amalgamation of Christ Church CE Infants and Englefield Green Infant Community School.

The decision to open a new Voluntary Aided school follows a public consultation and comes after careful consideration and discussion between Surrey County Council, the Diocese of Guildford and the governing bodies of the three schools.

The new Voluntary-Aided school will be an inclusive school with a strong Christian ethos which will offer excellent education for all infant aged children in the local community. The new infant school will feed directly into the local junior school, St Jude's C of E Junior School, with potential for a more formal partnership in the future.

The governing bodies of these two schools have worked hard to develop an exciting vision for the new Church school which will deliver high quality education for children and families in Virginia Water and Englefield Green.

Over the last twelve months the two governing bodies have been exploring the different models of collaboration which will ensure that the new school will be able to offer a high-quality curriculum and excellent infant aged provision.

Diocesan Director of Education, Alex Tear, said:

“Christ Church Infants has a long history and a special place within our family of diocesan schools. The strong link between the school and the local parish church will continue when the new Voluntary-Aided school opens in September 2021 and the local church will continue to work closely with the school through the appointment of governors and support for worship and assemblies.”

The school re-organisation proposals will bring many benefits for children, staff and the local community including greater opportunities for curriculum development, sharing best practice and ensuring that resources can be used more effectively to support teaching and learning.

Bishop +Jo Bailey Wells, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education said:

“The Church of England vision for education is for all schools – hope, wisdom, community and dignity – these are values which nationally, parents recognise as something that they wish their children to experience and learn more about – alongside the excellent quality of education that Church schools provide”

ENDS

Notes for editors

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The Diocese of Guildford oversee and supports 83 Church of England schools across Surrey, Hampshire and Kingston and is committed to ensuring that our schools provide the best possible education for the children and local communities they serve.