

**PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF KINGSMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND
DIOCESAN & PAYNE SMITH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents distributed: 650

Responses received: 19

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers of pupils at Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School	1	2	1	4
Parents/Carers of pupils at Kingsmead Primary School		2	1	3
Governors of Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School	1	1		2
Governors of Kingsmead Primary School				0
Members of staff at Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School	1			1
Members of staff at Kingsmead Primary School	2			2
Interested party	9			9
Total responses received *	13	4	2	19

* Please note: The totals on the bottom line refer to the number of individual responses received. Some of these responses fitted into more than one category and are counted in each category but only once in the total.

A summary of the comments on the proposal received from parents, members of staff and governors at both schools and other interested parties:

- There would be more children in each year group. This would give more opportunities for socialising in peer groups, sharing of ideas and working in groups in lessons
- The new school would need to become a local community hub, where services are focussed, if it is to achieve improved standards for primary school children into the future.
- The merger would need to be very carefully managed to minimise disruption for the pupils, who already find any change extremely difficult, and the integration of the two groups of pupils and parents would need to be very carefully planned.
- This is an exciting proposal and will be great in the long term. The interests of all the children in both schools would need to be kept in the forefront throughout.
- Some parents of both schools have strong emotional concerns which although may be unfounded, are very real to them.
- The children and families of the area deserve maximum benefit from this project. They currently receive great support from the two schools and the other services based on the Kingsmead site, in addition to direct education.
- Concerns that the personalised approach that both small schools effectively foster will be lost.
- The management of the new school needs to be strong with a clear vision of what the school can achieve and how to get there.
- Concerns that one of the schools has very low standards.

An extract from the response received from the Canterbury & District Early Years Project that occupies accommodation on the Kingsmead site:

The Kingsmead accommodation has been extremely important in the work we undertake. The relationship with the school and the families involved with the school has been beneficial to all.

We view the potential amalgamation of the schools as having many positive factors. It will hopefully provide the best quality of education for those children from both schools on a refurbished site which will provide a great learning environment.

We would like to be able to continue to provide programmes and services from this site. We have a history and reputation of providing high quality services and support and of good partnership working with other agencies and organisations.

An extract from the response received from the Minister of Emmanuel Church, Canterbury – a church that rents the Hall at Kingsmead School on Sunday mornings.

We are pleased about the proposed merger for two reasons:

- 1. The prospect of having one school for the Northgate Area. Our early ministry in the community shows how divided and factional the area is, and one merged school could be a real force for good.*
- 2. The prospect of having a Church of England school. We welcome Christian values remaining at the heart of both schools and in any new school.*