

APPENDIX 1

Wembley Manor Infant and Junior Schools Informal Consultation Outcome

	Option 4 Preference Key Issues	LEA's Response
1.	The school needs to be updated.	The new school will be a brand new purpose built building.
2.	This appears to be the most educationally viable option that would sustain continuity and progression of the site.	There are long term benefits of mergers such as continuity for children and parents, delivery of the curriculum, staff development, ease of site maintenance, a common ethos and sense of purpose.
3.	Staff would have the opportunity to teach both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.	There will be more opportunity for staff development and the sharing of expertise in an all through school.
4.	Resources could be shared amongst both key stages.	The larger budget will bring greater flexibility and both key stages will benefit from economies of scale.
5.	Pupil progress could be continually monitored. Older children will have the opportunities to help younger childrengiving them responsibilities	Continuity is a crucial point especially for the most vulnerable children and those with special needs. It is a legitimate concern for an LEA to reduce the number of transfer points because of the potential to disrupt educational progress. OFSTED inspections of amalgamated schools in Birmingham prove this to be the case (Appendix 3 and 4).
6.	A large school needs an excellent management team.	The quality of leadership in a large school is crucial.

	Option 3 Preference Key Issues	LEA's Response
1.	I do not believe children of infant and nursery schools benefit from being part of large school especially when so many of our children have a wide variety of special needs.	<p>Headteachers of large and very large schools state that the pool of talent available to all staff and children from the large staff groups in their schools, mean that the children's learning and special educational needs can be met more readily than in smaller schools.</p> <p>Continuity is a crucial point especially for the most vulnerable children and those with special needs. It is a legitimate concern for an LEA to reduce the number of transfer points because of the potential to disrupt educational progress. OFSTED inspections of amalgamated schools in Birmingham prove this to be the case.</p>
2.	I think option 4 would be too big, unmanageable and impersonal for young children.	4FE schools can function very effectively. There are other 4FE schools in other boroughs. The LEA and Governors have looked at them and they work. A new purpose built building is essential to make the proposed 4FE work properly. The LEA would not amalgamate without a new building.
3.	Plans to merge two schools and enlarge them to hold 900 pupils appear to be a leap of faith entirely backed by inadequate research.	See the response to comment 2 above.
4.	I believe one of the schools will benefit from amalgamation but the other will not. It will create a lot of instability with parents and children.	Many LEAs across the country have a policy of amalgamating infant and junior schools. This LEA is unaware of any new infant and junior schools being established in recent years. Birmingham LEA, for example, has a proactive policy of amalgamation. In 1999 it had 46 pairs of separate infant and junior schools. It has proceeded to amalgamate those schools because it is in no doubt that there are long term benefits of mergers such as continuity for children and parents, delivery of the national curriculum, staff development, ease of site maintenance, a

		<p>common ethos and sense of purpose. A recent new build amalgamation of two three form infant and junior schools in a nearby urban Authority resulted in significantly improved and sustained attainment levels.</p>
5.	Educational standards will fall.	<p>There is no correlation between the size of a school and performance. ‘The impact of school size and single-sex education on performance (NFER.LGA research report 33)’ concluded that when other factors were taken into account, school size was not found to have any significant impact on performance.</p> <p>There is evidence that both small and large schools can perform well. In the case of 4FE schools an analysis of KS2 results in the 10 largest schools in the country shows a number of them adding significant value.</p> <p>Nationally cohort size makes little difference to standards. What is crucial is the quality of leadership in the school (Leadership in Large Primary Schools, Southworth and Weindling, NCSL 2002).</p>
6.	Having so many children in one school would affect my children’s education and put too much strain on teachers and staff.	See answer to Comment 1 – Option 3 above.
7.	Children need space.	The site is 30064m ² . DfES site area guidelines for a 4FE school are 25220m ² to 29980m ² .
8.	As Wembley is a regeneration area it would be possible to build a new school somewhere else.	The Council is currently having difficulties to find a site for a new secondary school. Available land is scarce.

9.	I have not seen anything in the documents that proves in any way that one big school is better than separate infant and junior schools.	<p>Continuity of education is crucial especially for the most vulnerable children and those with special needs. It is a legitimate concern for an LEA to reduce the number of transfer points because of the potential to disrupt educational progress. OFSTED inspections of amalgamated schools in Birmingham prove this to be the case (Appendix 3 and 4).</p> <p>To analyse results, schools are grouped according to free school meals, pupils in the early stages of learning English, pupils coming from deprived neighbourhoods and pupil mobility. In Brent, there are no significant differences in the performance of separate infant and junior schools and that of primary schools, when we compare schools which are similar.</p>
10.	The proposal does not even guarantee the jobs for staff and teachers.	All headteacher and deputy headteacher posts must be advertised nationally The other staff posts would be ‘ring fenced’ which means they are considered first for the new posts in the school. In the 4FE school additional staff would be need to be recruited and there would be an increased number of posts of responsibility. Staff would therefore be offered a wider experience of teaching and learning across the full primary range giving them greater career opportunities.
11.	There will be a high incidence of bullying given the age difference of the children sharing the same playgrounds.	The layout of the new building will be designed in such a way that there is separate, secure play provision for the foundation stage, KS1 and KS2. The site is large enough for this to be planned without difficulty. There are many examples where this segregation can be designed effectively e.g. Essex Primary School, Newham and Jubilee Primary School, Lambeth.

12.	Children should have the same set of rules regarding behaviour.	An amalgamated school will have one agreed code of behaviour.
13.	With the schools being separate there has never been a problem to monitor progress.	Continuity of education is crucial especially for the most vulnerable children and those with special needs. It is a legitimate concern for an LEA to reduce the number of transfer points because of the potential to disrupt educational progress.
14.	How would you co-ordinate mealtimes for a large number of students using one facility?	Timings of meals would be planned for different groups of pupils.
15.	How would you provide parking for pick-up and drop-off?	This will be taken into account in designing the building. There will also be a traffic plan which will have to be agreed by the Planning Department.
16.	I prefer the schools to be separated and have fewer kids in each class so that they can have enough access to teachers.	There would still be the same number of children in each class (max.30) regardless to whether the school is amalgamated or left as separate schools.
17.	I believe that option 4 is only in place to save money.	There will be economies of scales with one building. It will be more efficient and cheaper to run e.g. boilers and heating will last longer and be less costly to maintain. The school will attract more money from the extra pupils it draws. The main reason however for amalgamating the schools is to improve the education for the pupils.
18.	Children as young as 4 – 5years should have a different environment from those of 8 – 11.	The layout of the new buildings will be designed in such a way that there is separation and differentiation e.g. secure separate play provision for the foundation stage, KS1 and KS2.

19.	In the long term the caring environment of the schools will suffer.	There is no proof of this. The new 21 st Century building will most likely provide a happier environment than the current dilapidated buildings
20.	Two separate schools is the best option for me unless you provide proof of evidence as to how option 4 would work with 900 children.	The LEA has evidence of successful amalgamations. The two 4FE schools that Governors visited in May 2005 are evidence that amalgamations work successfully.
21.	Separate 4FE schools can be made cost effective as facilities should be on the same site and shared eg dining facilities, playspace, caretaking and accommodation.	This is an option but more costly than one primary school as not all facilities could be shared. The more facilities are shared the greater the co-ordination necessary. One school eliminates the need for this.
22.	Young children need to be in a safe secure environment where they do not feel overwhelmed.	The LEA and the school are jointly accountable for the health and safety of the children. Welfare and safety are paramount and will be taken into consideration. Separate play areas will be designed to suit the children and cater to individual needs.
23.	The issue of leadership and management of a 4FE primary school has not been noted as a disadvantageThe Headteacher would be a strategic leader / administrator. There would need to be highly paid Deputies and Assistant Heads to lead the curriculum.All of these posts and the ambitious approach to wrap around care of extended day care facilities will not save money.	The quality of leadership is crucial to the success of a school. The LEA is confident that this new school will attract high quality candidates.
24.	Since an amalgamated school will never function as one unit but as separate units it seems to be only a money saving issue.	See answer to 17 above

25.	There is no evidence presented of financial savings (other than buildings) or of improved performance.	<p>There will be economies of scale with one building. The school will also attract more money from the extra pupils it draws.</p> <p>There is no national correlation between school size and performance. There is evidence that both small and large schools can perform well. In the case of 4FE schools, an analysis of the Key Stage 2 results in the ten largest schools in the country shows a number of them adding significant value.</p>
26.	An amalgamation may well be suitable for another community but not meet the needs of this community.	The community in this area is constantly changing especially with the recently occupied housing development on East Lane and the arrival of new families into the area. Therefore the school will be designed to meet the needs of this changing community eg increased number of places, extended school facilities etc.
27.	Other business managers in facilities eg NHS do not appear to be particularly successful.	The LEA is confident that this school will be successful as is the case in the large schools visited in Newham.
28.	The school should be more modern the huts are out of date.	The new school(s) will be brand new purpose built building(s).
29.	We need to know the management structure before we agree to Option 4.	The management structure will be decided by the school governors once a decision is made on the proposed amalgamation.
30.	Education and continuity issues could be addressed by a partnership schemewhere common policies and approaches to teaching and learning could be developed.	This supports the case for an amalgamation.
31.	Children will suffer through a lack of personalisation.	A close relationship between staff and pupils can be developed in a large school.

32.	I suggest we have two separate new buildings for safety reasons.	The layout of an amalgamated school will be designed in such a way that there is separate, secure provision e.g. play areas for the foundation stage KS1 and KS2.
33.	<p>We support the expansion but it is possible that this school (Park Lane) could be affected by:</p> <p>(1) Reduction of applications to Park Lane because parents are attracted by the state of the art facilities at the new Wembley Manor.</p> <p>(2) Applications continue at present level (we are currently oversubscribed in Nursery and Reception – 86 applications for 40 nursery places) with any losses eradicated by increased demand from new housing developments.</p> <p>(3) Increased applications with parents preferring the atmosphere and ethos of a small family centred school.</p>	Pupil projections indicate that extra places at Wembley Manor will be needed. The LEA believes the new school will be attractive to parents.

	Option 2 Preference Key Issues	LEA's Response
1.	<p>4 FE schools could be made a threat financially by falling rolls and not having enough children.</p> <p>This could also signal 4FE schools across the LEA where we have two other very large infant and junior schools.</p>	<p>Projections from the Greater London Authority show that pupil numbers will rise substantially over the next 10 years. Also the number of planning permissions granted to developers is another indication of an expanding population.</p> <p>Brent Admissions Service is currently having problems finding suitable school places for both primary and secondary pupils within the borough.</p>
2.	3FEs in Brent work very well.	There are 4FE schools in other boroughs. The LEA and Governors have looked at them and they work. A new purpose built building is essential to make the proposed 4FE work properly. The LEA would not amalgamate without a new building.

3.	Brent Education Department appears to have already made up its mind.	Option 4 is the preferred option of the Director of Education. The Executive will reach a decision.
4.	I know that primary schools from ages 4 – 7 work very well in many areas.	There are many successful infant schools but many primary schools perform to a high standard.
5.	I am concerned that the site might not be large enough for 4FE.	The site is 30064m ² . DfES site area guidelines for a 4FE school are 25220m ² to 29980m ² .
	Option 1 Preference Key Issues	LEA's Response
1.	Building work will severely limit the outdoor grounds available for play.	This will be for a limited period only.
	Other Options Suggestions	LEA's Response
1.	Two separate infant and junior schools using shared facilities.	This is an option but more costly than one primary school as not all facilities could be shared. The more facilities are shared the greater the co-ordination necessary. One school eliminates the need for this.