

Appendix One



Statutory Proposal

Alteration to Malorees Infant School and Closure of Malorees Junior School

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1), 19(1) and 21(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) that Brent Council intends to make an alteration to Malorees Infant School (Department for Education number 3042033) and to discontinue (close) Malorees Junior School (Department for Education number 3045202), both of Christchurch Avenue, London, NW6 7PB.

Malorees Infant School and Malorees Junior School are both located in the Brondesbury Park ward. The two schools are located adjacent to each other and effectively share one site. Malorees Infant School is a community school which means it is maintained by Brent Council and the Council owns the buildings and the land. Malorees Junior School is a foundation school which means it is owned and run by the federated Governing Board.

The schools have been in a federation since 2017. This means that, although they are legally separate schools, they operate as much as possible as one school. There is one Governing Board, comprising governors and associate members that oversee both schools. In January 2025, the schools' Governing Board, in collaboration with Brent Council, put forward a proposal to amalgamate the two schools. The Governing Board's vision is of 'one school', committed to high quality teaching and learning for all pupils in a nurturing environment, with pupils' educational outcomes benefitting from the continuity of education that amalgamation would provide. An informal consultation was held between 6 January 2025 and 15 February 2025 on this proposal and on 7 April 2025, Brent Cabinet agreed to proceed to a formal consultation stage.

Notice is given that Brent Council is formally proposing the amalgamation of Malorees Infant School and Malorees Junior School. This will involve:

- The discontinuance (closure) of Malorees Junior School
- The expansion of the age range of Malorees Infant School to admit children aged between 3 to 11 years old.
- The change of name of Malorees Infant School to Malorees Primary School.

It is proposed these changes take place at the start of the summer term in April 2026.

Malorees Primary School would continue to operate under the existing Governing Board and leadership team, with two forms of entry taught across each year group from

Reception to Year 6, across both existing school sites. Children attending the junior school at the point of amalgamation would be automatically transferred to the roll of the primary school. Similarly, staff employed directly by Malorees Junior School at the point of amalgamation would transfer to the employment of Malorees Primary School (Brent Council).

The Governing Board have decided Malorees Primary School will be designated as a Community School. The land rights of Malorees Junior School will transfer to the Council and the full site, including the Brondesbury Orchard, will be retained for the ongoing use of Malorees Primary School.

The expansion of Malorees Infant School would involve the change of age range to ages 3 to 11, the expansion of the school so that it can accommodate an additional 240 children in years 3 to 6, and the expansion of the school site to incorporate the entire site currently occupied by Malorees Junior School.

While the proposals are underway, and until the amalgamation takes place on the agreed date, the local authority will continue to co-ordinate applications to Malorees Junior School for September 2026. This means that parents of children in Year 2 from September 2025 who wish to continue at Malorees in Year 3 in 2026 would still need to apply as normal. If the amalgamation goes ahead as planned in April 2026, any applications submitted would be cancelled and children already attending the Infant school would continue into Year 3 in the Primary School automatically.

The discontinuance (closure) of Malorees Junior School

Contact details

The proposer is Brent Council, Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ. The school that is proposed to be discontinued (closed) is Malorees Junior School, Christchurch Avenue, London, NW6 7PB, which is a mixed gender Foundation school for pupils aged between 7 and 11 years old.

Pupil numbers and admissions

At the point of the January 2025 school census, Malorees Junior School was making provision for 219 day pupils between the ages of 7 and 11. This included 115 boys and 104 girls. 9 pupils had a current Education, Health and Care Plan and 24 children were receiving SEN Support.

Reason for closure

It is considered necessary to close the school in order that a merger can be made with Malorees Infant School. The DfE document 'Opening and Closing Maintained Schools Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers, October 2024' sets out that the local authority and/or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close a school and expand/change the age range of an existing school (following the statutory prescribed alterations process as necessary), in order to

accommodate the pupils from the school that is closing. The remaining school would retain its original school number, as it is not a new school, even if its phase has changed.

Displaced pupils

All Malorees Junior School pupils will be classed as 'displaced' at the point of the school closure, but this does not mean they will not have a school to attend. All children attending Malorees Junior School at the point of closure (including those with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school) will be automatically transferred to the roll of Malorees Primary School and will continue to be taught in the same classes, with the same teachers.

Impact on the community

There will be no impact on the community, as the closure of the school is to achieve an amalgamation with the neighbouring infant school on the same site. The Brondesbury Orchard will be retained as a green space for the school community.

Travel

There will be no impact on travel arrangements for children attending the school as they will continue to be taught on the same site.

Implementation

The date on which it is proposed to close the school is 13 April 2026, which is also the proposed date of the amalgamation.

The change of the age range and expansion of Malorees Infant School to admit children aged between 3 to 11 years old.

Contact details

The proposer is Brent Council, Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ. The school that is proposed to expand its age range is Malorees Infant School, Christchurch Avenue, London, NW6 7PB, which is a mixed gender community school for pupils aged between 3 and 7 years old.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

The alteration to Malorees Infant School will involve:

- The change of the existing age range of the school, which is currently for children aged between 3 to 7 years old, to 3 to 11 years old. This will retain the nursery provision and will add two-forms of entry provision for children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (60 places in each year group)
- The expansion of capacity at the school from its current level of 180 places plus nursery, to 420 places plus nursery
- The expansion of the school site to include the whole of the buildings and site currently occupied by Malorees Junior School.

Reason for the expansion

The expansion of Malorees Infant School is proposed as children attending the neighbouring Malorees Junior School, which is closing as part of the merger, will need to be registered on the roll of the infant school, which will be renamed as Malorees Primary School.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The proposal to amalgamate the schools has been put forward by the schools' Governing Board for the long-term benefit of children currently attending the schools and those who will attend in the future. The Governing Board's vision is of 'one school', committed to high quality teaching and learning for all pupils in a nurturing environment, underpinned by core values of Respect, Excellence, Aspiration and Determination. Academic research highlights the benefits of amalgamating infant and junior schools in relation to continuity of education and educational outcomes. The amalgamation of the Malorees schools will provide a stronger school identity, fostering a deeper sense of shared purpose across pupils, parents and staff. It will support a seamless learning experience with continuity in curriculum, teaching approaches and pastoral care built on collaboration and best practice, allowing pupils to transition smoothly from early years through to Year 6.

The amalgamation also allows for improved use of resources, ensuring budgets are used effectively to enhance learning opportunities and experiences for all children. If the schools are amalgamated by April 2026, the Department for Education will deliver a single capital investment solution for both existing school sites as part of the School Rebuilding Programme, which will support the Governing Board to deliver their vision for one unified school.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

There will be no effect on other educational institutions in the area. The amalgamation will not increase or decrease the capacity currently provided by the existing schools.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

There are no direct project costs other than the costs of following the statutory process for school alternations and closures. Details about the long term value for money that will be achieved are set out in the following section.

Implementation plan

Subject to Decision Maker approval, the alterations proposed would be implemented on 13 April 2026 to coincide with the closure of Malorees Junior School and the renaming of Malorees Infant School to Malorees Primary School.

Further details about the proposal to amalgamate the schools

1. The Quality of Education: For many years the long-term vision of the Governing Board has been 'One Malorees'. Therefore in 2017 a 'hard federation' created one Governing Board and in 2021 the schools came under the leadership of one Headteacher and senior leadership team as the first stage to being 'One Malorees'. This has enabled the schools to work more closely together, for example through sharing specialist teachers who work across both schools. The quality of education at the Malorees schools is good and this is monitored by the leadership team and the Governing Board. However, there are further educational benefits that will be realised through amalgamation. Being one school will ensure that the learning experience for children is seamless from early years through to Year 6, with continuity in curriculum, teaching approaches and pastoral care. There will also be better coordination of enrichment activities, ensuring all pupils benefit from a well-rounded and engaging education.
2. Financial Impact: Upon amalgamation the combined school will only be eligible for one lump sum (an allocation from the Dedicated Schools Grant provided to individual schools to support fixed costs that is currently £170,000 a year) and one sports premium allocation (£16,600 a year). The lump sum reduction will be tapered over 3 years starting at the earliest in the 2026/27 financial year. From the financial year after amalgamation, as one school there would be a reduction of 30% of the lump sum currently allocated to the Junior School plus the whole of the sports premium lump sum, equating to circa £67,000 based on the current funding allocation. In the following year, the school would lose 60% of the one lump sum (£102,000) and by 2028/9 the whole of one lump sum.

The Governing Board is confident the financial impact of amalgamation can be mitigated without impacting the school's staffing or the quality of teaching. They have committed there will be no redundancies or staff restructures as a result of the amalgamation.

A budget forecast has been modelled that reflects this loss of funding. In doing so it highlights further savings that can be realised from amalgamation, building on the economies of scale of the current hard federation. As two separate legal entities the schools currently incur duplicate costs, for example subscriptions and administration systems e.g. SIMS/School Communications, 2 payroll systems and other commissioned services (e.g. HR and Legal Advice). There are, therefore, additional financial efficiencies to be realised from amalgamation equating to £42,500, alongside operational efficiencies such as a reduction in statutory reporting and only one Ofsted inspection process.

Alongside potential savings from reduced administrative and subscription costs, a significant reduction in maintenance costs is expected following capital investment in the school's buildings through a single capital investment solution within the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme. The school currently incurs a minimum of £50,000 general maintenance costs a year linked to the poor condition of the

buildings that will not be required going forward, with the current financial outturn confirming over £100,000 of spend. These costs would continue to increase given the condition of current school buildings. Capital investment will also make the school's accommodation more energy efficient, saving expenditure on energy costs (estimated as up to £5000 a year).

Additionally, the school should attract more pupils than it would otherwise have done due to the capital investment project and all through nature of the school following amalgamation, increasing school budget income from the Dedicated Schools Grant (5 additional pupils would equate to further income of £29,000 and 10 would equate to £58,000).

3. School land: The land of the Malorees Junior School site will transfer from the Governing Board to the Local Authority and will continue to be classed as educational land to be used by Malorees Primary School. The Council has no intention of changing this. As the land the school uses is classified as education land, any proposed change of use would require the permission of the Secretary of State for Education who would be very unlikely to grant permission to dispose of/change the use of land for alternative purposes.
4. School buildings: The Governing Board and Brent Council have received a written commitment from the DfE to the delivery of a single capital investment solution for both Malorees Infant and Junior schools as part of the School Rebuilding Programme if the schools are amalgamated as one school. This is subject to the schools amalgamating by April 2026. The DfE is already progressing a one-school solution, until such time as the final decision on the amalgamation process is completed.

The initiation meeting for the building project has been held with the DfE which has triggered the feasibility and design stage of the project. The first round of building surveys has already been carried out by the DfE project team, along with an internal survey of each school to look at current provision in place, daily operation of the school and any specific school requirements. This is to ensure that the capital investment is supportive of the school's needs and context.

The DfE has confirmed the indicative project timeline is for planning permission to be submitted by June 2026, for construction works to start in September 2026 and project completion to take place by December 2027. The DfE are being proactive in ensuring the capital build project moves forwards swiftly with the full involvement of school leaders and governors in the decision making process.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with. In accordance with section 20 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the consent of the trustees and the persons by whom the foundation governors of Malorees Junior School are appointed has been obtained.

Copies of this proposal are available at haveyoursay.brent.gov.uk or can be obtained from: Michael Rollin, Admissions and School Organisation Manager, London Borough of Brent, 2nd Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ.
Email: MaloreesConsultation@brent.gov.uk

Within five weeks from the date of publication of this proposal any person may let us know that they support the proposal, object to the proposal and / or make comments on the proposal, in writing, through the form on haveyoursay.brent.gov.uk where responses must be received by 11.59pm on Tuesday 10 June 2025.

Postal responses can be sent to Michael Rollin, Admissions and School Organisation Manager, Children, Young People and Community Development, London Borough of Brent, 2nd Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ.

The last date for representations is **Tuesday 10 June 2025.**

Signed: **Shirley Parks**
Director, Education, Partnerships and Strategy

Publication Date: **Tuesday 6 May 2025**