

Consultation on the amalgamation of Hotwells Primary School and Cathedral Primary School (CPS)

1. What is being proposed?

We are proposing to amalgamate (also referred to as merging) Hotwells Primary School and Cathedral Primary School to form a 60 place (two form entry) primary school for Reception to Year 6. An amalgamation will create a single primary school from 1st September 2026 with the long term aim of KS1 provision (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) on the site of Hotwells Primary School and KS2 provision (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) on the site of Cathedral Primary School. The amalgamated school will be known as Cathedral Primary School.

2. Why is it being proposed?

The proposal is driven by the ambition to ensure strong and sustainable schools in the area that will provide the highest quality primary education for pupils. It is intended to:

- Maintain provision on both school sites and ensure that there continues to be a school serving the Hotwells/Harbourside community.
- Address concerns around the volume of students on the Cathedral Primary School site on College Square by providing a more appropriate learning environment for the youngest children on the Hotwells Primary School site.
- Support the city with the aim of reducing places across primary schools.

3. How will the amalgamated school work across the two sites?

Our plan is that Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and KS1 will be based at the current Hotwells Primary School site. The space is well-suited to children in this age range. KS2 children will be based at the current Cathedral Primary School site in order to support transition to Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS). However, please note that there will be an interim arrangement for the first year (2026/27) of Reception and Year 1 on the Hotwells site and Year 2 upwards on the Cathedral Primary School site. Although provision will be on two sites the school will be one entity and children on the EYFS and KS1 site will have an automatic right of transfer to the KS2 site.

4. What will it mean for existing students at Hotwells Primary School?

The Department for Education (DfE)'s significant change guidance for a school amalgamation states the importance of pupils being accommodated at the amalgamated school should they wish and we are committed to ensuring that this is possible. As part of the transfer process, parents of pupils at Hotwells

Primary School will need to submit an in-year application for Cathedral Primary School for the academic year 2026/27 or seek admission at an alternative primary school. Provision can be made to accommodate pupils of both schools across the two sites and pupils will be taught at the appropriate site for their age group. Parents and carers will be provided with support and further information on the admissions process as part of any transition arrangements.

5. What is the plan in terms of year groups?

The long term plan is to have KS1 provision (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) on the site of Hotwells Primary School and KS2 provision (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) on the site of Cathedral Primary School. This will be in place from September 2027. However, please note that there will be an interim arrangement for the first year (2026/27) of Reception and Year 1 on the Hotwells Primary School site and Year 2 upwards on the Cathedral Primary School site.

6. Will the timing of the school day change as a result?

We will want to talk to parents and carers to find out their views. We will ensure that there is sufficient variation between the start and end times to enable parents, carers and pupils to move between the two sites. The walking distance between the two schools is 0.9 miles and the school locations are:

Hotwells Primary School, Hope Chapel Hill, Hotwells, Bristol BS8 4ND

Cathedral Primary School, College Square, Bristol BS1 5TS

7. What will the uniform be for the new school?

Children will adopt the uniform currently in place for children at CPS. We will explore options for the transition and are mindful of the need for affordability.

8. What will be the ethos of the amalgamated school?

The amalgamated school will follow the vision and values of Cathedral Primary School. The vision 'Many Voices, One Harmony' is rooted in compassion and equality and CPS, like Hotwells Primary School, celebrates the many voices of its diverse community and how they come together to create one harmony. The school's unique setting in the heart of Bristol means that the community is endless; all cultures and traditions are welcome and the school strives to share a common understanding and love for the world. The school's values enable the whole school community to achieve its vision. They are for everyone; all faiths and none. [Vision and Values of Cathedral Primary School](#).

9. Will the school remain a Church of England School?

Cathedral Primary School will remain a Church of England School. We have strong links with Bristol Cathedral. As a flagship music specialist primary school CPS puts

on numerous concerts and productions at Bristol Cathedral. Cathedral Primary School also educates a number of Bristol Cathedral Choristers and there is a close-working relationship between the Cathedral and school.

10. Will the school continue to have strong links with the Cathedral?

The school is proud of its links with Bristol Cathedral and the Diocese. The school participates in planned educational experiences at the Cathedral to enhance their religious education teaching. The close partnership with Bristol Diocese has allowed opportunities to develop the christian character of the school and supported RE leadership, SIAMS and School/ Cathedral and Community partnerships. We are proud to be so close to such a prestigious space and feel fortunate for this close partnership.

11. How will this impact on the nursery provision at Hotwells Primary School?

There will be no change to the nursery provision at Hotwells Primary School. The Montessori nursery, Hotwells Children's House, will continue to operate on the Hotwells site.

12. Will there be any changes to the curriculum?

The two schools already have a broadly aligned curriculum although there are some differences. Like Hotwells, CPS has an ambitious curriculum, following the National Curriculum. It is rigorous, coherent and sequential, where knowledge is taught to be remembered. Our cumulative curriculum from EYFS to Year 6, ensures that children build on their knowledge year by year. The curriculum is rooted in the strongest available evidence about how pupils learn and retain knowledge in the long term. Cathedral Schools Trust's Teaching and Learning advisers will provide support to overcome any challenges and minimise changes to the curriculum. [Curriculum at Cathedral Primary School](#).

13. Will there be any changes to term dates?

Following the amalgamation, the term dates will follow those of Cathedral Primary School from September 2026 onwards. [Term dates for Cathedral Primary School](#).

14. What will the transition plan look like for current Hotwells pupils moving to the CPS site?

Over the next 12 months, the leadership teams will be working closely together to ensure a smooth transition for the pupils. We aim to create a clear transition plan for all children so that they are confident and happy with the change that is taking place.

15. What will the numbers on roll be like for the amalgamated school?

The table below shows what the combined roll might look like from September 2026, based on the current numbers of pupils at both schools. Please note this is subject to change.

Year group	Potential combined numbers
Reception	60
Year 1	73
Year 2	78
Year 3	81
Year 4	70
Year 5	75
Year 6	84

16. What will the potential impact be on admissions at BCCS given the current feeder school status of CPS?

There will be a temporary increase in the number of eligible children applying for places at BCCS under the feeder school category following the amalgamation of the two primary schools. Historic data on the allocation of places for Year 7 at BCCS from the last 4 years indicates that there have been an average of 54 children allocated places under the feeder school category. Remaining places offered by random allocation under category 7 of the BCCS admissions arrangement has been an average of 22. Following the amalgamation, we estimate there will be approximately 5 - 10 places available under category 7 (random allocation). Please note this is an estimate only and no place can be guaranteed.

17. Will the admissions arrangements for the amalgamated school prioritise the Hotwells/Harbourside area?

This is the intention. The proposal includes a change to the determined admission arrangements for Cathedral Primary School for the academic year 2026/27 to prioritise families who live within the Hotwells, Clifton, Harbourside area. (Draft varied admission arrangements 2026/27 can be viewed [here](#) - proposed changes are highlighted in yellow). The criteria includes a 'nodal admissions point' defined as OS Grid Reference ST 57487 72424, What3Words: What3Words:

solve.lanes.chips and located at The Mardyke Ferry Landing. Please see the map [here](#) for the proposed location of the point.

18. Will the Hotwells staff be joining CPS as part of the amalgamation?

In order to support transition for the pupils, our hope is that many of the staff from Hotwells will work in the amalgamated school.

19. How will pupils with SEND be supported through this process?

Leaders for pupils with SEND will work closely together to ensure a smooth transition and that the needs will be met for the pupils and their families.

20. What will the leadership arrangements be from September 2026?

Sara Yarnold will continue to be the Headteacher at Cathedral Primary School. Mrs Yarnold has worked closely with the Hotwells community in the past and worked with the leadership team when they joined Cathedral Schools Trust.

21. What measures will be put in place to pre-empt a likely increase in traffic?

We will make sure that there are staggered start and end times to the school day to allow for movement between the sites. We would continue to communicate with our families about safe ways to travel to school and work with Bristol Local Authority to support their travel initiatives. Involvement in Bristol safe travel initiatives would continue e.g Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, The Bristol Bike project and Walk to School week.

22. Hotwells children are used to a small, close-knit school community, moving to a larger school will be a substantial change. How will this be managed, particularly for the children who may struggle?

Cathedral Primary School provides exemplary pastoral support and is well placed to support Hotwells children through the transition period. A carefully considered, joined up transition plan between both schools will be put in place.

23. Will the Hotwells Y6 children still be able to go on their school camp? When will this be?

Both schools already use the same provider for their school camp at Osmington Bay. Cathedral Primary School attend their school camp in May and details about this will be sent to all Hotwells families. Camp is only for Year 6 but in preparation for this, the Year 5 children go for a whole day to an activity centre. We will make sure that it is possible for Year 5 children at Hotwells Primary School to join this day which will take place in summer 2026.

24. How do you envisage wraparound care working, particularly for families who have children on both sites? Will the hours be extended to accommodate this?

Cathedral Primary School will continue to provide wraparound care which provides breakfast club from 07:45 and afterschool care is available until 18:00 each day. We currently use SHINE as the provider for after school care and the breakfast club is provided by staff at Cathedral Primary School. Further information on arrangements will be shared with parents and carers as soon as possible.