

Tuesday, 2nd June 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, and Community of St. George's and St. Mark's CE Primary Schools

Consultation on a proposal to secure a high-quality primary education experience for the children of Langton Matravers, Herston, Swanage and surrounding villages for years to come.

We are writing to you to share information about how local schools in the Purbeck area – and especially around Swanage – are being affected by an ongoing fall in pupil numbers. This is a national issue which is now being felt in many schools within Dorset Council.

This is a difficult problem for schools to manage because, when they have fewer pupils, schools often have to organise learning differently such as by mixing different year groups together. It also means they have less income because schools are funded by Government based on the number of pupils on their roll. This can eventually make it harder for schools to keep delivering a high-quality educational experience.

In the Swanage area, we think we have an opportunity to protect the quality of education that our primary schools can provide. We are proposing that St. George's and St. Mark's CE Primary Schools become a single primary school and pre-school in the future, rather than just getting smaller and smaller as two separate ones.

Along with this letter, we have provided a detailed document which sets out the problem that the schools are experiencing and the different ways we have thought to solve it. From this document, you will see why we think merging the two schools together would be better for the quality of education in both schools, as well as the other local primary schools. If you don't have this document with this letter, you can access it from the Coastal Learning Partnership website [here](#). You can also find it on the St. George's website [here](#) and the St. Mark's website [here](#). A paper copy can be requested from either school office.

We are now opening public consultation on this proposal. The consultation ends on Friday 10th July. You can engage with this consultation process in the following ways:

You can attend either of the following information sessions where you can hear more about the proposal and ask questions directly. Please use the links to confirm your attendance in advance so that we can make the necessary arrangements:

- 15th June, 2pm at St. Mark's: for parents and carers of either school (book [here](#))
- 16th June, 2pm at St. George's: for parents and carers of either school (book [here](#))
- 18th June, 6pm at St George's: for wider community members (parents, too) (book [here](#))

The preferred method for receiving responses to the consultation is by completing the online response form [here](#) or scan the QR code. That survey is open now – the response form can be forwarded to, and completed by, anybody. The response form will allow you to express your views, make general comments and ask specific questions.



You can also submit comments and queries via email to:

mergeconsult@coastalpartnership.co.uk

Alternatively, you can respond to this consultation via the following postal address:

Coastal Learning Partnership
Heathlands Primary Academy
Andrews Close
Springwater Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH11 8HB

Please feel free to forward this letter, and the accompanying document, to anyone who you think will be interested to read it. This is a public consultation, and responses are invited from anyone with an interest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul Howieson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mr. Paul Howieson
CEO, Coastal Learning Partnership