

Isambard Brunel closure & merger with Meredith Infant School – FAQ sheet

1. Q – Will the school uniform change, will they be different for KS1 and KS2?

A - Yes, the school uniform will change to be the same across the primary school. This will be phased in from September 2020. The uniform will be the same for both KS1 (Infants) and KS2 (Juniors)

2. Q – Will the start and end times of the school days change?

A – Yes, our proposal is for Year R (Early Years) to finish at 3pm, Years 1 to 3 to finish at 3.10pm and Years 4 to 6 to finish at 3.20pm giving parents and carers time to move across the site if they are collecting more than one child.

3. Q - Will the year groups be mixed across the whole school site or will it remain as Infant and Junior within the same buildings?

A – We are currently working with the architect to draw the plans that will enable us to work as one school. At the time of printing we are working on plans for Year R (Early Years) to be on the ground floor of Isambard using the West playground as their outdoor learning space, Years 1 to 3 to be on the Meredith site and Years 4 to 6 on the Isambard site. The internal fence between the 2 schools will be removed so the site can operate as one school.

4. Q - Will parents still need to apply to Y3?

A – Parents with children in Year 1 currently will need to apply for Year 3. Parents with children in Year 2 will have already completed the transfer application process for this September. Parents with children in Year R (Early Years) will be the first year group to not need to complete a transfer process and the children will transition from Year 2 into Year 3.

5. Q - Will there be a school name change?

A – Yes, the school will change its name to New Horizons Primary School.

6. Q - Will the teachers move into different year groups?

A - Yes, working as a primary school the teachers will be able to teach different in year groups based on their strengths, expertise and the needs of the children.

7. Q – Will the children’s playground areas change, will the whole site be opened up and fences taken down between the two schools?

A – If the current architect plans are agreed; Year R (Early Years) will play on the West Playground of Isambard as their classrooms will be on the ground floor of the current Isambard building, Years 1 to 3 will use the Meredith playground and Years 4-6 will use the playground with the MUGA (multi use games area) in it.

8. Q - Will there be one school office and visitors reception area?

A – Yes, there will be one school office and visitors’ reception, where this is located is dependent on the final plans agreed with the architect.

9. Q – Will the entrances to the schools change?

A – The entrances through the playground to the classroom doors will remain the same. The entrance to the office area will change depending on the final decision made for architect’s plans.

10. Q – Will this change the ethos of the school?

A – Meredith’s story, vision and values will be the foundations for the new school.

11. Q - Why is this being proposed now?

A – Originally the plan was to continue to work as 2 schools however; this is proving to be disjointed for the children, parents and staff. We are proposing this now so we can provide a through primary education from Years R to Year 6, giving us the best possible chance to achieve our vision: For every child to be: a successful learner, a responsible citizens and a happy confident individual.

12. Q – How will this affect children currently in the schools?

A – The current Year R (Early Years) will be the first year group to not need to complete a transfer process and their children will transition from Year 2 into Year 3. The other year groups may have a change of location for their classroom and playground but their learning experiences will remain the same.

What happens next?

No decision, other than to consult, has been made at this stage.

We are consulting widely from 20th May to 28th June 2019 in order to hear and collect your views. As well as complying with DfE advice and admissions law on consultation timescales, we are keen to give interested parties time to give us their views. The schools and governing bodies will then assess these views and a number of other factors to then decide whether to proceed to submit a formal business case to the Secretary of State for Education.

Key dates in the consultation and decision making process, if successful:

May/June 2019	Consultation period Draft business case, new admission policy and equality impact assessment (see attached as an example)
July 2019	Case and consultation is considered by the TSAT board and if approved is submitted to the RSC
Aug/Sep 2019	Case reviewed by the RSC office Phase 1 building works
Oct 2019	Approval by RSC
Nov 2019	Public launch to link with the opening of admissions for Sept 2020
Jan 2020	Close of admissions
July/August 2020	Phase 2 Building works to change site
Sept 2020	Open as new Primary school