

Coastal Learning Partnership

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Wednesday 14th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Consultation about the proposal for Corfe Castle Community Pre-School to join Corfe Castle CE Primary School within Coastal Learning Partnership



We have recently received a letter from Laura Hole, the Chair of Corfe Castle Community Pre-school, asking if the pre-school can be joined with Corfe Castle CE Primary School. This would in effect cause the school to become *Corfe Castle CE Primary School and Pre-School*. The current pre-school provision would legally transfer to the school.

The pre-school is run by a dedicated and impressive small team of staff, supported by volunteers, but their responsibilities are vast: creating policies, staff recruitment, managing safeguarding, fundraising, dealing with finances, health and safety and so on. The pre-school committee has therefore decided that it would be better supported if it were part of the school, along with the trust of which the school is a valued member (Coastal Learning Partnership, CLP). The pre-school would be supported in all of these areas by an experienced organisation and surrounded by professionals who understand learning within Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It would also make for an even smoother transition for children and families from the pre-school to Reception.

In her letter on behalf of the pre-school committee, Laura writes that: 'We also feel being a part of CLP would be greatly advantageous to the staff who are employed at the pre-school. We feel the extra support, guidance and opportunities that would be open to them would make for a more structured and fulfilling workplace.'

We believe it is really important for the community of Corfe Castle that its pre-school and primary school both thrive and flourish. In CLP, we have existing schools whose pre-schools/nurseries are legally part of the school and we can see that this works very well (for example, Heathlands Primary Academy & Pre-School and Old Town Infant School & Nursery).

For these reasons, the Trust Board of Coastal Learning Partnership has agreed to explore this option. We will be working with the pre-school committee to really understand how the pre-school operates and what its challenges are. We also want to run this consultation in order to find out how parents feel about this proposal. Laura Hole will be in touch soon to invite parents to come to a brief session. She will talk a little about the proposal and can answer your questions. I will also come along to that session, as will the school's Headteacher. In the meantime, you can make comments or raise questions directly via email to corfecastleconsult@coastalpartnership.co.uk. That email inbox is open now and will close on Tuesday 11th July, at which point the consultation will have concluded and we can see what it is telling us.

Any such decision for the pre-school to join the primary school would require direct consent from the Department of Education (DfE). These are the first few steps to help us to decide whether to make that application.

Please be assured that everyone involved – the pre-school's committee, the primary school's team and Coastal Learning Partnership – are all committed to seeing the pre-school continue to flourish and serve its children and families.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Howieson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Paul Howieson
CEO, Coastal Learning Partnership

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Headteacher and Acting Headteacher of Corfe Castle CE Primary
Kay Davies, LGB Chair of Corfe Castle CE Primary
Amanda Davis, Corporate Director for Education, Dorset Council
Joy Tubbs, Director of Education for Salisbury Diocese