



## Proposal to bring together Coalway Community Infant School and Coalway Junior School through the process of extending the age range of Coalway Junior School and closing Coalway Community Infant School with effect from 1 April 2026 to create an all-through primary school. Seeking your views.

This consultation is an opportunity for pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors, the local community and other stakeholders to have their say on the proposal to bring together Coalway Community Infant School and Coalway Junior School through the process of extending the age range of Coalway Junior School and closing Coalway Community Infant School and create an all-through primary school.

Gloucestershire County Council will consider all views put forward during the consultation.

For further information please see our webpage at [Coalway Schools proposal](#)

### **What is the proposal?**

The proposal is to create an all-through primary school from Reception to Year 6 with effect from 1 April 2026 by extending the age range of Coalway Junior School and closing Coalway Community Infant School. The all-through primary school would continue to admit 60 pupils (in Reception) at the start of each academic year and have an overall capacity of 420 places. It would be located on the site of the existing infant and junior school buildings.

Technically, this proposal involves extending the age range of the Junior school and closing the Infant school. The age range of the Junior school would expand from ages 7 to 11 to ages 4 to 11 with effect from 1 April 2026.

All pupils on the school roll on 31 March 2026 in both Coalway Community Infant and Junior schools would transfer to the roll of the all-through primary school on 1 April 2026.

The primary school would have a single governing body and a single headteacher along with a single DfE number and Ofsted inspection.

### **Background**

The Infant and Junior schools are situated on co-located sites. As reported in the January School census there were 96 pupils on roll at the Infant school and 211 at the Junior school.

In March 2024, an Ofsted inspection at Coalway Community Infant school judged that the school Requires Improvement. Ofsted then conducted a monitoring inspection on 19 March

2025. The purpose of a monitoring inspection is to identify and report on the school's progress. This highlights to the school and parents, any improvements that school leaders have made since the school's previous graded inspection. Ofsted concluded that **'Leaders have made progress to improve the school, but some aspects of the school need further improvement'**.

Where appropriate, the County Council seeks opportunities to bring together separate Infant and Junior schools where the combined numbers are less than 420 and the sites lend themselves to a single institution. The proposed approach is to encourage separate infant and junior schools to become all through primary schools in order to provide greater continuity for pupils and curriculum flexibility and deliver value for money. This approach has been successful in other areas of the county. Following discussions with the schools, both governing bodies have unanimously agreed to consult on the change of status with a proposed implementation date of 1 April 2026.

Gloucestershire County Council now wishes to formally consult on the proposal to establish an all-through primary school.

### **What are the benefits of this proposal for pupils and families?**

There are recognised benefits with all-through primary schools. The proposal offers:

- A single and continuous approach to teaching the curriculum.
- A common culture and ethos across the school.
- Flexibility and efficiency in terms of staffing resources.
- Removal of the need to apply for a Year 3 place. There would be a single application process for admission to the school, with no need to re-apply at the end of Year 2.
- Opportunity for families to build strong links with a single school leadership team throughout their child's primary education. No need to start again in Year 3.
- Opportunities to make the most of the strengths of the Junior school and to accelerate the progress required at the Infant school
- A single school uniform could be phased in.

### **What will it mean for staff?**

The proposed all-through primary school will remain a maintained community school. As a result, the staff would remain Gloucestershire County Council employees. Their terms and conditions will be not affected.

### **What will it mean for the Governing Bodies?**

The all-through primary school would have one governing body which would be reconstituted on 1 April 2026.

### **Will the schools' facilities change?**

There are no plans to change the overall accommodation or capacity of the schools.

### **How will this proposal improve the standard of education for all the pupils at the existing schools?**

It would provide the opportunity for a single and continuous approach to teaching from Reception to Year 6, building on the strengths of both schools.

### **How will the proposal improve standards for the infant pupils?**

Standards would be improved by building on the good practice that is already in place in both schools and establishing it in the primary school.

**Will the standards at the Junior school suffer?**

No. The good practice currently in place in the Junior school would continue and best practice would be adopted across both phases of education.

**Who will the headteacher of the all-through primary school be?**

If the proposal goes ahead, it will mean that the Infant school closes, and the age range of the Junior school is extended. The current headteacher of the junior school will be the headteacher of the all-through primary school.

**Can I move my child to another school if I want?**

Your right to apply for a place at an alternative school is not affected. You would need to speak to an alternative school in the first instance to find out whether it had any spaces.

**Will Ofsted come back to inspect the primary school?**

Ofsted will inspect the new primary school.

**What support will the all-through primary school receive?**

The local authority will continue to work closely with the school and provide support as appropriate.

**Will the uniform change?**

This will be a decision for the new governing body once it has been established and when pupils, teachers and parents have been consulted.

**What will the new school be called?**

This will be a decision for the new governing body in consultation with stakeholders once it has been established.

**Will there be a new governing body and how will governors be selected?**

The governing body would change from 1 April 2026, and its constitution will be representative of the all-through primary school

**What happens if this proposal does not go ahead?**

Coalway Community Infant and Coalway Junior would continue as two separate schools.

**What happens next?**

The consultation period starts on 16 June 2025 and ends on 11 July 2025. This is an opportunity for stakeholders to give their views on the proposals to Gloucestershire County Council, using the webpage or the postal response form. Drop-in sessions will be offered at both schools where you will be able to speak to representatives of the governing bodies about these proposals; see details below.

Following the consultation period, the Lead Cabinet Member for Education and Skills will consider the consultation comments and decide whether to progress to the next stage of the process to publish statutory notices. Following this, there is a further four-week

representation period to consider any implications before a final decision is made in January 2026.

### **How do I tell you my views?**

You are invited to call in at a drop-in session at either:

Coalway Junior School, Coalway Road, Coalway, Gloucestershire GL16 7HL on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 between 3pm and 6pm

or

Coalway Community Infant School, Coalway Road, Coalway Gloucestershire, GL16 7HL on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 between 3pm and 6pm

Or

You can give us your comments by completing the online questionnaire on our website:

[Coalway Community Infant School and Coalway Junior School | Have Your Say Gloucestershire](#)

You can also give us your comments by completing the attached questions and this can be handed in to either school or be returned to us at the following address:

Coalway Community Infant and Junior Consultation  
Tracy Eales, Education Planning and Infrastructure Team  
Gloucestershire County Council  
Shire Hall  
Gloucester  
GL1 2TP

You can also give us your comments through the dedicated email address:

[UniversalCommissioning@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:UniversalCommissioning@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Your views and comments must reach us by 12.00 noon on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to be considered. Parents/carers and staff are also invited to raise any questions with the headteacher and/or the Chair of Governors of each school.

James Barrow, headteacher – **[head@coalwayjunior.co.uk](mailto:head@coalwayjunior.co.uk)**

**Caroline Merritt**, Chair of Governors, Coalway Junior School –  
**[govcmerritt@coalwayjunior.co.uk](mailto:govcmerritt@coalwayjunior.co.uk)**

**James Savage**, Chair of Governors, Coalway Community Infant School –  
**[jsavage@coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:jsavage@coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk)**

We propose to bring together Coalway Community Infant and Coalway Junior through the process of extending the age range of Coalway Junior School to include children aged 4-11 and closing Coalway Community Infant School and create an all-through primary school from 1 April 2026. The primary school would be located in the buildings of the existing Infant and Junior schools' buildings.

We welcome your views on this proposal.

**Please complete this response form and return it to us by 12.00 noon 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Q1.** Do you agree that we should create an all-through primary school?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

**Q2.** Please give the main reasons for your answer to Q1 above and any other comments

### **About you**

Are you a? (please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Parent/carer of a child at Coalway Infant School
- ☐ Parent/carer of a child at Coalway Junior School
- ☐ Parent/carer of a child at another local Primary School
- ☐ Parent/carer of a child at a local Secondary School
- ☐ Parent/carer of a pre-school child
- ☐ Member of staff at one of the schools above
- ☐ Member of the Governing Body at one of the schools above
- ☐ Elected representative
- ☐ Member of the local community

### **Equality questionnaire; some information about you**

The following questions are to ensure we take the views and needs of differing people into consideration and to understand your responses to the previous questions a little better. It is a legal requirement for us to ask these questions, but you are not obliged to answer any you do not wish to. The data acquired is used for this consultation only and cannot be used to identify you (unless you choose to put your contact details on the form).

**Q1** – What gender do you identify as?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Another gender – please identify:
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q2** – Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q3** – How old are you?

- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75 or older
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q4** – Which race or ethnicity best describes you?

- ☐ Arabic
- ☐ Asian/British Asian: Bangladeshi
- ☐ Asian/British Asian: Chinese
- ☐ Asian/British Asian: Indian
- ☐ Asian/British Asian: Pakistani
- ☐ Asian/British Asian: Other
- ☐ Black/British Black: African
- ☐ Black/British Black: Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed Race: Black & White
- ☐ Mixed Race: Asian & White
- ☐ Mixed Race: Black & Asian
- ☐ Mixed Race: Other
- ☐ Traveller: Gypsy or Roma
- ☐ Traveller: Irish
- ☐ White: British
- ☐ White: Irish
- ☐ White: European
- ☐ Another race or ethnicity – please specify .....
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q5** – Do you have a disability, long term illness, or health condition?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q6** – Which of the following terms best describes your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Asexual

- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay man
- ☐ Gay woman or lesbian
- ☐ Heterosexual or straight
- ☐ Other – please specify
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q7** – What do you consider your religion to be?

- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Other religion – please identify
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Further information can be found in our privacy notice, available at

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/data-protection/service-specific-privacy-notices/>.

Would you like to be kept informed about this consultation and/or invited for further opportunities to have your say and be involved? If yes, please provide your contact details below.

Yes, I would like to be kept informed    Yes, I would like to be further involved

I give permission for Gloucestershire County Council to contact me in relation to my above preferences (please tick all that apply):

- ☐ By email
- ☐ By post
- ☐ By phone

Name	
Address 1	
Address 2	
City/Town	
Post Code	
Email address	
Phone number	

