

All stakeholders who received the initial consultation letter

Merril Haeusler  
Deputy Director of Children's Services -  
Education

Direct Dial: 020 7525 5018

Facsimile: 020 8196 2355

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Dear consultee,

**OUTCOME OF INITIAL CONSULTATION ON THE EXPANSION OF CHERRY GARDEN SPECIAL SCHOOL – CHANGE TO THE PROPOSED DATE FOR EXPANSION FROM SEPTEMBER 2014 TO SEPTEMBER 2015**

Further to my consultation letter of March 2012 on the proposal to increase the number of places at Cherry Garden Special School from 46 to 66 places from September 2014, I am writing to inform you of an amendment to the proposed timetable. As a result of feedback and comments received during the initial consultation, the Local Authority now considers it is prudent to put back by a year the date when Cherry Garden will formally expand.

The reason for the amendment to the timetable is because the expansion of Cherry Garden Special School will take place in new accommodation that is to be built on the site of Gloucester Primary School. The co-location of the two schools will require the development of a scheme that takes into account both the needs of Cherry Garden as a special school and Gloucester as a community primary school. Developing the proposals for the co-located schools will require a significant amount of preparation and engagement for both schools, and Gloucester Primary have requested that the commencement of this design work be deferred until the Autumn term. There are educational reasons underpinning this deferment, with Gloucester Primary School needing to devote their management resources to ensuring the best educational outcomes for their children while they undergo inspection.

As a result of this response to the consultation the programme for planning and developing, building and refurbishing the accommodation for the two schools has been revised, which means that the new Cherry Garden building will not be completed until sometime in the 2014/15 school year. It is therefore planned that Cherry Garden school will move into its new accommodation in Spring 2015. However, as the school will need time to establish themselves in their new accommodation, it is considered in the best interests of a successful outcome that the formal expansion of Cherry Garden will therefore take place in September 2015.

This change has been discussed with Cherry Garden and responds to reasonable concerns about the need to ensure that the complicated development process achieves the best outcomes for both schools.

We will therefore be proceeding on the basis of Cherry Garden enlarging formally from September 2015. Should you have any comments on the amended timetable please would you send them to me by 20 June 2012.

Yours sincerely

Merril Haeusler  
Deputy Director of Children's Services – Education