

Update to Question and Answer document: January 2025

- Transition – Parents would like to know what this will look like. Will there be opportunities to meet teachers and pupils and know the building?
 - **Response:** An Assistant Director is meeting the two Headteachers on a regular basis to plan the opportunities for transition together. If the proposal is agreed we will then be in a position to share what the transition plans will look like. Both schools are very keen to ensure that the children get to know each other and have a number of opportunities to meet their new teacher. There will also be opportunities for Moat parents to visit the Robinswood site and for all parents to meet their child's new teacher before the summer holidays. Both schools work closely with Cultural Matson who will be able to support activities which children from both schools will be able to participate in.

- Concerns over the road access – will it be made safer?
 - **Response:** This is referenced in the original Q&A document (see below).

- Will a uniform be provided for every child?
 - **Response:** Yes, a new branded uniform will be provided

- Has it been confirmed that the name will be changed?
 - **Response:** Yes, we have taken on feedback from a number of parents and staff and will be changing the name of the school. Parents and staff will be consulted on the new name before any final decisions are made.

- Parents asked for clarification over the admissions process
 - **Response:** We will reissue the information to the parents at both schools. It however can be found here - [Robinswood Primary Academy](#) - [Moat Primary Academy](#).

- A parent said they were concerned as their child is currently in a class of 10 in Reception and it would be a big change to be in a class of 30.
 - **Response:** It is very unusual for children to be taught in classes of 10 and this is due to very low pupil numbers at Moat Primary. If the children were to remain at Moat they would move from Reception into a class of mixed age with up to 30 children next academic year.

- Parents wanted to know if The Bridge provision was going to be provided.
 - As previously stated, we are committed to continuing all provisions currently in place when the two schools merge.

- Parents asked if going forward meetings could be joint so that everyone hears the same message.
 - **Response:** This is something we can arrange if the decision is approved to amalgamate the two schools.

- Parents are concerned over the timescale – will they be able to have a visual representation
 - **Response:** We can provide a visual representation if the decision is approved - We will be able to show when transition events will take place, meet the teacher opportunities, etc.
- Parents expressed concern over the provision for SEND children – is there capacity to support all the SEND pupils from both schools?
 - **Response:** Currently the two schools meet the need in the separate schools. This will not change. The Leadership teams SENCOs in each school will be fully involved in planning the provision for all pupils with SEND to ensure that there is clear provision identified before the potential change in September.
- Do all staff from Moat have a job?
 - **Response:** All staff with permanent contracts will have a position if they wish to. Every year there are staff changes due to career progression or personal reasons.
- Will GLT or individuals benefit financially from the merger?
 - **Response:** The budgets from both schools will be combined and all funds received will be for the education of the children at the amalgamated school. No individuals will benefit from the merger; the amalgamation is being proposed to mitigate future financial pressures that both schools face.
- What will the SLT structure be?
 - **Response:** If the merger is approved this would be looked at as a priority, starting with the appointment of the substantive Headteacher of the amalgamated school.
- If Moat is sold where will the money go:
 - **Response:** Gloucester County Council are the owners of the property and land, it will be their decision to distribute funds.
- Parents suggested a buddy system to be put into place to support the move and social events.
 - **Response:** This can be considered as part of the transition plan.
- Parents would like the opportunity to have a tour of the school.
 - **Response:** This will form part of the transition process.
- Asked how EAL parents are getting the information:
 - **Response:** We have a system which enables us to translate the letters into 1st language.
- Parents asked if they could have paper copies as difficult to read on phones
 - **Response:** When we send out the next letter will send text to say paper copies available in the office

Parent / Carer Questions & Greenshaw Learning Trust Responses (previously sent out December 2024)

1. Why is the amalgamation being proposed?

- **Response:** The amalgamation is proposed due to vacancies in both schools, which are not operating at full capacity. Combining the schools would allow for better resource utilisation and provide a more robust educational experience for the students.

2. What has been the process so far?

- **Response:** The decision has not been finalised. The process involves consultations with parents, staff, the local council, and other stakeholders. The final decision will be made by the Board of Trustees and the Department for Education after considering all feedback.

3. Who has been consulted in the Council?

- **Response:** Kirsten Harrison, who has a statutory responsibility for place planning across Gloucestershire, supports the amalgamation. The local MP has also been consulted and has asked questions about how the amalgamation will improve the schools.

4. What are the benefits of amalgamation?

- **Response:** The benefits include better educational provision, more opportunities for students, and the ability to meet special needs more effectively. A larger, fuller school can offer more activities, trips, and specialised support.

5. What are the concerns about the application process for moving students?

- **Response:** Parents are concerned about the need to reapply for places at Robinswood and the possibility of not securing a place. The response assures that there will be guaranteed places for students from Moat at Robinswood, but the application process is necessary to allow for parental choice.

6. How will the transition be managed?

- **Response:** The transition will be carefully managed with input from parents and staff. There will be efforts to ensure that the move is smooth and that the needs of all students, especially those with special educational needs, are met.

7. What about the impact on the local community and logistics like traffic?

- **Response:** Concerns about increased traffic and logistical issues are acknowledged. The response indicates that these will be addressed in the planning process, with efforts to minimise disruption.

8. Will there be changes to the school name, uniform, and identity?

- **Response:** There is a strong sentiment among parents for creating a new identity for the amalgamated school, including a new name and uniform. This feedback is being considered.

9. What about the financial implications and resources?



- **Response:** The amalgamation is expected to bring financial benefits by consolidating resources. This includes better staffing levels, more training opportunities, and improved facilities. The school will also benefit from economies of scale.

10. How will the special educational needs (SEN) provision be handled?

- **Response:** The document reassures that SEN provision will be maintained and enhanced. The larger school will have more resources and specialised staff to support SEN students.

11. What is the timeline for the decision and implementation?

- **Response:** The decision will be made after the consultation period, with implementation potentially starting in September 2025. There is also discussion about whether to delay until 2026, but the preference is for a quicker transition to avoid prolonged uncertainty.

12. What about parking and increased demand on cars around the school?

- **Response:** This issue will be considered and addressed as part of the amalgamation process.