Kent County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to amalgamate Loose Infant School and Loose Junior School in order to become an all-through Primary School

Date of Public Meeting:

at 7pm, 28 January 2014 at Loose Infant School, Loose Road, Maidstone, ME15 9UW

at 7pm, 30 January 2014 at Loose Junior School, Loose Road, Maidstone ME15 9UW
### 1. SUMMARY

The governing body of Loose Schools’ Federation and Kent County Council are proposing to amalgamate Loose Infant School and Loose Junior School to form a single, 3 form entry community primary school for children aged 4 to 11 years.

We are currently undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on the educational merits of this proposal. The public consultation will run from 10 January 2014 until 26 February 2014. There will be public meetings on 28 January 2014 and 30 January 2014 which will give you an opportunity to make your views known and to ask any questions you have.

### 2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

This document gives you details of the proposal and information on the background and current position. There is a form at the end of this document which we ask you to complete and return to us by 26 February 2014.

Loose Infant School and Loose Junior School have been federated since 2011. The two schools are on the same site and currently share a Governing Body and an Executive Headteacher. The Governing Body of The Loose Schools’ Federation view this proposal as a natural progression, which will further secure benefits for staff and pupils.

This proposal is in line with the Kent County Council policy as set out in the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018*, which states “when the opportunity arises, the local authority will consider the possibility of either amalgamation of separate infant and junior schools into a single primary school; or federation of the schools.”

The key features of previous successful amalgamations have been:
- strong leadership and governance;
- promotion of high educational standards;
- high quality, good teaching as a minimum;
- consistency of approach to learning policies, curriculum planning and behaviour management;
- stability of staffing and improved staffing structures and opportunities for staff development;
- improved use of facilities – specialist teaching spaces, reception areas, outdoor area.

*You can view the Commission Plan for Education Provision Kent 2013 to 2018 at: 
http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/education_plans.aspx
3. THE PROPOSAL

The Loose Schools’ Federation Governing Body and Kent County Council are proposing to amalgamate Loose Infant School and Loose Junior School to form a 3 form entry, single community primary school for children aged 4 to 11 years.

This proposal would be achieved by discontinuing Loose Infant School and Loose Junior School and establishing a new community primary school for children aged 4 to 11 years.

The new primary school will be able to use the existing buildings more effectively as a single school. The primary school would admit up to 90 pupils into the reception year each September, as the infant school does now, and the school would have a total of 630 places.

Kent County Council will be the admission authority for the primary school and will set the admission arrangements, as it does for the existing schools. This proposal does not include any changes to the number of pupils admitted across the 4-11 age range or the current class structure of the school. The amalgamation would not result in changes to the admission arrangements at reception and year 2 children would automatically move into year 3 in the primary school. As it would be a single primary school, there would no longer be any need for parents to complete an admission form for entry to Year 3.

A new Instrument of Government** would be established to secure effective governance arrangements for the new school. A separate consultation will be held with staff about the proposal.

It is proposed that Loose Infant School and Loose Junior School would close on 31 August 2014 and the new school would open as Loose Primary School on the existing sites on 1 September 2014.

** The Instrument of Government (IoG) is the document that records the name of the school and the constitution of its governing body.

4. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>Following the consultation, all views received, either by post, e-mail or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the Education Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member decides whether to continue with the proposal. If so, KCC will publish a Public Notice in a local newspaper, at the school and in public places like the library. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>The Public Notice will run for 6 weeks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May/June 2014</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to go ahead.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June/July 2014</td>
<td>The proposal is referred to the Schools Adjudicator for a decision.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2014</td>
<td>Implementation, subject to agreement</td>
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5. **HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS**

There are a number of ways you can let us have your views:

**Complete and return the response form below to:**
Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer - West Kent, Commercial Buildings, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, Kent ME19 4QG  Fax: (01732) 525223

**Come to one of the Public Meetings:**
At 7pm, 28 January 2014 at Loose Infant School, Loose Road, Maidstone  ME15 9UW
At 7pm, 30 January 2014 at Loose Junior School, Loose Road, Maidstone  ME15 9UW

**Email your comments to:** school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails.

You can also view the consultation information online at: www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

**Please provide your comments overleaf**
PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Proposed Amalgamation of Loose Infant School and Loose Junior School
Please return no later than 11am on Wednesday, 26 February 2014

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal: Yes No (delete as applicable)

I am: * A Parent/Carer of a primary aged child, Member of Staff, Governor,

Other interested party (please state) ............................................................... (*delete as applicable)

Name: 

Address: 

Your comments ...

Please continue overleaf if necessary

We have completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations or contact school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
Your comments ...