

# Questions from the Parent Consultation Meeting

## on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### Will the school still be called Dunstone?

*No decision about this has been made yet. If it is decided by the children to change the name parents will be informed.*

### Why not make a decision about the school name?

*It is early days and there are some political issues regarding the name Dunstone as the new school is not in the Dunstone ward.*

### Will the uniform change and if it does will parents have help to buy new uniform?

*We are not at that stage yet but children will be fully involved if this happens.*

*The school will not expect parents to purchase new uniform straight away, it may be a case of having two uniforms in school for a while. Another solution if the uniform changes could be for the school to provide the children with one new jumper each.*

### Will the classrooms and staff stay the same?

*The school will remain as one class per year group. Dunstone does not want to expand to a bigger school as we are currently one of the smaller schools in Plymstock and would like to remain so for as long as possible. All staff and children will relocate to the new school.*

### How will the move affect children in their final year's at Dunstone?

*The teaching and learning philosophy of the school will not change. The school will ensure that it helps minimise children's anxieties and give support. The move will change the lives of the children at Dunstone as it will be a different routine.*

*It is a unique opportunity for the children and they will be involved throughout the build. WeST will help support staff and children during this time. Children will possibly be able to visit the school during the build and this excitement will help promote learning. The learning facilities at the new school will be the best. The school will make sure the move is managed the right way to take the worry away from all children.*

### Will children just have one visit to the new school?

*We want the children to visit the school as often as possible so they feel involved.*

**Will the school be finished on time and if not will the move be delayed for 12 months?**

*The plan is for the school to be ready for September 2019 and there is a huge political push for this to happen. If it is not ready it will need to be decided how to manage this. It will be up to the school to decide when to move and the children will be at the centre of this. The school will not close on a Friday and open at the new school on the Monday. We do not want the move to have a negative impact on the children.*

**What will parking be like around the new school?**

*This question has been asked by lots of parents. Currently we do not know but the school need to look at supporting all families to get to school. Discussion need to take place between the builders and PCC. It is understood that parents will not need to go around the roundabout at Morrisons to access the school as a new road is being built. A parent stated that a new roundabout is being built.*

**Will parents be able to meet with PCC regarding parking?**

*This request will be put to PCC. Safe access and transport to school is a priority and they need to be transparent regarding this. Persimmons want to build the school so need to make access into school safe for pupils.*

**I moved here so I could walk to school now I will have to drive, why does Dunstone have to move?**

*Persimmons have to build a school as this was on the original plans. There are currently enough primary spaces in Plymstock, so if Dunstone stayed here there would be too many spaces. This would mean all the local school would be in competition for children to join. Pupil numbers do not warrant another primary school in Plymstock.*

**Will PCC sort out transport if the route to school is dangerous?**

*PCC are currently in discussion with Persimmons.*

**Do the school have any plans to manage this?**

*WeST have had this conversation. They need to look at how to get children in and out of school. They want to support families and engage with parents to find a solution. There is currently no current agreement. The school will need a travel plan and will need to speak to and survey parents regarding this.*

**Could a minibus be provided to transport children to the new school?**

*This could be another solution to children getting to the new school*

**Could the school teach children to ride a bike so they could ride to school?**

*This could be a solution as there will be bike shelters at the new school. Bikeability is currently undertaken at the school for certain year groups.*

The move will take away the independence of children to walk to school as there is no assurance they can cross the road safely.

*Staff will continue to talk to PCC regarding this.*

How will families at Saltram Meadow get spaces at the new school and will siblings get into the new school?

*The admission procedure will stay the same. Dunstone is holding an open afternoon in October for the September 2019 intake and will explain the move then.*

Why were parents not informed of the move earlier?

*Confirmation of the move was not given to the school until the Wednesday before parents were told.*

Is it a done deal that Dunstone will move?

*Feedback from the consultation will be reviewed by the Governors and Trustees. From the school's point of view, it is a great opportunity for all. After the consultation it still needs to be agreed by the DfE.*

*The classrooms will be bright and vibrant. The school will be energy efficient so there will be more money to spend on resources. The current school requires a significant plan of modernisation which is not cost effective.*

The new school will not have a sport's field.

*It will not have a field but will have a full size 3G pitch which will be able to be used for 12 months of the year. This pitch will be for the school during school hours and community use outside of these times. There will still be a purpose built forest school area, quiet area and sensory garden.*

Will there be play equipment for children?

*FDS are continuing to raise funds for new play equipment which will be installed at the new school. New quotes will have to be gained once access to the site is possible.*

What is the construction timetable for the school, housing and roads?

*Building will still be taking place. The road to the school will have other roads going off of it and the area around will be busy with construction traffic.*

Could the construction traffic be stopped during the start and end of school?

*This could be managed and the construction company are very mindful of dust etc. It was suggested the road is closed and 2 members of staff meet the children and walk them into school.*

**If Dunstone does not take this opportunity to move what will happen to it?**

*Several schools around the area have increased their numbers and had additional money spent on them meaning there would be great competition for new pupils. There is a possibility that Dunstone could close in the years to come as it needs updating and pupil numbers show no sign of increase.*

**What will happen to the Dunstone site?**

*It will return to Plymouth City Council for educational use.*

**How will Dunstone take the community to the new school?**

*The links we have with the Church, Library, the Broadway etc. we want to continue to build.*

**Will families have a settling in time to get to the new school?**

*There will, of course, be a period at the start of the term for parents to adjust to getting to the new school.*

**What age will the nursery be for and will Before and After School Club still run?**

*Before and After School club will still run and parents will be notified when decisions regarding the nursery/preschool have been made.*

**Will families be invited to visit the school before it opens?**

*This is a good idea and hopefully this can be organised to celebrate our new location.*