Points raised by the staff of Glashieburn School re. Proposed Amalgamation Consultation – 11.10.13

Our priority as school staff will be to maximise time for learning and teaching and in order to do this the following points have been raised:

Resources/Time

- Time will need to be given to organise and combine resources from both schools
- Time for staff to come together to look at resources to ensure that these meet the needs of the pupils
- Time for individual staff to sort out their own resources/move cupboards
- Adequate storage space for resources will need to be provided, including whole school resources which are currently stored in identified rooms. It has been suggested that the plan will be to knock down rooms currently used for storage
- The suggested timescale of four additional days does not seem much time to reorganise a whole school
- An INSET day at the beginning of the new session would be necessary in addition to the four closure days – essential training takes place on this day for all staff
- Extensive liaison time between staff from both schools will be required
- No access to the building during the school Summer holidays this is viewed by staff as a time for preparation for the next session
- Renegotiation of working time agreement?
- Appears to be an unrealistic timescale for refurbishment of interior of school

Outdoor Space

- Car parking space currently inadequate additional parking required
- Suggestion that green space would be used to extend the car park part of the playground?
- Increased traffic and congestion in the area surrounding the school traffic plan
- Due to the health and safety risk for pupils a drop off area would be essential
- Breakfast club and After School Club drop off times further congestion in car park
- Suggestion that size of playground will be reduced

Learning and Teaching

- Increasing the amount of open space in the teaching areas could impact on the learning for some pupils – noise level
- Reducing space for active learning to take place
- Removal of courtyard areas impacts on opportunities for outdoor learning
- Updated technology will be necessary
- Reduced opportunity for interactive displays of pupils' work

- Free flow nursery to the outdoor areas with 60 children could be restrictive reducing size of existing playground
- Consultation with the school community regarding the school day would have to be considered prior to the Summer holidays
- Opportunities for pupils and staff to get together on an informal basis would be necessary to enhance the ethos of the school
- Impact on removal of quiet rooms on Visiting specialists
- Due to number of pupils accessing playground, equipment offered would need to be enhanced

<u>Halls</u>

• Dining hall arrangements – impact on time hall can be used for learning and teaching

Security

• With proposal for Nursery being located at the rear of the school, adults would be in the playground when pupils are out for their breaks

Staffing

- Anxieties over staffing (teaching staff) timescale for knowing number of posts, configuration of classes etc.
- Anxieties over staffing (PSAs) timescale for knowing number of posts, excess hours etc
- Anxieties over staffing (Office) timescale for knowing number of posts, excess hours etc
- Anxieties over staffing (Nursery Nurses) timescale for knowing number of posts, excess hours etc
- Adequate working space for staff required
- Adequate space for a social area for staff (staff room)
- Additional staff facilities required toilets

ASN

- Opportunities for enhanced transition for ASN pupils would be required
- Level of support for enhanced transition for all vulnerable children would be required
- Due to the removal of quiet rooms, a sensory room for ASN pupils would be necessary

If the proposed amalgamation does not go ahead, there are genuine concerns from staff over the categorisation of the school. It is felt that enhancement and improvement of the existing interior would be required to bring the school up to a standard fit for learning and teaching in the 21st Century.