



Millais School

In pursuit of excellence

19th June 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: An update on the consultation to change the status of Millais from a single sex girls' school to co-educational from Sept 2026.

On 25th March 2025 West Sussex announced its decision to move forward and change the status of Millais from a single sex girls' school to co-educational from September 2026. This occurred after a two-part public consultation (the informal stage one in May-June 2024, followed by the formal stage two, when they issued the DFE statutory notice).

However, earlier this week, there was an unexpected announcement in the press about Millais and the consultation. A spokesperson for West Sussex stated that

"following a review of the process and advice surrounding a second stage of consultation on the future of Millais School, we decided to cancel that exercise and the decision arising from it"

You may re-call that Millais raised concerns during the course of the consultation itself and that related to the process. Now West Sussex is going to undertake "a new consultation seeking the views, again of the public and the stakeholders" on their proposal to change the status of Millais to co-educational.

West Sussex remains resolute that this should be from September 2026 and that is why "the new consultation" begins on Thursday 19th June 2025 and runs for one month until midnight on Friday 18th July 2025, with an outcome by the end of July 2025. Yesterday, West Sussex sent Millais a letter for parents and carers which we have agreed to distribute today and that is included after this communication.

"Have your Say"

We are mindful that many parents, carers and other stakeholders have taken the time already and submitted their views. We are aware that many were also frustrated, that they did not have an opportunity to have their say. This was especially the case, in the formal phase of the consultation, in January and February 2025, because West Sussex would not consider views, if they had been expressed previously, within the informal phase one.





This is another opportunity to be heard. West Sussex have stated clearly, in the letter below that they will “consider all responses and representations – including views previously expressed”. Therefore, we would encourage you to enter your views on the [online response form](#) or via the [email link](#) they provide.

“The new consultation”

West Sussex has not issued any documentation with this new consultation and the links they provide within their letter contains information, judgements and outcomes which relate to the previous consultation. Therefore, as a refresher, we have provided a link to all the information so that it can be reviewed quickly and from all perspectives - <https://www.millais.org.uk/about-us/wsc-consultation> Also, if you provided a testimonial or sent Millais your submission, we would be able to send you a copy for your convenience.

At Millais, we need some time to reflect on the recent announcement and the impact of this unexpected development. Therefore, over the next week, the Governing Body and the leadership team will have to consider our response to this new consultation. We will be in touch weekly over the course of the next month with updates as they emerge.

As ever, please be assured that we have the best interests of the students already at our school and indeed, how best Millais can serve the education of young people within our local community, alongside our fellow secondary and primary schools.

Thank you for your patience, time and your relentless support.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Lodwick
Headteacher

The Letter from West Sussex to Millais:

Mr Graham Olway MBE
Head of School Organisation, Capital and
Transport

03302 223029 (Direct)
Graham.olway@westsussex.gov.uk

www.westsussex.gov.uk

Ground Floor, Northleigh
County Hall Campus
Tower Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ





VIA PARENTMAIL

19 June 2025

Dear Parent or Carer,

Re: Opening of Consultation 19 June to 18 July 2025

We are writing to update you on the proposal to change the status of Millais School in Horsham from a single sex girls' school to a co-educational school.

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/millais>

Getting the right decision on the future of secondary education opportunities for parents and young people across the Horsham area is important to us. Everyone with an interest in that ambition and who wants to have their say is being given another opportunity to do so.

The County Council took a decision to approve the proposal for change at Millais in March 2025 after a formal consultation. We have since reviewed the arrangements and advice surrounding that consultation and have decided to cancel it and the decision arising from it. There is now a fresh consultation on the same proposal which all are invited to contribute to – including those who responded to the 2024 engagement process that led to the development of the proposal. We wish to make clear that we will consider all responses and representations – including views previously expressed.

We want to make sure there is time for everyone to respond before the end of the current school year. We have today republished the statutory notices seeking views from the public and stakeholders. The four-week representation period runs from 19 June to 18 July 2025. Once the deadline for providing representations has passed and any feedback received and considered, the designated Cabinet Member will be asked to decide whether to proceed with the change of status of Millais School to a co-educational school.

All views and comments will be analysed and considered against the reasons for presenting the proposal following the consultation we carried out last year. A full report will be made public for consideration by the decision-maker within the County Council. We are hoping that their decision will be made before the end of July but that will depend upon the responses we get, and the time needed to consider them fully.

There is an online response form available at <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/millais> or alternatively please email SchoolConsultations@westsussex.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Graham Olway MBE

Head of School Organisation, Capital and Transport