

Coastal Learning Partnership
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Monday 13th January, 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Interested Parties,

Consultation on Mount Scar Cygnets Playgroup Joining Swanage Primary School within Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP)

Since Swanage Primary's successful transition into CLP, Mount Scar Cygnets Playgroup's trustees have proposed fully joining the school.

Though independent, Cygnets has operated for years within the school's grounds. Most children transition from Cygnets to Swanage Primary, fostering a strong relationship. The trustees wish to formalise this connection by transferring Cygnets to the school, creating Swanage Primary School and Pre-School.

Mount Scar Cygnets is a charitable playgroup managed by a volunteer committee and staffed by qualified early years practitioners. Despite being long-established and popular, Cygnets faces challenges like many smaller pre-schools. Recruiting committee members with expertise in areas like special educational needs, safeguarding and curriculum development is difficult. Joining CLP would provide professional support, ensuring stronger provision for children and seamless transitions to Reception.

Financial challenges also persist as the number of children on roll tends to vary from year to year. This makes long-term planning difficult. Joining a larger organisation with financial expertise would enhance stability. CLP membership would also offer Cygnets' staff better professional support, guidance and opportunities, creating a more structured and fulfilling workplace.

For these reasons, CLP's Trust Board is exploring this proposal to ensure Cygnets continues to thrive. Other CLP schools with integrated pre-schools, such as Heathlands Primary Academy & Pre-School and Corfe Castle CE Primary and Pre-School, demonstrate how well this model works.

We are collaborating with the Cygnets committee to understand their operations and challenges. This consultation seeks your feedback. Please share comments or questions via email at cygnetsconsult@coastalpartnership.co.uk. The consultation is open now and closes on Friday 7th February.

Any decision to integrate Cygnets requires Department for Education (DfE) consent. This consultation is an early step in deciding whether to proceed.

Be assured, everyone involved is committed to ensuring Cygnets continues to flourish and serve children, families, and the community.

Yours sincerely

Paul Howieson
CEO, Coastal Learning Partnership

cc. Amanda Davis – Dorset Council
Linda Skinner – Chair, Swanage Primary School