

Nettlestone Primary School

Statutory Proposal by IOW Council to alter the lower age limit of Nettlestone Primary School from 4 years to 2 years.

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to discuss proposed changes to the provision at Nettlestone Primary School for pre-school children which requires a lowering of the school's age range by 2 years. The Governing Body of the Federation of Nettlestone and Newchurch Primary School has decided that it should consult on the proposed changes in line with legal requirements, and wishes to receive the views and comments of all stakeholders within the Federation.

Context

Nettlestone Primary School is an established and successful community primary school with an age range of 4-11 years, which serves the local community of which it is proud to be a part. It was graded as 'Good' by OfSTED in December 2018 and the Early Years provision was graded as 'outstanding' during the last full inspection in November 2014 with inspectors noting that 'the EYFS curriculum has been meticulously planned so that children develop the key skills they need to be well prepared as they enter Year 1. Achievement is outstanding. The training and development of staff have been at the heart of this progress.'

Current provision within school enables children to attend Early Years Foundation Stage 2 (Reception Class) setting followed by Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The school does not currently provide any nursery or pre-school provision. The school has been advised that an independent but on-site pre-school provision is closing in July 2019. This affords an opportunity to broaden our outstanding provision to support the children of our community.

With the closure of Daisyfield Nursery in July 2019, there will be a shortfall of childcare places in the area. Due to the capacity of the premises, the school would not seek to offer additional places to that already offered by the existing independent provision and therefore there should be no change to the competition for parental choice with regard to the variety of options and opportunities that are currently offered within the community.

This change would be to the benefit of all of our children and the wider community enabling us to build on our identified strengths and continue to provide a rich and exciting education for our children.

Proposal

The Governing Body is proposing to alter the lower age limit from 4 years to 2 years by extending provision to include Early Years Foundation Stage 1 children (Nursery). The school already has adequate staffing and premises to make this alteration without significant changes being required and with little/no disruption to the existing provision.

This means that, if the proposal is accepted, Nettlestone Primary School will be able to offer families a seamless and comprehensive education programme from the age of 2 years aligning children's attainment and progress across all phases.

The Governing Body anticipates that, working with the existing premises and staff, the school will be able to offer the full government entitlement of 15 hours (and 30 hours of funding if eligible) of free early years education and the option of allowing self-funded hours to suit individual family circumstances and preferences.

If the proposal is agreed, it is anticipated that the school will be able to accommodate two/three and four year-olds within the setting.

Staff

We have conducted a thorough assessment of the resources needed and the effects on the existing primary school provision and we do not anticipate any adverse impact on any existing level of provision. The school will be able to successfully manage this change and integrate pre-school children into our already successful Early Years Foundation Stage.

If the proposal is agreed, the school will utilise the existing highly qualified school staff to run the provision. The existing Phase Leader for the Early Years Foundation Stage has significant experience of working within early years, has been accredited by OfSTED as 'outstanding' and will extend their current remit to lead the nursery. In addition, it is proposed that there are always 2 suitably trained teaching assistants in the provision along with an additional adult, thus the school will work well within the correct ratios of 1:13 staff to pupils or lower depending on the age of the pupils.

Statutory Consultation

The consultation on this proposal will run for four weeks from Tuesday 23rd April 2019 to Tuesday 21st May 2019.

The purpose of the consultation is to seek views of those in our school and wider community about the proposals being put forward.

The consultation documents will be available on request from the email below and will also be published on the school website and on the IOW Council website.

Any comments, observations or objections in relation to this proposal should be sent to –

Mrs Sue Harbour, Clerk to Governors via the e:mail address:
Nettlestonenurseryconsult@gmail.com

The deadline for submitting responses to the consultation is Tuesday 21st May 2019.