



Consultation Document Proposal to lower the age range at Kingsley St John's CE Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 by September 2017

Current Provision

The School currently provides education for children aged 4 - 11 years. We are a fully inclusive school rated 'Good with Outstanding Behaviour and Safety' by Ofsted 2014.

The purpose of this document is to propose changes to the age range at the School. The School proposes to lower the age range by 1 year to accommodate children aged 3 and 4 years in an appropriate nursery provision in existing facilities at the School. The Governing body of the school needs to consult on the proposed changes in line with DfE guidance, and wishes to receive the views and comments of all stakeholders involved with our School. The consultation period will run for 5 weeks from:

18th November 2016 - 23rd December 2016.

The Governing body will consider all comments received during the consultation period.

School and LA details.

Age Range Provider Type: Local Authority as a CE Aided Primary

Current: 4 - 11 CE Aided Primary School Cheshire West and Chester

Proposed: 3 - 11 CE Aided Primary and Nursery School Cheshire West and Chester

Why is the consultation taking place?

Currently the youngest children that the school can admit are in the Reception class. In order to admit younger children a process must be followed to ensure that the School is compliant with all DfE requirements. The first step in this process is that the local community and stakeholders must be asked for their views.

From the Department of Education Publication: Early Education and Childcare:

all children who meet the prescribed criteria are able to take up high quality early education, regardless of their parents' ability to pay – benefiting their social, physical and mental development and helping to prepare them for school. Evidence shows that regular, high quality early education has lasting benefits for all children.

Why is the school making this change?

- The proposed change is to start from no later than 1st September 2017 to allow for the provision for 3 and 4 year olds as part of the whole school structure. Currently a third party, using facilities owned by the School, offers provision for 3 and 4 year olds. The Governing Body now believes that it is in the best interests of the School and local community if this provision is made by the School in the future. The current provision will finish by the 31st August 2017 and it is proposed that from the following day, provision for 3 and 4 year olds will be managed by the School. Therefore, there will be no disruption to the levels of provision in place. The provision for 3 and 4 year olds will be overseen by the Governors and senior leadership team of the School. Age appropriate experiential play and EYFS education will be accessible for all children. Dependent on need, some children may also require that the EYFS curriculum offers differentiation to support specific needs. All staff in the provision will be knowledgeable about age appropriate development and characteristics of effective learning for 3 year olds and also have a clear understanding of expectations and attainment tracking processes for 3 and 4 year old children. The ability to use the whole of the School facilities will enhance the provision to the age group. The level of provision available will be a maximum of 15 places in the morning and 15 places in the afternoon. The

current provision is only available for a limited period of 3 days. The level of provision will therefore increase by two days. This consultation document will be shared with local schools and pre-school provision. We believe that providing care and education with a Christian Foundation at the earliest opportunity is fundamental to our Community and the holistic ethos of our School. It is recognised that the earliest years of a child's life have the most significant impact on their long-term development with better outcomes and lifestyle choices. These are formative years physiologically, cognitively, socially and emotionally.

3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a level of free Early Years Foundation Stage education from the beginning of the school term following their third birthday until compulsory school age. We wish to provide the opportunity for parents to take up the free entitlement in a maintained school and nursery setting.

Applications for a Reception school place need to be made in the usual way; there is no guarantee of securing a School place as a result of a child attending the nursery provision at School.

The Department for Education said:

“The evidence shows that starting younger, with high quality teacher led provision, can have a real and lasting impact on children’s development and life chances.”

The benefits in brief:

- The remodel would allow us to provide individualised support for all children’s social, emotional and academic development within a Christian, caring and nurturing setting led by experienced staff.
- The children would benefit from experiencing earlier educational activities to support their learning and development as part of a wider school curriculum led by the senior leadership team of the school.
- Research has shown that where schools provide early years education, children make rapid progress as they move between the early stages of learning. School staff would be able to share their expertise between early years and Key Stage 1 and this is critical to consistent progress and greater educational gains.

- Improved sustainability for stabilizing pupil numbers within our school structure.
- Where children go on to attend the School the transition would be a smooth and effective process allowing the children to settle more quickly which would provide continuity of education and provision through a single leadership team and governing body.
- A wider range of resources and expertise would be shared across the age range of the school, this flexibility can be particularly useful for children with special needs or from vulnerable backgrounds.

Our experienced Special Needs Co-ordinator would be involved from an earlier standpoint to identify concerns and support educational developments from the outset. The same can be said for our more vulnerable families. Early intervention involves identifying children and families that may be at risk of running into difficulties and providing timely and effective support.

What would the Early Years provision look like?

The provision would be provided as a high quality Early Years Foundation Stage play-based provision - including role play, sand, water, construction, early literacy, early mathematics, mark making and outside play. There would be free flow, as much as possible, between areas including the outside, offering children a choice of activities and allowing them to engage in learning which is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development. The difference would be that this provision would be managed by the senior leadership team of the school, leading to better continuity of provision

Would the proposed change result in any educational impact on the existing primary school provision?

We have conducted a thorough assessment of the resources needed and effects on the existing primary school provision and we do not see that there would be any adverse impact on any existing level of provision. The school would be able to successfully manage this change allowing for 3 and 4 year old provision.

This is a very positive opportunity for Kingsley St John's CE Aided Primary School to

extend the quality provision already offered so that the Early Years Provision within the school is as high in quality as the rest of the school. Creating a foundation stage for Early Years education, would allow greater flexibility within the structure of our school, and would offer the opportunity to move to 4 classes, maintaining small class sizes.

Consultation Process timescale

Process	Date
Publication of consultation	18 th November 2016
Consultation Process	18 th November - 23 rd December 2016
Analysis of responses	January 2017
Decision communicated	31 st January 2017
Meeting for parents	January 2017 (exact date TBC)
Final implementation of proposals	No later than 1 st September 2017

How can you ask questions, get more information and comment on the proposal?

If you have any questions or comments regarding the consultation please email kingsleystjohnsadmin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or write to the School. We will be allowing five weeks for receiving responses. All responses must be received by the end of the working day on 22nd December 2016 in order for them to be considered by the governing body when making its decision.

Procedure for responses:

You have 5 weeks from the date of this letter to let us know your views on the

proposal. You can do this by:

- Sending an email to kingsleystjohnsadmin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Completing and returning this form

Please either return the form to the school office or send to:

Mrs Kira Fayle, Chair of Governors,

Kingsley St John's Primary School, Hollow Lane, Kingsley, Cheshire WA6 8EF

Nursery Consultation Slip

1	Name and address	
	Name:	
	Address:	
	Postcode:	
2	About You (please tick the most relevant box only)	
	I am a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Parent <input type="radio"/> Governor <input type="radio"/> Member of staff <input type="radio"/> Staff at other pre-school provider <input type="radio"/> Other e.g. local resident or grandparent (please state _____) 	
3	Please let us know your views on the proposal	
	Proposal to lower the age range of Kingsley St John's CE Aided Primary School from 4 - 11 to 3 - 11 no later than 1 st September 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Agree <input type="radio"/> Disagree <input type="radio"/> Don't know

4

Please write any other comments in the box below

--