



Consultation on proposed merger of Windmill Pre-School with Templefield Lower School and a permanent change of age range from September 2019

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to discuss proposed changes to the provision at Templefield Lower School for under 4s, which requires a lowering of the school's age range by 2 years. In line with legal requirements, the school's governing body are carrying out a preliminary consultation on the proposed changes.

The consultation period will run for 4 weeks from Monday 1st October to Tuesday 6th November 2018. The school's governing body and the committee of Windmill Pre-School will consider all comments received during the consultation period. We are consulting with all stakeholders as required by law when making changes to school age range arrangements, and will also advertise the proposal locally in order to gather the views of the wider community, including the other schools and pre-schools.

What change is being proposed?

Following the closure of the school's nursery provision at the end of the last academic year, children are now admitted into school in the September following their fourth birthday. All younger children attend Windmill Pre-School or other Early Years settings.

From September 2019, a merger with Windmill Pre-School is proposed, thereby lowering our school's age range by 2 years. As part of this merger, the governing body will take over the management of the pre-school. This will make the school's age range 2 - 9 years rather than the current 4 - 9 years.

The proposed change will not affect the age at which children are admitted into pre-school or the school's determined admissions arrangements. Children who attend Windmill Pre-School will not be guaranteed a place at the school.

Why is the school proposing this change?

The school's governing body approached Windmill Pre-School to discuss the comments we received to our previous consultation. These discussions led us to investigate a merger of the two organisations.

The main benefits of the proposed merger include:

- Fully integrated provision with opportunities for pre-school children to utilise all of the school's facilities.
- Closer working relationships between the staff working across the age range.
- Further access to early support and interventions for those children with additional needs.
- Access to before and after school care provision for parents of pre-school children.
- Pre-school utilising the services of the School Business Manager, giving the pre-school Manager more time to focus on teaching and learning.
- Greater job security for current members of staff at the pre-school who would be employed by the school.

Will the proposed change result in any impact on current Windmill provision?

We cannot foresee any adverse effect on the existing provision as the pre-school would carry on as normal and the day-to-day operations would continue to be run by the pre-school manager. The merger would build on the strengths and achievements of Windmill, and pre-school children's experience will remain high quality, with a more seamless link between the two settings.

What will the impact be for other providers locally?

We cannot foresee any impact on other providers locally as new places are not being created.

Will the proposed change result in additional traffic near the school at drop off and pick up times?

There will be no impact on peak time traffic at the school, as the provision is already on the school site.

Funding

The existing pre-school building is constructed from short life materials and is deemed to be a temporary building that should not remain on the site indefinitely. Whilst in the short term we could make use of this accommodation, in the long term the school would be looking to secure capital funding to build a purpose built pre-school on the school site.

What is the consultation process?

This is the first phase of a two phase statutory consultation process that the school is required to undertake regarding the proposed change. Phase 1 involves:

- Preliminary consultation: 4 weeks from Monday 1st October to Tuesday 6th November 2018
- Governing body and Windmill committee to consider the responses: Tuesday 13th November 2018

The second statutory phase will be undertaken by Central Bedfordshire Council, if requested by the school's governing body, after their consideration of the responses received during the first phase.

Have your say

We will be holding drop-in sessions where you can come and find out more about this proposal on:

Thursday 11th October, 9.00am - 10.00am in the school hall, Templefield Lower School; and

Tuesday 16th October, 5.30pm - 7.00pm in the school hall, Templefield Lower School

If you are unable to attend these sessions but would like to comment on the proposal, please complete the attached form or write to the Chair of Governors, Mr Gary Flavell, at the school address (Templefield Lower School, Malham Close, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1AJ). Alternatively you can email chair.te@templefield.cbeds.co.uk.

We need all responses by 3.30pm on Tuesday 6th November 2018.

Finally, if you would like any further information or have any questions on the proposal, please contact the school or pre-school via any of the usual methods of communication.

Templefield Lower School can be contacted on 01525 713625 or by email at office@templefield.cbeds.co.uk.

Windmill Pre-School can be contacted on 01525 719144 or by email at windmillmanager12@gmail.com.

Yours faithfully



Debbie Trivett
Headteacher



Gary Flavell
Chair of Governors



Margaret Burnet
Pre-School Manager



Ria Chisholm
Committee Chair