

Cabinet

17 June 2021

Change of Age Range Exhall Cedars Infant School

Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the change of age range at Exhall Cedars Infant School from 3 - 7 to 4 - 7 from September 2021.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Exhall Cedars currently operates two different provisions at its site for 2,3 and eligible 4 year olds: a Nursery class and a Pre-School. School Governors want to close the Nursery class and accommodate all those pupils in the Pre-School, to achieve greater flexibility in their provision.
- 1.2 Following a statutory consultation, the proposal is to change the age range at Exhall Cedars Infant School from 3 - 7 to 4 - 7 from September 2021. The published admission number (PAN) for the main school will not be affected by these proposals.
- 1.3 The PAN for the maintained nursery class will cease to exist, as nursery provision will be offered in a more flexible way, according to parental demand. All nursery provision for 2,3 and eligible 4 year olds will be provided via Community Facility Powers, at the existing Pre-School, under the direction of the School Governors from September 2021.
- 1.4 There will be no reduction in, nor material change to, the service provided by the school.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no financial implications for WCC.
- 2.2 Exhall Cedars Infant School may benefit financially from being able to offer a more flexible and comprehensive early years provision to parents.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 As there will be no associated change to the numbers of pupils attending the school or pre-school, the location or transport arrangements, there are considered to be no environmental implications.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The proposed changes at Exhall Cedars Infant School are related to changes at national level, with many families now entitled to 30 hours per week of funded early education, instead of the 15 hours per week they were previously entitled to, alongside the demand for funded places for eligible 2 year olds.
- 4.2 Parents are increasingly seeking more flexibility from nursery places, to support them with work commitments. This is difficult to manage when nursery places are offered via a maintained nursery class, where there is less scope for flexibility.
- 4.3 The proposed change is in the legal running structure from maintained to fully governor run for all early years places - this will make the service more flexible and cost efficient for the school to meet the needs of the community and demand for 2, 3 and 4 year old places. The change would enable the school to rebalance staffing to become more cost effective.
- 4.4 There will be no material change to the school's operation – both school and nursery will continue to be governed by the same board and led by the same head teacher.
- 4.5 Consultation with parents and the local community regarding the proposal was undertaken over 19 April 2021 to 14 May 2021. The Consultation Document is provided as Appendix 1. There were no responses to the consultation.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 If approved, the age range change will be effective from 1 September 2021.

Appendix

Consultation Document

Background Papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher (Bedworth East)

Other members: Members of CYP OSC