

Portfolio Holder Decision

Consultation on Age Range Change - St John's Primary School and Arley Primary School

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education
Date of decision	18 March 2022
	Signed

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning agrees to the undertaking of a public consultation on changing the age ranges at St John's Primary School and Arley Primary School with effect from September 2022.

2. Reasons for decisions

Both St John's Primary School and Arley Primary School currently have an age range of 3 – 11, admitting 3-year olds into a Nursery class.

The schools both wish to change age range to become a 4 – 11 primary school and replace the current Nursery class with a governor-run nursery.

The Nursery classes must be directly led by a qualified teacher and additional level 3 qualified early years professional. The cost of staffing is placing increasing financial pressures on the schools.

The schools will replace the current Nursery classes with a school run nursery. Delivery of early years places in this way is more cost efficient and can be adapted to meet demand (including the potential to take 2-year olds and longer sessions) in the future.

The age range changes will see no reduction in places for the community as the offer at the school run nursery will reflect those places previously offered by the Nursery classes.

3. Background information

1. Changes at national level have seen several alterations to the early years' offer in recent years, including
 - the introduction of funded places for disadvantaged 2-year olds
 - the increased universal entitlement for 3-year olds from 12.5 hours per week to 15 hours per week
 - the introduction of 30 hours funded childcare for working parents of 3-year olds.
2. This proposal recognises that many working parents require early years' places to be delivered in a much more flexible manner than the traditional nursery class can provide alongside creating a more financially viable delivery model that can adapt to meet differing demands in an efficient way.
3. Any proposed changes to the age range of a community school must be carried out in accordance with the Statutory Guidance issued by the Department for Education 'Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools.' The guidance requires the local authority to undertake a statutory consultation for a period of at least 4 weeks, with the proposals published both online and in a local newspaper, as well as to the governing body, the parents of registered pupils at the school, and anyone else considered appropriate.
4. The local authority should make its decision within 2 months of the end of the consultation period.
5. In addition to the consultation process, an Equality Impact Assessment is in place and will be reviewed before any final decision is made to go ahead with a change
6. In order to meet the time scales for this change to be implemented for September 2022, consultation needs to take place during April-May 2022.
7. The results of the consultation will be included in a future Cabinet report for approval, followed by implementation (if agreed) from September 2022.

4. Financial implications

None

5. Environmental implications

None

Report Author	Rosalind Currie rosalindcurrie@warwickshire.gov.uk,
Assistant Director	chrisbaird@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Strategic Director for Communities

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education
-------------------------	---

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Morgan

Corporate Board –

Legal – Ian Marriott

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality –

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors –

Local Member(s): Cllr Dave Humphries and Cllr Richard Spencer