

Swindon Borough Council

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Wednesday, 14 November 2018

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

David Renard
Oliver Donachie
Brian Ford
Dale Heenan
Russell Holland
Mary Martin
Cathy Martyn
Maureen Penny
Keith Williams
Gary Sumner

Committee Officer: Steve Jones, 463602, stevejones@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 463000)

AGENDA

- 1. Appointment of Chair**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.
- 4. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2018.
- 5. Public Question Time**
See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.
- 6. Proposal to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds HE SA** (Pages 7 - 28)

7. Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds HE CD (Pages 29 - 56)

Date of Despatch: 14 November 2018

Key:

Officers:

HE - Head of Education

Wards

None

Role / Terms of Reference - *The Cabinet Panel on School Organisation (a Sub-Committee of Cabinet) was established by Cabinet in June 2007 to deal with issues of School Organisation. This followed changes in legislation that led to School Organisation Committees being abolished.*

The Panel comprises of any 5 members of Cabinet for each meeting, will consider the outcomes of consultation across a range of school organisation issues such as school expansions, closures and opening of new schools subject to "competition regulations".

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Director of Law and Democratic Services, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the "Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance" available on the Council's Website.

(<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

Access Arrangements - *The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Officer, whose name appears at the top of this agenda, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.*

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CABINET PANEL ON SCHOOL ORGANISATION

THURSDAY, 15 MARCH 2018

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard, Oliver Donachie, Fionuala Foley, Cathy Martyn, Garry Perkins and Keith Williams

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Russell Holland, Toby Elliott, Brian Ford and Mary Martin

6. Appointment of Chair

Resolved – That Councillor David Renard be chair for this meeting of the Panel.

7. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

8. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

9. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

**10. Proposal to Increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) at
Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 77 to 85 from September
2018**

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School attainment, and the Head of Education, submitted a joint report seeking the Panel's agreement to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) that is recognised by the Local Authority as reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) at Brimble Hill School, Swindon from 77 to 85 Pupils from 1st September 2018.

The report set out the results of the consultation process held in late 2017 and early 2018 on the proposal to increase PAN and summarised the responses received by the local community.

In reaching its decision, the Cabinet Panel confirmed that it

- had carefully considered the joint report and the representations made at the meeting by Council Officers **along with the representations made at public question time.**
- was satisfied that
 - it had the necessary information in order to make the decision referred to above,
 - the Statutory Notice complied with the statutory requirements,

- the statutory consultation was carried out properly prior to the publication of the Notice, and
- the Notice did not relate to any other published proposal.
- had carefully considered the factors to be considered by the decision makers, as set out in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education in April 2016, *Guidance for decision-makers: Statutory guidance for decision-makers deciding prescribed alteration and establishment and discontinuance proposals*.

The Cabinet Panel's decision was to approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice to:

1. Increase the PAN that is recognised by the Local Authority as reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) at Brimble Hill School, Swindon from 77 to 85 Pupils from 1st September 2018.

The reasons for the decision were as follows:

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Cabinet Panel believed that the Local Authority was responding to the Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. In February 2018, OFSTED reported that Brimble Hill Primary Special School continued to be rated as good.

The proposal to increase the PAN at Brimble Hill Primary Special School had been developed to respond to the service commissioners identifying a requirement for places for at least eight additional pupils.

A school-led system with every school an academy

The Cabinet Panel noted that Brimble Hill Primary Special School was a Local Authority maintained school. Therefore, the proposal was not consistent with the Government's policy - a school-led system with every school an academy. However, the proposal would increase the school-led provision in Swindon by increasing the number of places Brimble Hill Primary Special School could offer.

Demand

Cabinet Panel noted that Brimble Hill Primary Special School was very popular with parents. It was operating not only at full capacity but also with a waiting list. Brimble Hill Primary Special School recognised the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.

The Panel noted that in common with many Local Authorities, Swindon had seen a large increase in the number of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN). These children could struggle with attending a mainstream primary school.

The Panel noted that the Local Authority was under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of new schools, including requests

to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools.

School size

Brimble Hill Primary Special School had 77 pupils on roll and the ability to take flex the intake to accommodate 85 as the relevant regulations allowed an increase above the PAN within a limit of 10%. The Panel noted that the increasing the PAN to 85 would allow the school to accept up to 93 pupils.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposed increase in PAN would be incorporated into the space already allocated at the school for 5 – 11 years olds.

In addition, the Panel noted that all pupils would be required to have Statements of Special Educational Need or an Education Health and Care Plan, which would be commissioned by the local authority.

National Curriculum

The Cabinet Panel believed that the proposed changes to the PAN at Brimble Hill Primary Special School would offer the high quality education currently provided to students to more pupils in the area. The School had an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students made outstanding progress during their time at the school. By increasing the admission number, the school would seek to extend this opportunity to make progress to the additional pupils.

The Panel also had confidence in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.

Equal opportunity issues

The Cabinet Panel believed that there would not be any adverse sex, race, or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed. A diversity impact assessment had been carried out which had not identified any issues.

Community cohesion

The Cabinet Panel believed that Swindon Community Cohesion was borne out of all stakeholders working together to facilitate high aspiration, create equity in terms of life opportunities and achievements, increase awareness/appreciation of difference and diversity, challenge discrimination, develop resilience to manage change, promote connections between different communities and encourage positive citizenship. All schools were called to meet this aspiration.

The Panel noted that the proposal aimed to create a range of provision and support that could respond to the needs of pupils and parents' preferences.

The Panel noted further that Brimble Hill Primary Special School had an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its pupils. Increasing the

PAN would continue to provide a supportive environment for more children to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to move successfully into secondary school education.

Travel and accessibility

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposals would not unreasonably extending journey times or increase transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from sustainable travel due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc. Panel Members were made aware that there was surplus capacity on existing school transport, if required.

Funding

The Cabinet Panel noted that if approved there would be no capital funding required for the proposal to increase the PAN at Brimble Hill Primary Special School.

School premises and playing fields

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposal to increase the PAN would not include any conversion of existing accommodation. It would not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal would enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

Views of Interested Parties

The Panel noted that the consultation process had been followed and that of the 44 respondents, all were in favour of the proposal.

In analysing the comments, the Panel noted that respondents cited the quality of the school, the rising demand for places, and the specialist education provided as reasons to support the proposed increase in the PAN.

Proposal to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date: 14th November 2018

Author: Head of Education

Wards: St Andrews

Parishes Affected: St Andrews

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The report seeks Cabinet agreement to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School by two years from 4-11 to 2-11.
- 1.2 The report sets out the results of the consultation process held in September/October 2018 on the proposal to lower the age range and captures the range of responses received by the St Andrew's community.
- 1.3 This report is necessary to enable the Local Authority to notify the Department of Education of change in age range at Bridlewood Primary School.
- 1.4 The report sets out preferred options and timescales with the intention of Bridlewood Primary school opening and running its own maintained nursery provision to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds from September 2019.

2. Recommended Action to be taken by Cabinet

Recommended that:

- 2.1 Note the summary and analysis of the consultation process.
- 2.2 Approve the proposal, to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School by two years to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds to create maintained nursery provision opening in September 2019.

3. Detail

- 3.1 It is the statutory duty of the Local Authority to ensure sufficient school places and sufficient early year's provision. In order to carry out that duty the Local Authority is implementing a number of changes to school provision to ensure a greater level of access to provision and to ensure children are receiving education in quality provision.
- 3.2 The proposal in the report is in relation to an increase of early year's provision in school settings.
- 3.3 The Childcare Act 2016 placed a duty on local authorities to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017. To meet the increased demand this policy has created, Swindon Borough

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Danielle Maundrell, 07769281726 DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk.

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Council are required to ensure additional places are available and that they can offer greater flexibility to working families.

- 3.4 Across the Borough, the early year's education and childcare places are provided by a total of 284 small and large nursery chains, independent nurseries, preschools, maintained primary schools and childminders.
- 3.5 At present, there are 28 maintained primary schools delivering early years education for 3 and 4 year olds across the Borough. Of these, 15 schools also deliver 2 year old funded education.
- 3.6 There are a further two primary academies proposing to lower their age range to open maintained nursery provision from January 2018 which will take the total to 30 primary schools delivering early years education in Swindon. This will equate to an increase of 13 schools over the last 4 years now delivering early years provision in Swindon.
- 3.7 Despite this growth, Swindon remains in the bottom three local authorities with the lowest proportion of preschool children with access to provision with a qualified teacher across the county based on Department for Education statistical release; Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2018.
- 3.8 Steven McIntosh, Save the Children director of UK Poverty, said, 'Children who start behind, stay behind. But high-quality childcare, led by graduate early years teachers, can ensure children are ready for school. All of our little ones should have access to nursery care led by an early years teacher. Without action, we'll be letting down our next generation.' (August 2018).
- 3.9 In July 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) announced a capital bidding round of £30 million to create new high-quality school-based nursery places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to deliver the government's commitment to build more school-based nurseries, and to boost social mobility. The Department stated that 'the first few years of a child's life are critical to shaping their future development, and our ambition is to provide equality of opportunity for every child, regardless of background or where they live, because we know that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility.' This announcement was in line with the Government's commitment to increase the number of early years places delivered within primary schools following previous Ofsted recommendations.
- 3.10 Ofsted have previously reported that 'It is widely accepted that progress in early years for children from low income backgrounds depends on attendance in the highest quality settings. The only early education provision that is at least as strong, or even stronger, in deprived areas compared with wealthier areas is nursery schools.' Furthermore, a direct recommendation of the report was that

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‘the Government should promote the expansion of nursery schools into those local areas where they are not currently present – in particular disadvantaged areas - to raise quality and improve outcomes both through direct provision of places, and system leadership of the local early years sector.’ It was also a recommendation that where a nursery school was established then ‘It should be a priority to make the best possible use of the maintained nursery schools to deliver 2-year-old places, in preference to lower quality settings’.

- 3.11 It is widely acknowledged that a primary school, which also has a nursery provision achieves better outcomes for children.
- 3.12 In response to the above Bridlewood Primary School is proposing to lower their age range from September 2019.

Bridlewood Primary School

- 3.13 Bridlewood Primary School was rated as ‘Requires Improvement’ by Ofsted in January 2018. However, at the time Early Years Provision and Effectiveness of Leadership and Management was graded as ‘Good’.
- 3.14 The introduction of a school nursery will continue to improve the quality of education provided at the school by achieving better outcomes for children who will have access to a qualified teacher from the age of 2. Whilst there is no guarantee that attending the school nursery will mean a place in the school’s reception class, those children who are offered a school place within Bridlewood will benefit from a smoother transition having been pupils of the school from an earlier age.
- 3.15 Bridlewood Primary School is in an area where there are currently insufficient early years places to meet growing demand as a result of the 30 hours free childcare policy and housing growth locally.
- 3.16 £350,000 has been previously identified within the Council’s Education Capital Programme (approved within 2017/2018 Capital Programme in February 2017) to establish a nursery on site to meet this demand.

Consideration of consultation and representation period

- 3.17 Following approval from Cabinet via Decision Note (Notice of proposed decision published: 20/09/18) to commence consultation on a proposal to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School a consultation was carried out from the 24th September 2018 to 19th October 2018.
- 3.18 A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 1.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Danielle Maundrell, 07769281726 DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.19 As part of the prescribed process, notices were published in the Swindon Advertiser and sent to the relevant stakeholders identified by the School Organisation Regulations 2013, on the 24th September 2018. A copy of the public notice is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.20 The notice published proposed an implementation date of 1st September 2019 to lower the age range. A summary of the results can be found at Appendix 3.
- 3.21 There were 34 individual responses to the survey of which 32 were in favour and 2 objected. The summary at Appendix 3 highlights the key themes of the objections and the LA responses to those objections in detail.
- 3.22 The vast majority of the responses received were in favour of the proposals due to the need for flexible places in the area and the benefits of maintained provision for the children who go on to attend the provision if approved. Parents have shared their overwhelming support for the school, which is a credit to all who have worked hard to turn the school under the current leadership following the previous Ofsted judgement.
- 3.23 St Andrew's Parish Council responded to the consultation offering their full support for the proposal.

Education standards and diversity of provision

- 3.24 The Local Authority is responding to the Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success.
- 3.25 Bridlewood graded 'Requires Improvement' by Ofsted in January 2018. However, Early Years Provision and Effectiveness of Leadership and Management was graded as 'Good'.
- 3.26 The introduction of a school nursery will continue to improve the quality of education provided at the school by achieving better outcomes for children who will have access to a qualified teacher from the age of 2. Whilst there is no guarantee that attending the school nursery will mean a place in the school's reception class, those children who are offered a school place within Bridlewood will benefit from a smoother transition having been pupils of the school from an earlier age.
- 3.27 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment commissioned by the LA in February 2018 identified a shortfall of 314 places for 3 and 4 year olds and 52 places for 2 year olds within the ward. Swindon Borough Council has a duty to address this

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shortfall under the Childcare Act 2016 and to ensure demand can be met as a result of the 30 hours free childcare policy.

Consideration of consultation and representation period

- 3.28 The proposal to lower the age range at Bridlewood Primary School by 2 years has been developed to respond to the Childcare Act 2016, which places a duty on LAs to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.
- 3.29 In addition it is recognised by Ofsted that educational outcomes are improved by having a qualified early year's teacher in the provision. This proposal would offer families in St Andrew's ward the opportunity to attend a maintained early years setting, open with flexible hours.

A school-led system with every school an academy

- 3.30 Bridlewood Primary School is a Local Authority maintained school. Therefore, the decision maker must be aware that the proposal is not consistent with the Government's policy a school-led system with every school an academy. However, the proposal does increase the school-led provision in St Andrew's ward by increasing the breadth of places Bridlewood Primary School could offer.

Demand v need

- 3.31 Bridlewood Primary School is very popular with parents and is operating close to full capacity. Bridlewood Primary School recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.
- 3.32 The Local Authority is under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of new schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools. This provides for greater inclusion and access for pupils within the existing school community.

School size

- 3.33 Bridlewood Primary School has a capacity of 270 places and currently have 234 children on roll.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

- 3.34 If approved, existing classroom space will be adapted to create nursery provision on site and additional classroom space created. This will further enhance the existing facilities on the school site.

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3.35 £350,000 was approved by Cabinet in February 2017 and is included in the Education capital programme to fund the works required.

3.36 If the proposal is approved the school will develop an admissions policy for the maintained nursery.

National Curriculum

3.37 The proposed changes to the age range at Bridlewood Primary School will offer the high quality education provided to children, to more pupils in the area. The school has an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make good progress during their time at the school.

3.38 The Local Authority is confident in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.

Equal opportunity issues

3.39 It is not envisaged that there will be any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed. A diversity impact assessment has been carried out which has not identified any issues.

Community cohesion

3.40 In Swindon Community Cohesion is borne out of all stakeholders working together to facilitate high aspiration, create equity in terms of life opportunities and achievements, increase awareness/appreciation of difference and diversity, challenge discrimination, develop resilience to manage change, promote connections between different communities and encourage positive citizenship. All schools are called to meet this aspiration.

3.41 The proposal aims to create a range of provision and support that can respond to the needs of pupils and parents preferences.

3.42 As noted by Ofsted in January 2018, Bridlewood Primary School's early years provision is good. Staff have high expectations of children, who achieve well as a result of the good teaching. By lowering the age range by two years to create a maintained nursery the school would continue to provide a supportive environment for children from an earlier age to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to successfully move into secondary school education.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Danielle Maundrell, 07769281726 DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk.

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Travel and accessibility

- 3.43 The proposals will not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from sustainable travel due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc.
- 3.44 Swindon Borough Councils vision is that all Children will be able to access their school as safely and sustainably as possible and develop skills and desire to maintain lifelong sustainable travel habits. To this end each school has developed a school travel strategy.

Funding

- 3.45 If approved, Cabinet agreed to allocate £350,000 in the Education capital programme to fund the works required to establish a nursery on site at Bridlewood Primary School.
- 3.46 Funding for the early years places proposed to be created will be funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Early Years DSG funding is calculated based on the take up of places in the January census. New places created in September will be funded from the current year's DSG. The actual funding for the new pupils will be included in the final allocation for the current year which is released in July of the next financial year.
- 3.47 The school have produced a business plan that balances the income for the proposed new nursery and has set aside an allocation for set up and equipment costs.

School premises and playing fields.

- 3.48 The proposal includes conversion of existing classroom space into a nursery and creation of new classroom accommodation to ensure there is no effect on the total primary places available. Work will include enhancements to the outdoor space, but will not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal will enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 This consultation was to test the impact of the proposal to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School to establish maintained nursery provision. No alternative options were presented.

Proposal to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

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5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 £350,000 is identified in the capital programme for the development of a nursery provision on site. The borough design and build team will lead this project and plans are being drawn up to create the space required within the identified budget

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 The Childcare Act's 2006 and 2016 place a statutory duty on local authorities to secure sufficient places for children to access their early year's entitlements, to include 30 hours places following the introduction of the new policy in 2017.
- 5.3 The statutory process required under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations has four key stages which are as follows:
1. Publication of Notice
 2. Representation period of at least 4 weeks
 3. Decision, and
 4. Implementation.
- 5.4 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken into account fully in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with Convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.5 None

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.6 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found. A copy of the DIA can be obtained from the report author.

Risk Management

- 5.7 If the changes at Bridlewood Primary School to provide the places proposed in this report are approved, there will be monthly risk monitoring, site visits and communication with the school.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Danielle Maundrell, 07769281726 DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk.

Proposal to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

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6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- 6.2 The full list of all those consulted are as follows:
 - 6.2.1 Parents of students on roll at Bridlewood Primary School
 - 6.2.2 Governors and Staff at Bridlewood Primary School
 - 6.2.3 Swindon Members of Parliament.
 - 6.2.4 Local Ward Councillors
 - 6.2.5 Local Parish Councillors

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Copy of the Proposal document
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Copy of the statutory notice
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – Results and analysis of consultation process
- 8.4 Appendix 4 – Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers *The appendix is available online at the Council's website or on request from Committee and Member Services).*

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Formal Consultation to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School to 2-11
From 1st September 2019

Bridlewood Primary School is situated on Chartwell Close, Swindon. There is currently capacity for 270 pupils at the school, the proposal to lower the age range of the school to include early years provision will see the total capacity rise to 322 pupils.

This consultation is regarding the proposal to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School to 2-11 from 1st September 2019.

The school is currently graded 'Requires Improvement' by Ofsted following an inspection in January 2018. The Early Years Provision and Effectiveness of Leadership and Management was graded as 'Good'.

Why are we proposing to lower the age range?

The introduction of a school nursery will further strengthen the quality of education provided at the school by achieving better outcomes for children who will have access to a qualified teacher from the age of 2. The schools' aim is to operate the maintained nursery provision for extended hours to better meet the needs of working families. The school plans to open the nursery provision the same hours as the school is currently open to better meet the needs of families who have children in both the school and the nursery as pick up and/or drop off times would be in line with each other. Demand will be gauged from parents for offering sessions in line with the schools breakfast and after school clubs.

Prior to the initial 'inadequate' Ofsted judgement in July 2017, conversations had been taking place with the school regarding establishing a nursery on site to help meet local need. Bridlewood Primary School is in an area where there are currently insufficient places due to increased demand as a result of the 30 hours free childcare policy and housing growth locally.

Drawings were produced to design a nursery build on the school site. However these plans were put on hold to allow the school time to focus on rapid quality improvement, with the introduction of a new Headteacher and support from the school improvement team within Swindon Borough Council to drive the school away from the 'inadequate' judgement back towards 'Good'. Whilst the school is currently overall graded 'requires improvement' the turnaround in such a short space of time is evidence of the commitment and drive of the school. The Early Years Provision of the school is now graded as 'Good'. The Governing Body of the school, the senior leadership team and Swindon Borough Council agree now is the right time to revisit these plans.

Whilst there is no guarantee that children attending the nursery will gain a place at the school, those who apply and are successful in gaining a place in the reception class will have benefited from being pupils of the school from a much earlier age. The school would like the opportunity to have educated these children directly from the start of their early education entitlement meaning a smoother transition into the school should the decision be made by parents to apply.

The Childcare Act 2016 placed a duty on local authorities to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017. To meet the increased demand this policy has created, Swindon Borough Council are required to ensure additional places are available and that they can offer greater flexibility to working families.

Across the Borough, the early year's education and childcare places are provided by a total of 284 small and large nursery chains, independent nurseries, preschools, maintained primary schools and childminders.

At present, there are 28 maintained primary schools delivering early years education for 3 and 4 year olds across the Borough. Of these, 15 schools also deliver 2 year old funded education.

There are a further two primary academies proposing to lower their age range to open maintained nursery provision from January 2018 which will take the total to 30 primary schools delivering early years education in Swindon. This will equate to an increase of 13 schools over the last 4 years now delivering early years provision in Swindon.

Despite this growth, Swindon remains in the bottom three local authorities with the lowest proportion of preschool children with access to provision with a qualified teacher across the county based on Department for Education statistical release; Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2018.

Steven McIntosh, Save the Children director of UK Poverty, said, 'Children who start behind, stay behind. But high-quality childcare, led by graduate early years teachers, can ensure children are ready for school. All of our little ones should have access to nursery care led by an early years teacher. Without action, we'll be letting down our next generation.' (August 2018).

In July 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) announced a capital bidding round of £30 million to create new high-quality school-based nursery places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to deliver the government's commitment to build more school-based nurseries, and to boost social mobility. The Department stated that 'the first few years of a child's life are critical to shaping their future development, and our ambition is to provide equality of opportunity for every child, regardless of background or where they live, because we know that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility.' This announcement was in line with the Government's commitment to increase the number of early years places delivered within primary schools following previous Ofsted recommendations.

Ofsted have previously reported that 'It is widely accepted that progress in early years for children from low income backgrounds depends on attendance in the highest quality settings. The only early education provision that is at least as strong, or even stronger, in deprived areas compared with wealthier areas is nursery schools.' Furthermore, a direct recommendation of the report was that 'the Government should promote the expansion of nursery schools into those local areas where they are not currently present – in particular disadvantaged areas - to raise quality and improve outcomes both through direct provision of places, and system leadership of the local early years sector.' It was also a recommendation that where a nursery school was established then 'It should be a priority to make the best possible use of the maintained nursery schools to deliver 2-year-old places, in preference to lower quality settings.'

It is widely acknowledged that a primary school, which also has a nursery provision achieves better outcomes for children.

Swindon Borough Council is keen to respond to these recommendations by encouraging more primary schools to establish their own maintained nursery classes to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds which in turn will mean more children are able to access high quality maintained nursery provision with a qualified teacher, improving their outcomes throughout life.

What are the reasons for the proposed change?

There are many reasons why we are proposing to lower the age at Bridlewood Primary School. The main ones are summarised below:

1. The proposals are in response to recommendations made by Ofsted, Department for Education and Save the Children to encourage more primary schools to establish their own maintained nursery classes to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds, allowing more children to access high quality provision with a qualified teacher, improving their outcomes throughout life.
2. There are increasing pressures across the borough to provide additional early year's places due to new housing developments and the introduction of 30 hours of free childcare. Bridlewood Primary School has a long term vision to offer sessions more in line with full day care provision with consideration for all year round sessions if there is sufficient demand.
3. Children will become pupils of the school, allowing access to Early Years Provision with a 'Good' Ofsted rating and whilst there is no guarantee of a place within the school from reception, those children who are successful in applying for a school place will be used to the school environment, teacher staff and ethos. Education will be provided by a qualified teacher improving individual pupils early learning and development opportunities.
4. Staff appointed to work within the maintained nursery class will have access to training alongside colleagues across the whole of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, and vice versa. There may be opportunities to work within all year groups sharing experience benefiting children throughout the school.

How will the proposed change benefit pupils of Bridlewood Primary School?

If the proposal is approved, the change could bring many benefits for pupils. The main ones are summarised below:

1. Bridlewood will be able to build upon the high quality education provided for their current pupils between the ages of 4-11.
2. There will be opportunities for continuity for pupils who choose to enrol for primary provision at Bridlewood Primary School, to remain in an environment with which they are familiar - from early years through to year 6 should they wish. Existing networks will be in place and they will be taught by teachers who know them well and have developed relationships with them from a young age.

3. Pupils who attend Bridlewood Primary School and Nursery will not be disadvantaged when deciding on their transition to primary education. They will have the same choice as those in other early years provision in Swindon – to apply to stay on at Bridlewood if they wish to, or to apply for another institution if they feel it more suited to individual needs

4. With the additional space created by the building, there will be an opportunity to expand the current provision for after school childcare and therefore increase the number of places we can offer across the school for our working parents.

What are the potential issues arising from the proposed change?

There will be challenges to address before a nursery provision can be opened, these include;

1. The space will need to be created and building work will need to be managed on the school site so as to cause minimal disruption to the current pupils' learning in the school and have the project completed in time for September 2019 opening.

2. Recruitment will need to commence to ensure high quality teaching staff are in place in advance of September. If the proposal goes ahead, adverts will go out in Summer term 2019 to ensure appropriate staffing is in place for the start the new academic year 2019/2020. Bridlewood Primary School will manage this process as part of their usual safer recruitment guidelines

Submission of feedback to the consultation

It is important that all stakeholders and other interested parties are given the opportunity to express their views in order for the Local Authority to consider these before making a final decision. **The consultation period will begin on 24th September 2018 – 19th October 2018.** The purpose of this document is to provide you with information and to give you the opportunity to express your views.

Feedback can be given online;

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Bridlewood2018/>

You can also email any comments or questions you may have to:

nurseryconsultation@swindon.gov.uk

no later than midnight on Friday 19th October 2018.

All responses to the consultation will be reported to and considered by a Cabinet Panel in November 2018.

We welcome your feedback.

Swindon Borough Council
Education Department

What are the next steps?

24 th September 2018	Consultation period starts
19 th October 2018	Consultation closes
November 2018	Consultation analysis report circulated
14 th November 2018	Cabinet Panel to make final decision

If decision is made to go ahead with the proposal:

1 st September 2019	the schools age range is lowered and early years aged children being accessing maintained nursery provision.
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Consultation List:

- Students on roll at Bridlewood Primary School
- Parents of pupils on roll at Bridlewood Primary School
- Staff at Bridlewood Primary School
- Head teachers and Chairs of Governors of all Swindon Primary Schools
- Swindon's 2 MPs
- Local Councillors
- Any other local community groups that might be affected by the proposal
- Any other interested party

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Lowering the age range of Bridlewood Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Swindon Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Bridlewood Primary School, Chartwell Close, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN25 2EX from 01 September 2019.

The Local Authority is proposing to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds. This notice seeks to extend the age range from the current 4-11 status to include early years aged pupils, thereby enabling the school to offer educational provision for the full 2-11 primary age range.

The current capacity at Bridlewood Primary School is for 270 pupils and the proposed expansion will increase this to 322 pupils. This additional capacity will be secured through building additional space on site (subject to planning approval) to create a new classroom and adapting an existing classroom into a nursery.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Danielle Maundrell, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG or DMAundrell@Swindon.gov.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Danielle Maundrell, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG. Or DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk

Signed:

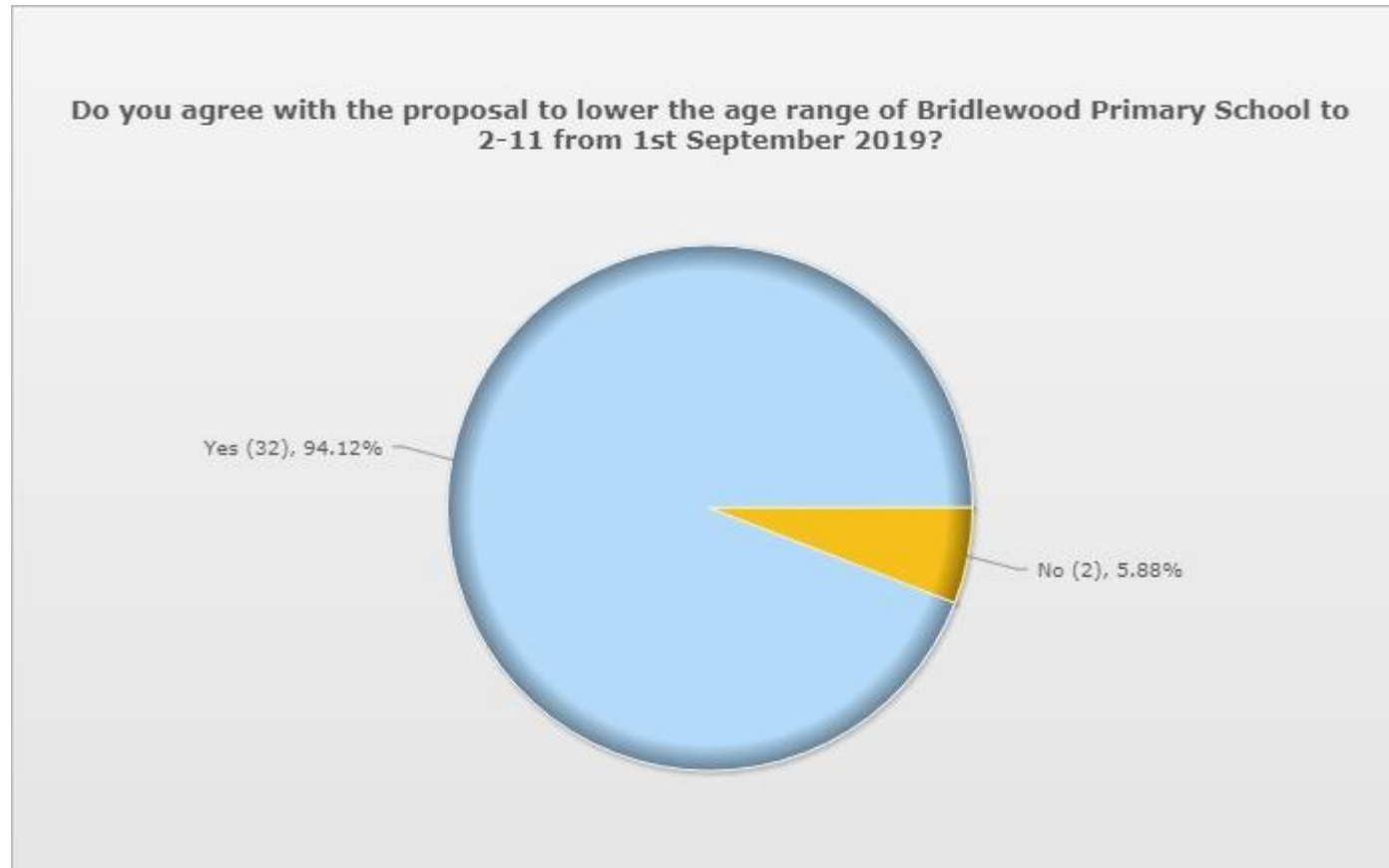
Peter Nathan
Head of Education

Publication Date: 24th September 2018

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Consultation Analysis – Proposal to Lower the Age Range Bridlewood Primary School

There were a total of 34 responses received via the online survey. 94% of respondents agree with the proposal to lower the age range of Bridlewood Primary School to 2-11 from 1st September 2019.



Summary of written responses received in support of the proposal

Feedback provided	Number of respondents
Benefits of maintained nursery provision for the children who access the nursery, including improved transition to school, greater outcomes for children and staff development opportunities.	35% 12 respondents
The provision will better meet local need offering greater flexibility for families and ensuring siblings can access the same offer through breakfast, after school and holiday provision.	50% 17 respondents

Summary of written responses against the proposal

Feedback provided	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
Concerns that the schools focus will be taken away from continuing its work to further improvement the overall quality following last Ofsted inspection.	3% 1 respondent	It has been part of the schools long term strategic plan for some time to open its own maintained nursery provision. These plans were put on hold when the school was initially downgraded to give the school the opportunity to prioritise the improvements urgently needed. However, the Council and the schools senior leadership team and governing body are all in agreement that the time is now right to proceed with plans to open this much needed provision for the local community.
How will the new provision will be funded, and the	3%	£350,000 has been previously identified within the Council's

perceived financial pressures the project will put on the school.	1 respondent	<p>Education Capital Programme to fund the required building works to create a nursery provision on site.</p> <p>The school has allocated funding within their budget for nursery set up. The case for allocating these funds is that the funding received from the Department for Education for the delivery of free early education and childcare places could pay it back over time. This is quite usual in terms of cash flow in a school's budget where schools pay for projects upfront and then receive payment later within the financial year.</p> <p>Bridlewood Primary School ensure all children have many enriching experiences each term which are paid for through the school budget. This would not change as a result of implementing this proposal, if it is approved.</p> <p>This proposal would have no impact on planned expenditure for the older children as the staffing, projects would continue to be a priority.</p> <p>Funding recouped through fees paid for sessions outside of funding entitlements in addition to wrap around provision across the school will ensure the provision pays for itself and any income invested back into the school to employ high quality teaching staff.</p>
Concern was raised about the potential disruption to existing children within the school as a result of building works.	3% 1 respondent	<p>The programme of works will be managed around school term dates to ensure the majority of works are carried out during holiday periods to minimise the disruption to children currently attending the school. Where work cannot be carried out during holiday periods the on-site project manager will work closely with the school senior leadership team to agree how and when works can be carried out to ensure any</p>

		<p>disruption is minimal.</p> <p>It is usual for works to be carried out on school sites throughout the academic year, and the Council's design and build team are very experienced in delivering projects on school sites and managing the complexities projects such as these present.</p>
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Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date: 14th November 2018

Author: Head of Education
Wards: Covingham and Dorcan
Parishes Affected: Nythe Eldene and Liden

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The report seeks Cabinet agreement to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School.
- 1.2 The report sets out the results of the consultation process held in September/October 2018 on the proposal to lower the age range and captures the range of responses received by the Nythe community.
- 1.3 This report is necessary to enable the Local Authority to notify the Department of Education of change in age range at Nythe Primary School.
- 1.4 The report sets out preferred options and timescales with the intention of Nythe Primary School opening and running its own maintained nursery provision to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds from September 2019.

2. Recommended Action to be taken by Cabinet

Recommended that:

- 2.1 Note the summary and analysis of the consultation process.
- 2.2 Approve the proposal, to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School by two years to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds to create maintained nursery provision opening in September 2019.

3. Detail

- 3.1 It is the statutory duty of the Local Authority to ensure sufficient school places and sufficient early year's provision. In order to carry out that duty the Local Authority is implementing a number of changes to school provision to ensure a greater level of access to provision and to ensure children are receiving education in quality provision.
- 3.2 The proposal in the report is in relation to an increase of early year's provision in school settings.
- 3.3 The Childcare Act 2016 placed a duty on local authorities to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017. To meet the increased demand this policy has created, Swindon Borough

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Danielle Maundrell, 07769281726 DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk.

Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date: 14th November 2018

Council are required to ensure additional places are available and that they can offer greater flexibility to working families.

- 3.4 Across the Borough, the early year's education and childcare places are provided by a total of 284 small and large nursery chains, independent nurseries, preschools, maintained primary schools and childminders.
- 3.5 At present, there are 28 maintained primary schools delivering early years education for 3 and 4 year olds across the Borough. Of these, 15 schools also deliver 2 year old funded education.
- 3.6 There are a further two primary academies proposing to lower their age range to open maintained nursery provision from January 2018 which will take the total to 30 primary schools delivering early years education in Swindon. This will equate to an increase of 13 schools over the last 4 years now delivering early years provision in Swindon.
- 3.7 Despite this growth, Swindon remains in the bottom three local authorities with the lowest proportion of preschool children with access to provision with a qualified teacher across the county based on Department for Education statistical release; Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2018.
- 3.8 Steven McIntosh, Save the Children director of UK Poverty, said, 'Children who start behind, stay behind. But high-quality childcare, led by graduate early years teachers, can ensure children are ready for school. All of our little ones should have access to nursery care led by an early years teacher. Without action, we'll be letting down our next generation.' (August 2018).
- 3.9 In July 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) announced a capital bidding round of £30 million to create new high-quality school-based nursery places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to deliver the government's commitment to build more school-based nurseries, and to boost social mobility. The Department stated that 'the first few years of a child's life are critical to shaping their future development, and our ambition is to provide equality of opportunity for every child, regardless of background or where they live, because we know that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility.' This announcement was in line with the Government's commitment to increase the number of early years places delivered within primary schools following previous Ofsted recommendations.
- 3.10 Ofsted have previously reported that 'It is widely accepted that progress in early years for children from low income backgrounds depends on attendance in the highest quality settings. The only early education provision that is at least as strong, or even stronger, in deprived areas compared with wealthier areas is nursery schools.' Furthermore, a direct recommendation of the report was that 'the Government should promote the expansion of nursery schools into those

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Danielle Maundrell, 07769281726 DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk.

Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date: 14th November 2018

local areas where they are not currently present – in particular disadvantaged areas - to raise quality and improve outcomes both through direct provision of places, and system leadership of the local early years sector.’ It was also a recommendation that where a nursery school was established then ‘It should be a priority to make the best possible use of the maintained nursery schools to deliver 2-year-old places, in preference to lower quality settings’.

- 3.11 It is widely acknowledged that a primary school, which also has a nursery provision achieves better outcomes for children.
- 3.12 In response to the above Nythe Primary School is proposing to lower their age range by two years from September 2019 and the following sections set out the LAs reasons for this proposal in response to the DfE Guidance for Decision Makers criteria

Consideration of consultation and representation period

- 3.13 Following approval from Cabinet via a Decision Note (Notice of proposed decision published: 20/09/18) to commence consultation on a proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School, a consultation was carried out from the 24th September 2018 to 19th October 2018.
- 3.14 A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.15 As part of the prescribed process, notices were published in the Swindon Advertiser and sent to the relevant stakeholders identified by the School Organisation Regulations 2013, on the 24th September 2018. A copy of the public notice is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.16 The notice published proposed an implementation date of 1st September 2019 to lower the age range. A summary of the results can be found at Appendix 3.
- 3.17 There were 70 individual responses to the survey of which 42 were in favour and 38 objected. The summary at Appendix 3 highlights the key themes of the objections and the LA response to those objections in detail.
- 3.18 The vast majority of the responses received objecting to the proposal were due to support of Nythe Preschool remaining in the space they currently occupy. Many responses expressed by the Nythe community have shown support for the continuation of the services that Nythe Preschool offer, however some of the communication to the community has led to a distorted view of the aims and intention of the proposal as the campaign centred on the survival of Nythe Pre School requiring support in order to avoid closure. Therefore, the responses have focused on criticising the proposal rather than engaging and attempting to develop options to secure the future of the preschool, which is the LAs intention

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Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date: 14th November 2018

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- 3.19 Based on the feedback received throughout the consultation period regarding the future of Nythe Preschool, the offer has been made of exploring the possibility of first refusal being offered to the preschool to relocate to an alternative premises from September 2019.
- 3.20 An alternative location for the preschool has been proposed, subject to approval. However, to date this offer has not been taken up and has not progressed any further. If Nythe Preschool do not take up the offer the opportunity for the premises will be advertised more widely across the early year's sector to seek an alternative high quality provider to deliver places in an area with identified demand.
- 3.21 There is an area of land identified within the Nythe Campus in the Council's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), for potential housing or employment uses. However any potential for development on this site is outside of the timescales of this proposal and would not be an option for Nythe Preschool at this time.

Education standards and diversity of provision

- 3.22 The Local Authority is responding to the Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success.
- 3.23 Nythe Primary School was graded as 'Good' by Ofsted in September 2016.
- 3.24 Nythe Preschool is situated on the school site with a lease until summer term 2019. If the proposal is approved the school would establish its own maintained nursery in the space from September 2019, with plans to improve the facilities to create a space for wrap around provision.
- 3.25 The proposal to lower the age range at Nythe Primary School has been developed to respond to the Childcare Act 2016, which places a duty on LAs to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.
- 3.26 In addition it is recognised by Ofsted that educational outcomes are improved by having a qualified early year's teacher in the provision. This proposal would offer families in the Nythe community the opportunity to attend a maintained early years setting, open with flexible hours.

A school-led system with every school an academy

- 3.27 Nythe Primary School is a local authority maintained school. Therefore, the decision maker must be aware that the proposal is not consistent with the Government's policy a school-led system with every school an academy.

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Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date: 14th November 2018

However, the proposal does increase the school-led provision in the Nythe community by increasing the breadth of places Nythe Primary School can offer.

Demand v need

- 3.28 Nythe Primary School is very popular with parents and is operating close to full capacity. Nythe Primary School recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.
- 3.29 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment commissioned by the LA in February 2018 identified a shortfall of 148 places for 3 and 4 year olds within the ward. Swindon Borough Council has a duty to address this shortfall under the Childcare Act 2016 and to ensure demand can be met as a result of the 30 hours free childcare policy.
- 3.30 With housing developments planned for the local area Nythe Primary School would like to be in a position to better meet the needs of their local community, many of whom are working parents. The establishment of a maintained nursery class will allow the school to extend their hours to accommodate full wrap around provision offering greater flexibility to parents and an overall increase in the number of places available.
- 3.31 The Local Authority is under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of new schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools. This provides for greater inclusion and access for pupils within the existing school community.

School size

- 3.32 Nythe Primary School has a capacity of 210 places and currently have 175 pupils on roll as at the October 2016 School Census.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

- 3.33 It is anticipated that the proposed maintained nursery will be incorporated into the space currently occupied by Nythe Preschool whose lease expires July 2019. Therefore, no further expansion of the premises is required.
- 3.34 If the proposal is approved the school will develop an admissions policy for the maintained nursery.

National Curriculum

- 3.35 The proposed changes to the age range at Nythe Primary School will offer the high quality education provided to children, to more pupils in the area. The school

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Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

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has an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make good progress during their time at the school.

- 3.36 The Local Authority is confident in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.

Equal opportunity issues

- 3.37 It is not envisaged that there will be any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed. A diversity impact assessment has been carried out which has not identified any issues.

Community cohesion

- 3.38 In Swindon Community Cohesion is borne out of all stakeholders working together to facilitate high aspiration, create equity in terms of life opportunities and achievements, increase awareness/appreciation of difference and diversity, challenge discrimination, develop resilience to manage change, promote connections between different communities and encourage positive citizenship. All schools are called to meet this aspiration.
- 3.39 The proposal aims to create a range of provision and support that can respond to the needs of pupils and parents preferences.
- 3.40 Nythe Primary School has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners by, lowering the age range to create a maintained nursery the school would continue to provide a supportive environment for children to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to successfully move into secondary school education.
- 3.41 The responses to the consultation attached at Appendix 3 highlight the support for the proposal from within the Nythe community.
- 3.42 The views of the Nythe community have however been clear and numerous with regards to the loss of Nythe preschool. The Local Authority has offered support to the preschool to seek alternative provision to ensure the organisation can continue to provide a valuable service within Swindon.

Travel and accessibility

- 3.43 The proposals will not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from sustainable travel due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc.

Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

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- 3.44 Swindon Borough Councils vision is that all Children will be able to access their school as safely and sustainably as possible and develop skills and desire to maintain lifelong sustainable travel habits. To this end each school has developed a school travel strategy.

Funding

- 3.45 If approved there is no Capital funding required for the proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School by two years.
- 3.46 Funding for the early years places proposed to be created will be funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Early Years DSG funding is calculated based on the take up of places in the January census. New places created in September will be funded from the current year's DSG. The actual funding for the new pupils will be included in the final allocation for the current year which is released in July of the next financial year.
- 3.47 Funding for the early years places proposed to be created will be funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG income is calculated based on the January census, so new places created in September will need to be funded from the DSG with no income received to cover these places until January.
- 3.48 The school have produced a business plan that balances the income for the proposed new nursery and has set aside an allocation for set up and equipment costs.

School premises and playing fields.

- 3.49 The proposal will not include any conversion of existing accommodation. It will not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal will enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 This consultation was to test the impact of the proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to establish maintained nursery provision. No alternative options were presented.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

- 5.1 Nythe Preschool currently operates from the site of Nythe Primary School with a lease, which runs until August 2018. The intentions to consult regarding proposals to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School have already been shared with the preschool, making it clear that their lease will not be renewed past July 2019. The lease has been renewed from August 2018 to July 2019 to

Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date: 14th November 2018

allow the preschool to operate from its current premises for this period, with sufficient notice to make decisions regarding its future from September 2019 onwards.

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.2 There are no capital financial implications for the Council as a result of the proposal to lower the age range at Nythe Primary School.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.3 The Childcare Act's 2006 and 2016 place a statutory duty on local authorities to secure sufficient places for children to access their early year's entitlements, to include 30 hours places following the introduction of the new policy in 2017.
- 5.4 The statutory process required under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations has four key stages which are as follows:
1. Publication of Notice
 2. Representation period of at least 4 weeks
 3. Decision, and
 4. Implementation.
- 5.5 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken into account fully in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with Convention rights..

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.6 None other than those previously highlighted were identified in the preparation of this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.7 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found while equality and community cohesion issues are addressed in the body of the report. A copy of the DIA can be obtained from the report author.

Risk Management

- 5.8 If the changes at Nythe Primary School to provide the places proposed in this report are approved, there will be monthly risk monitoring, site visits and communication with the school.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Danielle Maundrell, 07769281726 DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk.

Proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date: 14th November 2018

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- 6.2 The full list of all those consulted are as follows;
 - 6.2.1 Parents of students on roll at Nythe Primary School
 - 6.2.2 Governors and Staff at Nythe Primary School
 - 6.2.3 Staff and committee at Nythe Preschool
 - 6.2.4 Swindon Members of Parliament.
 - 6.2.5 Local Ward Councillors
 - 6.2.6 Local Parish Councillors

7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Copy of the Proposal document
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Copy of the statutory notice
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – Results and analysis of the consultation process
- 8.4 Appendix 4 – Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers *The appendix is available online at the Council's website or on request from Committee and Member Services).*

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Lowering the age range of Nythe Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Swindon Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Nythe Primary School, Nyland Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 3RD from 01 September 2019.

The Local Authority is proposing to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds. This notice seeks to extend the age range from the current 4-11 status to include early years aged pupils, thereby enabling the school to offer educational provision for the full 2-11 primary age range.

The current capacity at Nythe Primary School is for 285 pupils and the proposed expansion will increase this to 337 pupils. This additional capacity will be secured through utilising the existing nursery space currently occupied by Nythe Pre School and extending opening times.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Danielle Maundrell, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG or DMAundrell@Swindon.gov.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Danielle Maundrell, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG. Or DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk

Signed:

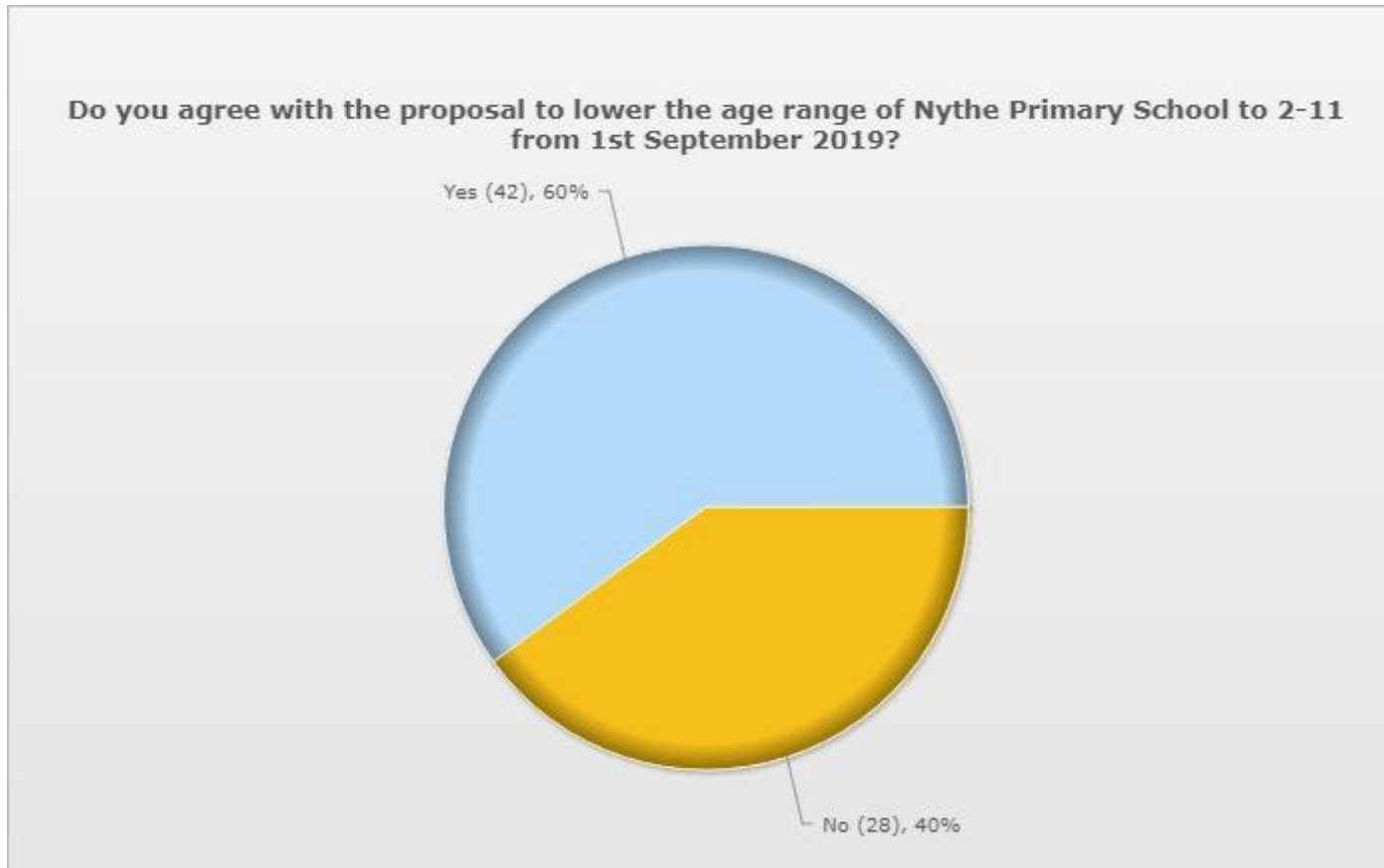
Peter Nathan
Head of Education

Publication Date: 24th September 2018

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Consultation Analysis – Proposal to Lower the Age Range Nythe Primary School

There were a total of 70 responses received via the online survey. 60% of respondents agree with the proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to 2-11 from 1st September 2019. In addition two responses were received via email, and their views have been accounted for within the summary.



Summary of written responses received in support of the proposal

Feedback provided	Number of respondents
Benefits of maintained nursery provision for the children who attend the proposed provision, including improved transition to school, greater outcomes for children and staff development opportunities.	39% 27 respondents
The provision will better meet local need offering greater flexibility for families and ensuring siblings can access the same offer through breakfast, after school and holiday provision.	17% 12 respondents
Provides reassurance to parents that the provision is sustainable, removes the insecurity associated with the current challenges to recruit a committee each year.	14% 10 respondents

Summary of written responses against the proposal

Feedback provided	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
The phrase 'if it's not broke don't fix' has been a common theme in the responses received throughout the consultation. There are also concerns raised that the existing preschool is Ofsted rated 'Good' and therefore there is no need to change what is currently offered from the site.	26% 18 respondents	Swindon Borough Council are responding to changes in government policy; Childcare Act 2016 placed a duty on local authorities to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017. To meet the increased demand this policy has created, Swindon Borough Council are required to ensure additional places are available and that they can offer greater flexibility to working families.

Feedback provided	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
		<p>Despite the growth of provision across the town, Swindon remains in the bottom three local authorities with the lowest proportion of preschool age children with access to provision with a qualified teacher across the county based on Department for Education statistical release; Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2018.</p> <p>Steven McIntosh, Save the Children director of UK Poverty, said, 'Children who start behind, stay behind. But high-quality childcare, led by graduate early years teachers, can ensure children are ready for school. All of our little ones should have access to nursery care led by an early years teacher. Without action, we'll be letting down our next generation.' (August 2018).</p> <p>In July 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) announced a capital bidding round of £30 million to create new high-quality school-based nursery places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to deliver the government's commitment to build more school-based nurseries, and to boost social mobility. The Department stated that 'the first few years of a child's life are critical to shaping their future development, and our ambition is to provide equality of opportunity for every child, regardless of background or where they live, because we know that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility.' This announcement was in line with the Government's commitment to increase the number of early years places delivered within primary schools following previous Ofsted recommendations.</p> <p>Ofsted have previously reported that 'It is widely accepted that progress in early years for children from low income backgrounds depends on attendance in the highest quality settings. The only early education provision that is at least as strong, or even stronger, in</p>

Feedback provided	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
		<p>deprived areas compared with wealthier areas is nursery schools.’ Furthermore, a direct recommendation of the report was that ‘the Government should promote the expansion of nursery schools into those local areas where they are not currently present – in particular disadvantaged areas - to raise quality and improve outcomes both through direct provision of places, and system leadership of the local early years sector.’ It was also a recommendation that where a nursery school was established then ‘It should be a priority to make the best possible use of the maintained nursery schools to deliver 2-year-old places, in preference to lower quality settings.’</p> <p>It is widely acknowledged that a primary school, which also has a nursery provision achieves better outcomes for children.</p> <p>Based on this year’s intake, 79% of children attending Nythe Primary School attended Nythe preschool.</p> <p>There have been ongoing challenges with attracting committee members in order for Nythe Preschool to continue to meet Ofsted and constitutional requirements to avoid sudden closure. The school opening its own maintained nursery provision offers the Nythe community sustainable provision governed as part of the school and the opportunity to attend a maintained early years provision, open with flexible hours with a qualified teacher overseeing the education provided will give greater choice of high quality childcare options. This proposal is not about replacing like for like, it is building on the existing overall offer to parents in Nythe by introducing a maintained nursery provision which is in line with other communities in the borough.</p>

Feedback provided	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
		<p>Almost 40% of children in Swindon are now accessing all or part of their entitlement in maintained provision and families in Nythe could have access to the same opportunities as an increasing families elsewhere in the borough.</p>
<p>Concerns were raised about maintained nursery provision in general. Specifically, respondents have raised the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus will be put on education for children, not learning through play • Impact of higher ratio's • That children will become 'institutionalised' from a young age and be taught in a formal classroom environment 	<p>26%</p> <p>18 respondents</p>	<p><u>A focus will be put on education for children, not learning through play</u></p> <p>The focus would be on learning through play encouraging development in line with the early year's framework of December 2017.</p> <p>Outdoor provision would be utilised throughout each day along with play activities which would be planned to meet the needs of each individual child. A key worker would be allocated to a child and the relationship between home and nursery would continue to be of importance through shared understanding of progress contributed to by parents, carers and nursery staff.</p> <p>The proposed new nursery would focus towards ensuring the child's development of skills through play. The current staff at the school are already trained in this. Vulnerable families would be offered extra support by the schools family support workers. All nursery staff would be regularly appraised and offered appropriate development opportunities to ensure their skills are the best they can be.</p>

Feedback provided	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
		<p><u>Impact of higher ratio's</u></p> <p>Whilst a qualified early year's teacher will oversee the teaching and learning, the school are proposing to operate at a ratio of 1:8 for 3 and 4 year olds and 1:4 for 2 year olds. This is in line with preschool and nursery settings. Every member of staff would hold at least the minimum requirement of qualifications for early years.</p> <p>The proposed ratios could enable opportunities for children to develop their prime areas of listening and attention, understanding and speaking. Nythe Primary School aim to help children to become self- confident and self- aware by providing children with the opportunities to learn skills which will help them in the future, for example, communicating confidently with other children through their play. The early year's statutory curriculum gives more detail on the kinds of skills children should develop at age 2, 3 and 4 (22-36 months, 30 – 50 months and 40 – 60 months).</p> <p><u>Children will become 'institutionalised' from a young age and be taught in a formal classroom environment</u></p> <p>The environment would be set up, run and organised in the most effective way for children to learn through play. This would be situated within the building designed and currently used for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. There is potential for some adaptation across the year to enable developmental points to be reached as it is recognised that children have very differing needs and these would change as a child grows.</p>

Feedback provided	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
		Enriching opportunities will be provided involving the nursery aged children as part of wider school activities and events.
Concerns were raised about the perceived quality of Nythe Primary School	1% 1 respondent	<p>Nythe Primary School is a good school as judged by Ofsted September 2016. The Local Authority is confident in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.</p> <p>Nythe Primary School was awarded an Excellence Award in 2017 for their Year 6 SATS results. 81% of Nythe Primary pupils achieved the benchmark for reading, writing and maths compared to an average across Swindon of 46% and national average of 53%</p> <p>If there are any specific issues that parents feel need to be raised with the school, there is an existing process to address these.</p>
How will the new provision will be funded, and what impact this will have for older children within the school.	1% 1 respondent	<p>The school has allocated funding within their budget for nursery set up. The case for allocating these funds is that the funding received from the Department for Education for the delivery of free early education and childcare places could pay it back over time. This is quite usual in terms of cash flow in a school's budget where schools pay for projects upfront and then receive payment later within the financial year.</p> <p>Nythe Primary School ensure all children have many enriching experiences each term which are paid for through the school budget. This would not change as a result of implementing this proposal, if it is approved.</p>

Feedback provided	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
		<p>This proposal would have no impact on planned expenditure for the older children as the staffing, projects would continue to be a priority.</p> <p>Funding recouped through fees paid for sessions outside of funding entitlements in addition to wrap around provision across the school will ensure the provision pays for itself and any income invested back into the school to employ high quality teaching staff.</p>
Concerns were raised about future roles for the staff at Nythe Preschool	17% 12 respondents	All staff at Nythe Preschool will be given the opportunity to apply for positions at Nythe Primary School as part of the schools recruitment process. If the proposals are approved, the school hope to attract as many staff as possible as their expertise and experience will be a valuable asset to work as part of the wider teaching team. Those appointed will have access to learning and development opportunities across the school and will be able to gain broader experience across a wider age range.
Concerns were raised about the proposal. This was mainly the perceived takeover of the preschool and whether it was Swindon Borough Council closing Nythe Preschool	1% 1 respondent	The proposal is not for the school to take over the existing preschool but open an entirely new provision as part of the school itself. The schools current Ofsted judgement will include the proposed new nursery provision. Any future inspection of the school would include the nursery provision as part of this. Whilst the proposal is for the maintained provision to be within the existing space the preschool occupies, the nursery itself will be brand new as part of the school. There has also been a comment made as part of this consultation that Swindon Borough Council are 'closing' Nythe Preschool. The preschool committee would need to present any proposal to close to the parents to vote on. Swindon Borough Council do not have the regulatory powers to close provision. Whilst the proposal includes the

Feedback provided	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
		decision not to extend the lease of the preschool, this doesn't mean the preschool as an organisation ceases unless this is what the preschool committee and members decide to do.
The preschool should be relocated as part of the proposal	1% 1 respondent	Alternative premises have been offered to the preschool however the preschool have, to date, not taken up this opportunity. Approval would need to be sought for the premises to be offered on a 'first refusal' basis and it was hoped this would have been part of the Cabinet Panel's decision, however the preschool have not decided to proceed with this.

Nythe Preschool Parent's

In addition to the above, a letter has been sent to Swindon Borough Council on behalf of the Nythe Preschool Committee outlining the results of a vote carried out with parents seeking their views across four options presented by the preschool. The letter received by Swindon Borough Council along with the letter sent to parents by Nythe Preschool is included with this analysis.

Concerns around the detail of the letter/vote have been shared with the preschool;

The document suggests Swindon Borough Council are consulting regarding Nythe Primary 'taking over' Nythe preschool from September 2019. This is not the case. The consultation carried out by Swindon Borough Council was proposing to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to open a brand new maintained nursery provision. The document issued to parents by Nythe Preschool Committee doesn't accurately present the proposal and may have caused some confusion among parents and the community.

The document suggests that there are proposals to close Nythe Preschool. Any closure of Nythe preschool would be a decision for the committee members of Nythe preschool to put to its members for a decision. To the Council's knowledge this hasn't formally been put to an AGM so to date there has been no proposal to close the preschool.

The document goes on to state that 'we as a Committee are concerned that the proposal paper states that Nythe Primary School is taking over the Pre-school which has a 'GOOD OFSTED' rating, but this can only remain true if they maintain the staff, procedures and ethos of the existing Pre-school as that is what makes the Pre-school so special.' This an inaccurate presentation of the proposal published by the Council, which does not state that Nythe Primary is taking over Nythe preschool. It does however explain clearly that the lease comes to an end next summer and that if the decision is made to lower the age range of Nythe primary school, the school will take over the space that Nythe preschool currently occupies.

If approved, this would be a brand new provision, under the Ofsted registration of the school, under the schools governing body and senior leadership team, following the schools policies, procedures and ethos.

Formal Consultation to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to 2-11
From 1st September 2019

Nythe Primary School is an Ofsted graded 'Good' school situated on Nyland Road, Swindon. There is currently capacity for 210 pupils at the school, the proposal to lower the age range of the school to include early years provision will see the total capacity rise to 262 pupils.

Nythe Preschool is an Ofsted graded 'Good' committee run preschool operating from the school site. The proposal is for Nythe Primary School to take over this space when the preschool lease expires in July 2019 and operate a maintained nursery provision as part of the school from September 2019.

This consultation is regarding the proposal to lower the age range of Nythe Primary School to 2-11 from 1st September 2019.

Why are we proposing to lower the age range?

Nythe Primary School was awarded an Excellence Award in 2017 for their Year 6 SATS results. 81% of Nythe Primary pupils achieved the benchmark for reading, writing and maths compared to an average across Swindon of 46% and national average of 53%

The introduction of a school nursery will further strengthen the quality of education provided at the school by achieving better outcomes for children who will have access to a qualified teacher from the age of 2. The schools' aim is to operate the maintained nursery provision for extended hours to better meet the needs of working families. The school plans to open the nursery provision the same hours as the school is currently open to better meet the needs of families who have children in both the school and the nursery as pick up and/or drop off times would be in line with each other. Demand will be gauged from parents for offering sessions in line with the schools breakfast and after school clubs.

Whilst there is no guarantee that children attending the nursery will gain a place at the school, those who apply and are successful in gaining a place in the reception class will have benefited from being pupils of the school from a much earlier age. The school would like the opportunity to have educated these children directly from the start of their early education entitlement meaning a smoother transition into the school should the decision be made by parents to apply.

The Childcare Act 2016 placed a duty on local authorities to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017. To meet the increased demand this policy has created, Swindon Borough Council are required to ensure additional places are available and that they can offer greater flexibility to working families.

Across the Borough, the early year's education and childcare places are provided by a total of 284 small and large nursery chains, independent nurseries, preschools, maintained primary schools and childminders.

At present, there are 28 maintained primary schools delivering early years education for 3 and 4 year olds across the Borough. Of these, 15 schools also deliver 2 year old funded education.

There are a further two primary academies proposing to lower their age range to open maintained nursery provision from January 2018 which will take the total to 30 primary schools delivering early years education in Swindon. This will equate to an increase of 13 schools over the last 4 years now delivering early years provision in Swindon.

Despite this growth, Swindon remains in the bottom three local authorities with the lowest proportion of preschool children with access to provision with a qualified teacher across the county based on Department for Education statistical release; Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2018.

Steven McIntosh, Save the Children director of UK Poverty, said, 'Children who start behind, stay behind. But high-quality childcare, led by graduate early years teachers, can ensure children are ready for school. All of our little ones should have access to nursery care led by an early years teacher. Without action, we'll be letting down our next generation.' (August 2018).

In July 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) announced a capital bidding round of £30 million to create new high-quality school-based nursery places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to deliver the government's commitment to build more school-based nurseries, and to boost social mobility. The Department stated that 'the first few years of a child's life are critical to shaping their future development, and our ambition is to provide equality of opportunity for every child, regardless of background or where they live, because we know that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility.' This announcement was in line with the Government's commitment to increase the number of early years places delivered within primary schools following previous Ofsted recommendations.

Ofsted have previously reported that 'It is widely accepted that progress in early years for children from low income backgrounds depends on attendance in the highest quality settings. The only early education provision that is at least as strong, or even stronger, in deprived areas compared with wealthier areas is nursery schools.' Furthermore, a direct recommendation of the report was that 'the Government should promote the expansion of nursery schools into those local areas where they are not currently present – in particular disadvantaged areas - to raise quality and improve outcomes both through direct provision of places, and system leadership of the local early years sector.' It was also a recommendation that where a nursery school was established then 'It should be a priority to make the best possible use of the maintained nursery schools to deliver 2-year-old places, in preference to lower quality settings.'

It is widely acknowledged that a primary school, which also has a nursery provision achieves better outcomes for children.

Swindon Borough Council is keen to respond to these recommendations by encouraging more primary schools to establish their own maintained nursery classes to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds which in turn will mean more children are able to access high quality maintained nursery provision with a qualified teacher, improving their outcomes throughout life.

What are the reasons for the proposed change?

There are many reasons why we are proposing to lower the age at Nythe Primary School. The main ones are summarised below:

1. The proposals are not due to lack of quality from the existing provision on the school site. Nythe preschool is rated 'Good' by Ofsted and has built an excellent reputation as part of the Nythe community over the last 50+ years. There are increased challenges to recruit a committee each year, which means there are risks around the long term sustainability of this much needed provision for the Nythe community.
2. The proposals are in response to recommendations made by Ofsted, Department for Education and Save the Children to encourage more primary schools to establish their own maintained nursery classes to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds, allowing more children to access high quality provision with a qualified teacher, improving their outcomes throughout life.
3. There are increasing pressures across the borough to provide additional early year's places due to new housing developments and the introduction of 30 hours of free childcare. Nythe Primary School has a long term vision to offer sessions more in line with full day care provision with consideration for all year round sessions if there is sufficient demand.
4. Children will become pupils of the school, allowing access to Early Years Provision with a 'Good' Ofsted rating and whilst there is no guarantee of a place within the school from reception, those children who are successful in applying for a school place will be used to the school environment, teacher staff and ethos. Education will be provided by a qualified teacher improving individual pupils' early learning and development opportunities.
5. Staff appointed to work within the maintained nursery class will have access to training alongside colleagues across the whole of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, and vice versa. There may be opportunities to work within all year groups sharing experience benefiting children throughout the school.

How will the proposed change benefit pupils of Nythe Primary School?

If the proposal is approved, the change could bring many benefits for pupils. The main ones are summarised below:

1. Nythe will be able to build upon the high quality education provided for their current pupils between the ages of 4-11.

2. There will be opportunities for continuity for pupils who choose to enrol for primary provision at Nythe Primary School, to remain in an environment with which they are familiar - from early years through to year 6 should they wish. Existing networks will be in place and they will be taught by teachers who know them well and have developed relationships with them from a young age.

3. Pupils who attend Nythe Primary School and Nursery will not be disadvantaged when deciding on their transition to primary education. They will have the same choice as those in other early years provision in Swindon – to apply to stay on at Nythe if they wish to, or to apply for another institution if they feel it more suited to individual needs

What are the potential issues arising from the proposed change?

There will be challenges to address before a nursery provision can be opened, these include;

1. The space is currently occupied by Nythe Preschool. The preschool's lease will come to an end July 2019 and support will be provided to make any decisions around the preschools future and seek alternative premises if this is what the preschool would like to explore.

2. Recruitment will need to commence to ensure high quality teaching staff are in place in advance of September. If the proposal goes ahead, adverts will go out in summer term 2019 to ensure appropriate staffing is in place for the start the new academic year 2019/2020. Nythe Primary School will manage this process as part of their usual safer recruitment guidelines. Staff currently employed by Nythe Preschool will all be given the opportunity to apply for vacancies as part of this process.

Submission of feedback to the consultation

It is important that all stakeholders and other interested parties are given the opportunity to express their views in order for the Local Authority to consider these before making a final decision. **The consultation period will begin on 24th September 2018 – 19th October 2018.** The purpose of this document is to provide you with information and to give you the opportunity to express your views.

Feedback can be given online;

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Nythe2018/>

You can also email any comments or questions you may have to:

nurseryconsultation@swindon.gov.uk

no later than midnight on Friday 19th October 2018.

All responses to the consultation will be reported to and considered by a Cabinet Panel in November 2018.

We welcome your feedback.

Swindon Borough Council
Education Department

What are the next steps?

24 th September 2018	Consultation period starts
19 th October 2018	Consultation closes
November 2018	Consultation analysis report circulated
14 th November 2018	Cabinet Panel to make final decision

If decision is made to go ahead with the proposal:

1 st September 2019	the school's age range is lowered and early years aged children being accessing maintained nursery provision.
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Consultation List:

- Students on roll at Nythe Primary School
- Parents of pupils on roll at Nythe Primary School
- Staff at Nythe Primary School
- Parents of children attending Nythe Preschool
- Staff at Nythe Preschool
- Nythe Preschool Committee
- Head teachers and Chairs of Governors of all Swindon Primary Schools
- Swindon's 2 MPs
- Local Councillors
- Any other local community groups that might be affected by the proposal
- Any other interested party

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