

Derbyshire County Council

Statutory Proposal by Derbyshire County Council to alter the lower age limit of Bamford Primary School from 4 years to 3 years

Introduction

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Derbyshire County Council (“the Local Authority”) proposes to make a prescribed alteration to Bamford Primary School, Fidlers Well, Bamford, Derbyshire, S33 0AR, namely altering the lower age limit of the school from 4 years to 3 years so as to add nursery provision with effect from 1st September 2018.

Context

Bamford Primary School is an established, successful community primary school with an age range of 4-11 years which serves the local community of which it is proud to be a part. Current provision within school enables children to attend an Early Years Foundation Stage 2 (Reception Class) setting followed by Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The school does not currently provide any nursery or pre-school provision. The school lies within the Peak District National Park.

Proposal

The Local Authority is proposing to alter the lower age limit of the school from 4 years to 3 years by extending the provision to include both Foundation Stage 1 and Foundation Stage 2 children (from the age of 3 instead of 4). The school already has adequate staffing and premises to make this alteration without significant changes being required and with minimal disruption to the existing provision.

This means that, if the proposal is implemented, the school will be able to offer families a seamless and comprehensive education programme for children from the age of 3 years.

The Local Authority anticipates that, working with the existing premises and staff, the school will be able to offer the full government entitlement of 15 hours (and 30 hours of funding, if eligible) of free early years education and the option of allowing additional self-funded hours to suit individual family circumstances and preferences.

If the proposal is implemented, it is anticipated that the school will be able to accommodate 20 three/four year-olds within the setting and up to 40 places within the shared EYFS/Y1 setting.

Staff

If the proposal is implemented, the school will utilise the existing highly qualified staff, which includes a fully qualified senior teacher to lead the Foundation Stage provision and to continue to ensure that there is always at least 1 trained teaching assistant in the provision alongside the teacher, thus meeting the correct ratios of 1:13 staff to pupils. The school expects there to be 10 Year 1 pupils in the school at the start of the 2018-19 school year and anticipates a Foundation Stage 2 (Reception Class) intake of approximately 6-8 children.

The school therefore has the capacity to extend its provision to include up to 8 additional Foundation Stage 1 places whilst remaining within the advised ratios. Furthermore, the school currently has a mixed Year 1/ Year 2 class which also has capacity so that in the future, it could extend the numbers to a Foundation Stage unit accommodating up to 26 places which would enable the school to continue to offer two classes to cover the Early Years Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1.

Funding

The Authority receives funding from the Government, in the form of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), for all children who have reached the age of 3 by the 31 December prior to the January School Census. These children are currently eligible for a maximum of 15 hours of free early year's provision.

If the proposal is implemented, the school will receive its funding for eligible children under Derbyshire's Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), a common formula which funds all of the free entitlement for children in nursery units within a mainstream school, nursery schools and private, voluntary and independent settings. Funding will be based on a count of actual weekly hours attended by qualifying children as at the three School Census points (i.e. January, May and October).

Following the statutory consultation, the responses will be reported to Cabinet to inform a decision on the proposal.

Statutory Consultation

The consultation on this proposal will run for four weeks from Thursday 10 May 2018 to Friday 15 June 2018.

The consultation document will be available on request from the e-mail below and will also be on the school website and on the DCC website: www.derbyshire.gov.uk .

Any comments, observations or objections in relation to this proposal should be sent to –

Mrs Sue Pegg
Block C, Chatsworth Hall
Chesterfield Road
Matlock
DE4 3FW
Or by e-mail to; sue.pegg@derbyshire.gov.uk

The deadline for submitting responses to this consultation is **Friday 15 June 2018**.