



Proposal

Proposal to lower the age range of Bewdley Primary School. Stourport Road, Bewdley. DY12 1BL, from the current 3 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from January 2020. This will enable us to change the current 2 - 3 year old nursery from a non-maintained nursery, into a Local Authority maintained nursery in order to improve communication and administration and bring it fully under the school umbrella. Changing to a maintained nursery does not alter current nursery admission numbers.

The governing body of Bewdley Primary School is consulting you on a proposal to lower the admissions age of Bewdley Primary School to enable us to run our current 2 – 3 year old nursery as a maintained nursery, as part of the school, rather than it currently is, as a non-maintained nursery. This proposal will ensure that administration and communication are improved. We already provide a consistent approach to learning for our youngest children which enables us to meet the needs of our local community in relation to Early Years' education.

From research we carried out before we opened the 2-3 year old Nursery 4 years ago, and ongoing discussion with parents, we believe that our nursery provides families with the nursery provision needed in the area but we also understand the importance of consulting with the community on any changes to the age range of the school.

The 2 -3 year old nursery and outside learning area is already situated in the Riverside Children's Centre building, on the school site. The nursery is able to hold approximately 30 children per session, depending on the age of the children.

We appreciate that many families with and without children, especially our neighbours and local residents may have questions. Mrs Jane Woakes, Headteacher, together with the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors have put together an FAQ style information sheet attached to this letter. We hope that this may answer some of your initial queries.

Why are we proposing to lower the entry age of the children joining our school?

We already offer 2 year old funded places and paid places for children aged 2 – 3. Until now, the nursery has been designated as a “Governor led, School run non-maintained nursery”. If the age range of the school is lowered, the nursery would become a “maintained nursery”. Becoming a maintained nursery means that we will be able to use the same registration, administration and communication systems as the rest of the school which would make us more efficient.

Why are we consulting now?

The 2-3 year old nursery has now been running for 4 years. We initially opened it as a trial to see whether there was a need in the local area. It has now been proved that the need exists, so we would like to formalise the running of the 2-3 year old nursery in line with the rest of the school.

Will the proposal have any impact on the school’s admission arrangements?

The proposal would not alter the school’s admission arrangements. There would not be an automatic right for nursery aged children to gain a reception place at the school. Parents of nursery aged children would need to apply in the normal way for admission to the school.

Do the governors and staff support the proposal?

The governing body and staff support the proposal as they believe the school community would benefit from lowering the entry age of pupils to improve communication and administration.

What are the next stages in the process?

Responses will be received throughout the consultation period which ends at 9am on Monday 9th December. These will then be forwarded to the Local Authority, who will evaluate the responses and make the final decision.

How can I respond to this consultation?

Please complete the consultation response form and return to the school. Alternatively, please email the school at nursery@bewdleyprimary.worcs.sch.uk

The consultation will run for 4 weeks from Monday 11th November 2019 ending on Monday 9th December 2019. We would welcome your feedback.

If you would like to speak to someone in person regarding this proposal, Mrs Woakes, Headteacher, Mrs Dunn, Early Years Co-ordinator or Dr Saunders, Chair of Governors would be more than happy to chat to you.

Regards

The Governing Body of Bewdley Primary School – November 2019



Frequently Asked Questions

We know that people may have questions regarding the proposal to lower the age range of the school to change our current 2-3 year old nursery from a non-maintained nursery, into a Local Authority maintained nursery. Therefore we have tried to answer the questions that we feel may arise. If you have anything else you would like to ask before completing the response form, please contact Mrs Jane Woakes, the Headteacher, Mrs Vicky Dunn, Early Years Co-ordinator, or Dr Martin Saunders, the Chair of Governors via the school (01299 403796) . Alternatively you can email nursery@bewdleyprimary.worcs.sch.uk

How many children will the 2-3 year old nursery take?

We are able to take approximately 30 children per session.

Where will the 2-3 year old nursery be based?

The nursery inside and outside areas are based in Riverside Children's Centre on the school site.

Does the 2-3 year old nursery have its own secure access?

At the beginning of the day the entrance to the nursery would be through the Children's Centre entrance. At the end of the day, children will be handed over to parents at the gate of the outside area. Both these areas are on the school site

What do you plan to do about any extra traffic the 2-3 year old nursery may cause?

There should not be any extra traffic as we are not consulting on additional places, just the re-designation of the nursery from a non-maintained nursery to a maintained nursery. The 2-3 year old nursery has already been open for 4 years, and, as anticipated before we opened it, the majority of children in the nursery are siblings of children already in the school or live locally, so lowering the school age range now will not cause extra traffic. Regular reminders are published to all parents about parking considerately, or parking further away from the school either at the station, or at Blackstone car-park, and walking to school. The Headteacher attends local community meetings to look at ways to reduce the pressure on local roads and residents' concerns.

I have a child in Bewdley Primary School will this affect their education?

The nursery does not affect the quality of the education offered to Bewdley Primary School children. The funding for the nursery and funding for the school comes from two different funding streams. The nursery would never run at a financial loss to the school. School facilities are used by both the 2-3 and 3-4 year old nursery but never to the detriment to the main school pupils.

Will a place at either the 2-3 or 3-4 year old nursery mean that my child has automatic entry to Bewdley Primary School? No. The nursery will have a separate Admissions Policy to the school and once your child reaches school age you would need to apply for a Reception place online in the usual way. Being in the nursery does not give any priority over Reception admission.

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Why do we need a 2-3 year old nursery at Bewdley Primary School when surrounding areas already have pre-schools? Before we opened our 2-3 year old nursery in 2015 we identified that in our locality, there was not enough nursery or childminder provision to serve all of the 2 year olds looking for the funded childcare to which many parents are now entitled. Following the closure of In-b-Tweenies on the Wribbenhall estate, there is now no other pre-school on the Kidderminster side of the river which offers places to 2 year olds.

We work closely with local childminders who offer places to 2 year olds, and often have children who share their funded hours between our nursery and the childminders.

Have you considered the additional noise that a nursery causes?

Yes we have. With free flow from outside to inside there are not many children in the outside area at any one time. The outside area has been used successfully for the last 4 years, without concerns being expressed. The nursery and the outside learning space are on the school site, away from the road, and, therefore, do not impact upon neighbouring properties. The nursery uses the school facilities including the school hall, forest school, and field if appropriate.

Does the nursery be offer wrap around care?

The school already operates Rascals Wrap-around from 7.30 – 8.30am and 3.00 – 5.30pm for children from the term after they are 3. The only wrap-around currently available for 2 year olds is from 8.30 – 9.00am. These sessions run at an additional cost and parents would not be able to use funded hours for these sessions.

How do I register my interest for my under 4?

If you have a child aged 2–4 years old you are welcome to register your interest for a place at the 2-3 or 3-4 year old nursery at nursery@bewdleyprimary.worcs.sch.uk

