

## **Appendix A: Frequently asked questions (FAQ)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions: Age Range Extension 2016**

#### **Who will be in Charge of KS2?**

All the Teachers at ELS are Early Years / Primary Specialists. We would need to recruit 1 new teacher. However the new staff will not solely be recruited for upper KS2. When the green light is provided by Central Bedfordshire authority the Head Teacher, with support from the Governing body, will seek to appoint an additional teacher at the school. A new structure will then be drawn up and proposed to the Governing body which will include appointing a designated lead for KS2 across all 4 years and appointing each teacher for the appropriate years. The Head Teacher will be responsible to ensure the levels and standards we have achieved are maintained throughout the development of the children and the Governing Body will continue to oversee this process.

#### **Will there be more staff recruited?**

Other than seeking a new fully qualified teacher, the school does not intend to recruit additional staff at this time.

#### **What will be the difference in staff ratios?**

Main school current ratio for teachers: children is 1:13

Main school current ratio for support staff: children is 1 :17

Proposed ratio in first year for teachers: children will be 1 :12

Proposed ratio in first year for support staff: children will be 1 :20

#### **What will you do at lunchtimes?**

Staggered lunchtimes for Key stages

#### **What classroom will the children be in?**

Pre-school - Classroom 1

EYFS - Ash Classroom

KS1 - Beech Class

LKS2 - Hall

UKS2 - Oak Classroom

#### **Will the children be able to go to Pottton Middle?**

Yes, as long as there are spaces and they meet the entry requirement parents will be able to apply for places for their children.

#### **How will you deliver the Year 5 and 6 curriculum to the required standards?**

All elements of the Primary Curriculum are deliverable to a high standard with the facilities we currently have at Everton. The DfE defines the following structure which is already delivered at Everton. All staff are already fully trained in teaching the primary years. Any new staff required for yrs 5/6 will be appropriately trained. In line with primary schools across the country we will deliver this broad and balanced National Curriculum without the need for specialist facilities but continuing as a school to deliver high quality teaching using specialist teachers for areas including PE, Music and Languages.

### How will the school deliver appropriate level of PE / Sports for Years 5 & 6

The recreation ground is large enough for football, rugby etc. and the playground is ideal for other sports. We will also be looking to further enhance our already very good links with local schools, to provide opportunities to share resources, specialist teaching and create opportunities for competitive games and competitions. We will continue to be members of the East Beds Schools Partnership Programme that set up intra and inter school competitions for KS1 and Lower and Upper KS2. This will also provide training for staff in teaching upper KS2 PE. This will also allow us links to other schools to invite participation in KS2 Curriculum activities such as track athletics and trampolining.

### Science - Middle schools have access to Labs, Everton does not, how will you deliver on the requirements for Years 5 & 6?

The curriculum taught currently in the few remaining middle schools in Central Bedfordshire is the same national curriculum that is taught in primary schools in the vast majority of other boroughs across the country (over 95% of children in the country attend primary schools). The Primary Science curriculum is easily deliverable within the classroom environment, with the level of investigation, experimentation and practical work being appropriate to the demands of the curriculum. The Governing Body are committed to providing our children with the best possible education. To this end we will be exploring investing in more science equipment, aimed specifically at the upper Primary years to ensure we can offer high quality teaching and learning. We have also secured an agreement with Sandye Place Academy for us to borrow any specialist equipment we may need for the foreseeable future. We are also planning to budget for Mobile Science Stations and have a company interested in providing us with these and the training for all staff.

### Year 6 SATs are very important, how will you manage this?

We are currently expected to complete a series of statutory assessments with children in Foundation Stage (Baseline Assessments) and Year 1 (Phonics Screening Assessments). This will be increasing to include Year 2 with the Government implementation of the new Year 2 Standard Attainment Tests (SATs). This is in addition to the in house half termly assessments we use to determine the children's strengths and next steps. Year 6 SATs are simple to administer, there are very clear guidelines to follow in order to ensure they are completed in a standard way across the country.

### More children in the school will place greater pressure on the support in place for Special Educational Needs children. How will you deal with this?

An increase in children in Years 5 and 6 (a maximum increase of 20) may involve an increase in the number of children we are working with whom have individual needs. A majority of the work with SEND children is completed by our Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants (TA's or HLTA's). The lessons planned include opportunities for all children to progress and feature different levels of difficulty to challenge all children.

The Teachers, as the staff members who best know the child, are responsible for developing learning programs for those who need extra support and they are also responsible for determining what type of intervention children may require. Our skilled Teaching Assistants know our children very well, and provide high quality support both within lessons and within intervention groups. We would continue to use an external specialist in the role of Special Education Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo). The SENDCo is responsible for ensuring the level of support is appropriate, frequently reviewed and individualised to each child. The SENDCo also liaises with outside specialist agencies whom we use to support our children, parents and staff for those whom have more complex needs. This system would continue to be the case if we had Years 5 and 6 at Everton. The major benefit for SEND children would be that they have another 2 years at Everton before they need to transfer.

#### [How will you ensure the transition at the end of Year 6 is smooth?](#)

Currently, the transition to Year 5 at the end of Year 4 is managed carefully with Potton Federation. Gamlingay Village College and Sandye Place Academy. The new proposal will change the schools our year 6 children will move to include Sandy Upper, Stratton, Comberton and Bassingbourn. We have already close links with Sandy Upper and we have begun exploratory discussions with Comberton. The Governing Body and staff feel that the extra 2 years at Everton will allow our pastoral support and social and emotional support to continue, allowing children to naturally mature further before making the change to Secondary School.

#### [Why are you including Cambridgeshire schools?](#)

Our rural school sits on the educational boundaries of Central Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire and we serve families across these geographies including children from Potton, Gamlingay, East Hatley, Sandy as well as Everton. All parents have a the right to selecting preferred schools and as such we will facilitate all options available to them across the boundaries. We sincerely hope that all parents would prefer their children to continue their childrens Primary education within a single organisation, however, any parents who does not wish their child to continue in Years 5 or 6 will be able to apply through their respective Local Authority to move their child to an alternative school if spaces exist and they meet the criteria for entry.

#### [Is there any additional funding to grow the school?](#)

Central Bedfordshire has not made available any additional funds specifically for Age range Extension. We are not proposing to increase our annual Pupil intake beyond the current allocation of 10. Therefore any growth will be organic. Our assessment is that the current building has sufficient capacity to deliver a combined year 5 and 6. The department of Education defines the space requirements for teaching each age group and Everton will be within the defined parameters and guidelines. The school Governors continue to explore additional funding opportunities that would allow the school to develop and enhance the facilities (as we have done over the past few years Medical Room, 2 new classrooms), but these are not a requirement of the proposed age range extension.

#### How will you manage extra children for school lunches and breaks?

We would have staggered times for lunchtimes and breaks allowing children of similar ages to play and eat together.

#### Can the kitchen cope with more children for school lunch?

Our school does not prepare meals on site, these are currently prepared off site by a specialist catering supplier, at Potton Middle School. We would ensure that our catering supplier contract/ capacity includes the increase in any demand for school meals by having an additional 2 years at our school. We will investigate other catering services to ensure we have the best provision for our children.

#### Parking at or near the school is already a real problem, how would you deal with this?

Parking in school grounds is currently for staff only. Parents and visitor use the public road and this will continue to be the same should we convert to a Primary School. We will work with the Local Authority and the Parish Council to see if any further action is required. The Potton Road has sufficient parking spaces to accommodate the minor increase. We will also look at drop – off zones and supervised entry into school to avoid parents having to physically take the children into the playground. Different arrival times will also be an option.

#### Will the school day change?

No. There are no immediate plans to change the school day. Any future changes to be made must be completed through a full consultation, should changes be required in the future parents will be consulted fully before any changes are made.

#### Will the school uniform change?

There will be no change to the school uniform colour. However, due to the change from Lower to Primary the school name would change. We would design and offer a school emblem that could be ironed on.

#### Will there be a wider variety of after-school/in-school clubs as currently provided at middle school?

The school provides a number of after school clubs. As we have seen parent demand is currently low. We will happily provide other clubs as long as they are financially viable to the school.

#### Why are additional primary school places needed when there is current surplus at Potton Middle?

The school's aim is to deliver a single institution primary learning with no break. We are not proposing to increase the new pupil entry beyond the current PAN of 10, but we are proposing to extend the period at the school by 2 years. This brings us in line with other schools in the area and the country as a whole.

Should parents desire to transfer their children to a Middle School for Year 5 they will be able to do so through the current system of application. Both Potton Middle and Sandye Place Academy remain Middle schools within the locality. The Gamlingay schools has initiated a consultation to bring GF and GVC together and make them a single primary.

### [Curriculum](#)

The National Curriculum will continue to be taught (in all subject areas) and we will make sure that all teachers are suitably trained and highly skilled in teaching throughout the primary years. Through a mix of training, development and recruitment we are confident that we will be able to build upon the existing high levels of staff expertise and dedication to create an excellent primary team.

### [How will you safeguard younger children from any undesirable behaviour and influence that may come from older children?](#)

The safety and welfare of all our students is, and will always be, our highest priority. We will carefully monitor how children at different stages of their education interact and will take the greatest care to ensure that no child is exposed to negative behaviour.

### [Don't children need the challenge of a fresh start provided by changing schools?](#)

We believe that a Primary school with no break in their education between KS1 and KS2 is key to improve children's education results. However, if students and their parents would like a fresh start at a different school then there are alternative options in the area which they could move to at any stage in their education.

### [How will the classes be arranged?](#)

Pre-School children will be taught in their own class up to 10 at any session. Year R will be taught as a single year group.

Years 1/2 will be taught together as Keystage 1-just as we always have.

Years 3/4 will be taught together as lower Keystage 2 -just as we always have.

Years 5/6 will be taught together as upper Keystage 2

### [Who will provide the funding for extra teaching staff?](#)

Schools receive funding for each pupil on roll at the school, and so funding will increase in line with the numbers of children attending the school.

### [Who decides if the proposal goes ahead?](#)

This would be finally decided by the Local Authority. The various stages of the decision making process are set out in the consultation document.