

Executive Determination meeting 17th December 2012

Proposal to change age range of Houghton Regis Lower School

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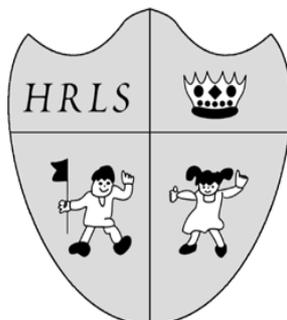
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Original proposal and consultation

Houghton Regis

Headteacher:
Mrs J C Gamble
Telephone: 01582 867487
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Email: houghtonregis@cbc.beds.sch.uk



Lower School

St Michael's Avenue
Houghton Regis
Dunstable
Beds
LU5 5DH
20th July 2012

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF HOUGHTON REGIS LOWER SCHOOL, ST MICHAEL'S AVENUE, HOUGHTON REGIS, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU5 5DH FROM 3 – 9 YEARS TO 3 – 11 YEARS

PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide information relating to the proposal to extend the age range of Houghton Regis Lower School from 3 – 9 years to 3 – 11 years to create a full primary school.

BACKGROUND

Houghton Regis Lower School provides well for its pupils. Local data shows that children achieve well in our school and that standards achieved at the end of both Key Stage 1 and Year 4 are good.

National data shows that changing school impacts negatively on pupils' progress. The transition of our pupils at age 9 in the middle of their Key Stage 2 primary schooling disrupts continuity of education.

We believe that our children would benefit from the stability of a primary school setting that is organised to meet the specific learning needs of the upper Key Stage 2 child. National research and data supports this view and consequently many Local Authorities have converted to a primary/ secondary model.

We also believe that all children and families in Houghton Regis Lower School should have the same choice as other families in the area who can choose to send their children to a primary school until the age of 11 from September 2013.

Original proposal and consultation

The Governing Body has requested Central Bedfordshire Council consider its request to change the age range of the school to enable it to provide primary schooling to pupils up to age 11.

PROPOSAL

The Governing Body has applied to change the age range of Houghton Regis Lower School by extending it from a 3 – 9 years to a 3 – 11 years full primary school.

It is proposed that there would be two stages of implementation starting in September 2013:

- September 2013 – Year 4 children to remain in current setting and move in to Year 5
- September 2014 – Year 5 children to remain in current setting and move in to Year 6

We have no plans to reintegrate pupils who are already in middle schools but will take children who have moved to the area from another school or who do not have a school provision, providing we do not exceed our admission number.

This would bring HRLS in line with other schools in Houghton Regis in September 2013.

SCHOOL CAPACITY

The current capacity of Houghton Regis Lower School is 225 children from Year R – Year 4 and 52 part-time nursery places. The proposed capacity is 315 children from Year R – Year 6 and 52 part-time nursery places.

This proposal would involve the provision of additional classrooms to accommodate Years 5 and 6 pupils.

Any buildings required for these changes would be subject to the normal planning permission process, which would include consulting local residents, the Highways Agency and other interested parties.

OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSAL

- To raise standards and improve outcomes for young people particularly at age 11, 16 and 18;
- To ensure that particular attention is paid to groups of children who are underperforming and exceeding in years 5 and 6.
- To provide stability, consistency and continuity for children in their primary years, through our ethos, curriculum, teaching and learning organization.

Original proposal and consultation

- To provide shared services between schools and to ensure continuity of teaching and learning on transfer at age 11 across Houghton Regis.
- To provide equal access for all pupils to primary school education regardless of faith.
- To ensure our schools are based around communities and their needs.
- To provide specialist primary education for children in years 5 and 6.
- To improve transition for children on transfer.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

If we are unsuccessful with this proposal the school will continue to operate as a lower school for pupils aged 3 – 9 years.

TIMELINE

The alteration of a school's age range must follow a prescribed democratic decision making process. The following table outlines the indicative timeline to change the age range of Houghton Regis Lower School.

Action	Start Date	Completion date
Consultation starts	20th July 2012	8 th October 2012
Report on outcome of consultation produced by school and submitted to Local Authority	9 th October 2012	
Statutory Notice period	22 nd October 2012	3 rd December 2012
Determination Meeting with Children's Services drafted by Local authority	W/E 17 th December 2012	
Proposed implementation	1st September 2013	

Original proposal and consultation

Attached to this proposal is a Consultation Response Form. Please complete the form and return it to the address provided.

Alternatively, responses to the consultation can be made by e-mail to:

houghtonregis@cbc.beds.sch.uk

A consultation meeting will be held on Friday 14th September 2012 at 6.00pm. with the Governors of the school be to discuss the proposal.

Original proposal and consultation

Consultation Response Form

Please read the consultation document and tell us what your views are. The questions on this form are provided to help you do so, but you do not have to respond to all of them. If you prefer not to use this form, you can also put your views in a letter.

Letters and forms should be returned to Houghton Regis Lower School, or responses can be sent by e-mail to: houghtonregis@cbc.beds.sch.uk

All responses must be received by **Monday 8th October 2012**

Questions relating to the proposal

How much do you agree with the following statements? Please tick as appropriate.

1a) I support the proposed changes to the age range at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

1b) I support the timescale plan of the age change at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

Original proposal and consultation

1c) I support the change in admissions number for Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

Further comments:

Original proposal and consultation

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Individual Organisation (Please tell us which organisation).....

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:

If you are responding as an individual, please tell us a little bit about yourself.

The following information will help us when considering your opinions and to make sure that we are getting views from all sections of the community. All the questions are optional, and you can give as little or as much information as you wish.

Please tell us if you fall into any of the following categories (please select all that apply)

Pupil (Please state at which school and in which Year Group)

Parent/carer of child/children (Please state which school/s).....

Parent/carer of pre-school child/children

School Governor (Please state which school/s)

School Staff (Please state which school/s)

Other (Please specify)

Gender

Male Female Transgender Prefer not to say

Age

Under 18 25 - 34 45 - 54 65 and over

18 - 24 35 - 44 55 - 64

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person? Yes No

Original proposal and consultation

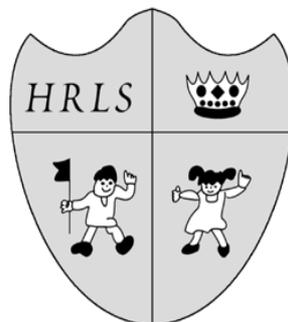
Ethnic Group

- WHITE British
- WHITE Irish
- WHITE Other (Please write in).....
- BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH Caribbean
- BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH African
- BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH Other (Please write in).....
- MIXED White & Black Caribbean
- MIXED White & Black African
- MIXED White & Asian
- MIXED Other (Please write in).....
- ASIAN Indian
- ASIAN Pakistani
- ASIAN Bangladeshi
- ASIAN Other (please write in).....
- CHINESE
- OTHER (Please write in).....

Data Protection Act 1998 Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Houghton Regis Lower School and/or Central Bedfordshire Council for the purpose of the consultation. The information collected may be disclosed to school staff and officers and members of the Council and its partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes.

Outcome of initial consultation

Houghton Regis



Lower School

Headteacher:
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St Michael's Avenue
Houghton Regis
Dunstable
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LU5 5DH

Response to the consultation document on a proposal to extend the upper age range of Houghton Regis Lower School from 3-9 years to 3-11 years.

Purpose of this report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information and report on the informal consultation relating to the proposal to extend the age range of Houghton Regis Lower School from 3-9 years to 3-11 years to create a full primary school.

OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSAL

- To raise standards and improve outcomes for young people particularly at age 11, 16 and 18; Y6 data has been below 'floor targets' for three consecutive years.
- To ensure that particular attention is paid to groups of children who are underperforming and exceeding in years 5 and 6.
- To provide stability, consistency and continuity for children in their primary years, through our ethos, curriculum, teaching and learning organisation.
- To provide shared services between schools and to ensure continuity of teaching and learning on transfer at age 11 across Houghton Regis and All Saints Academy in Dunstable.

Outcome of initial consultation

- To provide equal access for all pupils to primary school education regardless of faith.
- To ensure our schools are based around communities and their needs.
- To provide specialist primary education for children in years 5 and 6.
- To improve transition for children on transfer.

PROCESS OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION

Informal consultation period ran from 20th July 2012 to 8th October 2012. The consultation consisted of a consultation document, a meeting for staff and unions and a public meeting.

Consultation documents were sent to the following people:

Parents/Guardians of children currently attending Houghton Regis Lower School
Staff at Houghton Regis Lower School
The Chair of Governors of all schools in Central Bedfordshire (including Academies)
The Head teacher of all schools in Central Bedfordshire (including Academies)
The Principal of Central Bedfordshire College
All members of Houghton Regis Town Council
All members of Dunstable Town Council
All Central Bedfordshire Councillors
Members of Parliament for South West Bedfordshire and Luton
Pre-school provision in Houghton Regis
Pre-school provision in Dunstable
Luton Borough Council
Pre-school provision in Luton between Poynters Road and the M1 motorway
The Chair of Governors of Luton schools between Poynters Road and the M1 motorway
The Head teacher of Luton schools between Poynters Road and the M1 motorway
All relevant Trade Unions for both Teaching and Support staff
All church leaders within Houghton Regis
Manager of Tithe Farm Neighbourhood Centre
Head of Early Intervention and Prevention, Central Bedfordshire Council
Head of School Support, Central Bedfordshire Council
Regular visitors to the school including hirers of the school premises

The consultation document was also available on the Central Bedfordshire Learning Portal, the school website and publicised in Central Essentials.

Outcome of initial consultation

A meeting for staff and Trade Unions was held on Friday 14th September 2012 between 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm. All staff and Trade Unions officials were given prior notice of this meeting in writing.

A meeting for parents and carers and staff was held on Wednesday 20th June 2012 between 7.00 and 8.00 pm. This meeting was attended by 114 people.

A public meeting was held on Friday 14th September 2012 between 6.00 and 7.00 pm. This meeting was attended by 31 people.

Pupils in Years 1 – 4 were also consulted during this time.

Questions relating to the proposal

Houghton Regis Lower School received 142 written responses.

Overall Collated Responses

1a) I support the proposed changes to the age range at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
138	4	0	0	0	0

1b) I support the timescale plan of the age change at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly	Don't
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Outcome of initial consultation

agree		agree nor disagree		disagree	know
135	7	0	0	0	0

100 Parent / Carers Responses

1a) I support the proposed changes to the age range at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
97	3	0	0	0	0

1b) I support the timescale plan of the age change at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
93	6		1 (Parent wanted earlier change)		

6 Responses from other schools

Outcome of initial consultation

1a) I support the proposed changes to the age range at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
6	0	0	0	0	0

1b) I support the timescale plan of the age change at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
6	0	0	0	0	0

36 Other responses (including MP, Councillors, Staff and Unions)

1a) I support the proposed changes to the age range at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
36	0	0	0	0	0

Outcome of initial consultation

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1b) I support the timescale plan of the age change at Houghton Regis Lower School.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
36	0	0	0	0	0

Responses to points raised throughout informal consultation

Written Responses from Parents were 100% in support of the change.

Comments included:

- Many written responses indicated that parents believe the change to a primary school should have happened sooner.
- Many parents felt it would be beneficial to their children to be educated in a two tier education system.
- Several parents with children higher up the education system felt that their older child would have benefitted from a primary school education and felt their child was not ready for a middle school environment.
- Parents felt the school served its community well and pupil achievements were good.

Positive responses from local schools indicate that there is support for this change which they believe will have a positive impact upon children's learning, progress and achievement. It was felt that a further two years at Houghton Regis Lower School would enable pupils to become emotionally and behaviourally more mature within an environment were they felt secure.

Outcome of initial consultation

School staff commented that both the pupils and the school would benefit from having upper Key Stage Two pupils within the school.

Positive responses were received from Councillor Goodchild and Councillor Jones who felt that the change in age range at Houghton Regis Lower School would complete their educational vision for the community of Houghton Regis.

In her letter of support to the Council, Councillor Goodchild wrote:

“Thank you for your email, notifying members of the informal consultation, which began on Friday 20 July. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those officers who have supported the Head teacher - Mrs. J Gamble and the Chair of Governors - Mr. G Morgan in identifying the solution for the additional accommodation required to enable them to proceed to the consultation process to extend their age range from the current 3-9 years to 3-11 years.”

“I would be delighted if Houghton Regis Lower School is allowed to join its peers, with whom it worked assiduously on the proposals. This would represent a successful conclusion to a campaign, which has seen all the lower schools in Houghton Regis work together as never before, and I welcome it.”

Andrew Selous, Member of Parliament for SW Bedfordshire, fully supports the proposal and has supported the Head teacher and Chair of Governors throughout the Consultation.

Concerns raised:

The Head teacher and Chair of Governors received the following concerns.

Two Unions emailed the following comments:

“ I accept the suggestion made in this document that some 9 year old children may benefit from staying an extra 2 years in a smaller familiar school before facing a transition to KS 3 education”.

“I think parents should be consulted about such proposals. The document mentions this, but does not give details of consultation with parents”.

Jean Collins –Voice

Parents have been fully consulted. The proposal has, in fact, been parent/carer driven.

Outcome of initial consultation

A meeting was held in the school hall on 20th June at 7.00 p.m. for parents and carers after the Governors of the school received a petition signed by 234 parents/carers to support the change in age range of the school.

At the meeting parents expressed their wishes for the school to become a primary school and asked how they could support the governors in their bid for primary status.

Many offers of practical help were made by parents including the offer of support from a father of two children at the school who has his own building company.

This parent subsequently gave the governors an estimate for the building of two new classrooms. Several other parents came forward to offer their skills and services and the suggestion of a self-build project was made by a group of enthusiastic parents.

"I feel very strongly that any changes in age range at a school should only be considered in consultation with all the other schools in the area.

My concerns range from the deficit budget, I would like to see how the school propose to recoup this within one year if the LA will agree, to curriculum issues in years 5 and 6 for subjects such as science, DT and foreign languages and of course the effect this will have on teaching and non-teaching posts within the school and the area".

Norman Wright ATL

All schools have been fully consulted and no objections have been received. Officers from CBC have agreed to loan the school monies to support the construction of two new classrooms. The terms of the loan have not been finalised.

The staff of the school are confident that a full, stimulating and exciting, primary curriculum can be delivered. Several members of teaching staff have experience in delivering a Year 5 and Year 6 curriculum in other regions. We will work closely with other primary and secondary schools within Houghton Regis to share resources and expertise. We will need to recruit staff to our school team if the proposal goes ahead.

Other concerns raised by both other professionals and parents were related to what would happen if the proposal did **not** go ahead i.e. "where would our current Year 4 pupils transfer to?"

Public Meeting

The minutes of the meeting are attached.

No concerns were raised at the public meeting regarding the age range change.

Outcome of initial consultation

Letters of support were received from Tom Waterworth (Principal –All Saints Academy) and Barry Day OBE (Chief Executive Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust)

All staff at the school are fully supportive of the proposal and no trade union officials attended the meeting.

Pupil Comments

All pupils from Year 1 to Year 4 attending the school completed a simplified questionnaire.

Over 95 % of replies indicated that the pupil would choose to continue to attend this school and not transfer to a middle school at the end of Year 4.

The 5% who indicated they would like to move onto a middle school indicated that they would like to join their elder sibling attending the middle school, have their own locker, have pizza for tuck and join the rugby or football team.

The pupils gave very thoughtful answers to the questions within the questionnaire and our Year 4 children enjoyed debating the subject in their philosophy lesson.

The majority of the children's comments indicated that they felt safe in the school, the curriculum was fun, they enjoyed their topic work and learning new things and they enjoyed the extra-curricula activities provided by the school. The children also indicated they would like more PE lessons both during the school day and after school.

Consultation forms and comments were received from past pupils who are currently attending a local Middle school or an Upper school. These indicated unanimous support for extending the upper age range of the school.

All the forms received from ex-pupils indicated that given the chance again they would choose to stay at Houghton Regis School until the age of eleven.

Staff Comments

All staff fully support our proposal to extend our age range and become a primary school.

Revisit and Review of Original Proposal in Light of Consultation

Further comments:

School Capacity

There was some concern as to how many new classrooms would be needed in the future. The school currently has a small Year 4 group of children who in September 2013 could be accommodated in one classroom. The current Year 3 group is much larger and if all the pupils stayed at the school two new

Outcome of initial consultation

classrooms would be needed in September 2014. The school's proposal allows for the construction of two new classrooms using monies saved by the Governing Body from the school's revenue budget, which was to be directed towards improving security at the school, and loaning the additional money from CBC. If, in September 2014, all our Year 4 pupils stay at our school and do not transfer into a middle school a new classroom would be required. This would then allow capacity year groups to move through the school and transfer to a Secondary School at the end of Year 6. Parental choice will impact upon future accommodation needs.

Extended Services

As a school we provide many extended school activities. This includes a before and after school club jointly run by Thomas Whitehead School and Houghton Regis School. This club was initially set-up using National Lottery money and has run successfully for six years. A parent has correctly identified that the club is often over subscribed and booking ahead is necessary. If our proposal is successful then future demand is likely to exceed current accommodation facilities. We are committed to the future provision of a before and after school club to meet parent/carer needs and have identified a way forward to continue with this provision.

Working Together with Other Schools

We are committed to improving education and outcomes for all pupils in Houghton Regis.

It is our aim to strengthen partnerships with local school leaders and professionals to ensure all families are offered a wide range of services and support to meet pupil and parent needs. We will continue to develop strong relationships with local secondary schools and will ensure that transition between primary and secondary school is a positive experience for everyone.

We will share resources to ensure that every pupil has access to a rich and varied curriculum and equal opportunities to achieve to their potential.

Transport Strategy

We will revisit and update the school's travel plan and work with the Council's sustainable transport officer to address any concerns raised by increasing our NOR. A high proportion of consultation responses from parents/carers identified the reduction in car journeys between Houghton Regis and Dunstable if the proposal went ahead. Families will be able to walk to their local primary and secondary school instead of driving their children between lower and middle school. The governors see this as a positive aspect of the proposal.

Provisional analysis of available data indicates the number of families attending the school will not, in the immediate future, significantly increase as the majority of pupils staying into year five and year six will have younger siblings in other

Outcome of initial consultation

classes at the school.

Alternative Options

If we are *unsuccessful* with this proposal the school will continue to operate as a lower school for pupils aged 3-9 years.

Year four pupils transfer into a middle school in Dunstable or Toddington.
(Transport will be needed for many of our pupils.)

Year four pupils transfer for two years to a local primary school.

The Governing Body met on Tuesday 2nd October 2012 to look at the responses and discuss the report on informal consultation. The following statement was written by the Governing Body and was unanimously agreed.

Statement from Houghton Regis Lower School Governing Body regarding The Proposal to Extend the Age Range at Houghton Regis Lower School from 3-9 Years to 3-11 Years.

The Governing Body of Houghton Regis Lower School consists of a mix of parent Governors, Community Governors, Staff Governors and LEA Governors.

We (The Governing Body of Houghton Regis Lower School) fully support the proposal to extend the age range at Houghton Regis Lower School to become a Primary School. The Governing Body plays an active role in the school and is fully aware of the excellent achievement and progress made by children in the school, and the contribution of the school's management and of the school's staff to this achievement and progress.

This positive view is confirmed in the school's last Ofsted Report (27th and 28th February 2012).

Continuing at Houghton Regis School until the end of the primary years will offer our pupils and their families consistency based on an extension of the high quality education and pastoral support that the school currently provides and Ofsted recognises.

Data from our excellent assessment and tracking systems shows that the majority of our pupils leave Houghton Regis achieving well and reaching National and Local expectations. Furthermore, the progress made by vulnerable groups such as SEND and FSM is well above the LA average.

As a Governing Body we believe that Houghton Regis can offer an excellent and exciting primary curriculum to pupils in year five and year six.

Outcome of initial consultation

The Governing Body has had numerous discussions with our parents/carers and the unanimous response is that they wholeheartedly support this proposal, the only negative comments being “why has this not happened sooner?”

This proposal has been well thought through by the Governing Body over a number of years. We realise that change can be challenging, however we are strongly committed to making change happen for the benefit of our pupils, families and the wider community.

The Governing Body feel very strongly that HRLS should be granted primary status as other educational providers within Houghton Regis are changing, or are proposing to change, to a two tier structure in September 2013. Parent and pupil choice would be inhibited if this proposal is not implemented and pupils' education could be negatively impacted upon by a very disrupted journey through the local education system.

We believe it is extremely important to provide and support a consistent and coherent approach to education within Houghton Regis.

We believe that this proposal to extend our pupils' age range from 3-9 years to 3-11 years will support the development of well educated, well rounded citizens who are emotionally, socially and educationally equipped to continue with life-long learning.

Statutory Notice

Proposal to extend the age range of Houghton Regis Community Lower School from 3 – 9 years to 3 – 11 years to create a primary school.



Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Central Bedfordshire Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Houghton Regis Community Lower School, St Michael's Avenue, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 5DH from 1 September 2013.

The proposal is to change the age range of Houghton Regis Community Lower School by extending it from a 3 – 9 years lower school to a 3 – 11 years primary school

This is to be implemented in two stages:

September 2013 - year 4 children will be retained at the school and become a new year 5. September 2014 - year 5 children will be retained at the school and become a new year 6.

The current capacity of the school is 225 places in the main school plus provision for 52 part time nursery places. Following implementation the proposed capacity will be 315 places in the main school plus provision for 52 part time nursery places.

The current admission number for the main school is 45 for each year group. The proposed admission number will remain the same. Total capacity for September 2013 is expected to be 270 in the main school with 52 part time nursery places. Total capacity for 2014 is expected to be 315 in the main school with 52 part time nursery places.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: The Information Manager, Central Bedfordshire Council, Room DC2, Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 1LF. It can also be viewed on the Council's website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to The Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5TQ.

Signed: Edwina Grant

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

Publication Date: 22 October 2012

Explanatory notes

Statutory Notice

It is proposed that extending the age range of Houghton Regis Community Lower School from 3 – 9 years to 3 – 11 years to create a primary school will provide improved standards in years 5 and 6 and therefore at the end of Key Stage 2. National data shows that changing school may impact negatively on pupils' progress and may result in a lack of curriculum understanding, continuity, and assessment agreement. This proposal will remove the transition at the end of year 4.

The provision will bring Houghton Regis Community Lower School into line with all other Lower Schools in Houghton Regis, for which proposals to convert them to primary schools were published and approved earlier this year.

The school cannot accommodate the additional pupils and two new classrooms will be required from September 2013.

Prescribed Information

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

N/A

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Houghton Regis Community Lower School
St Michael's Avenue
Houghton Regis
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU5 5DH

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The proposal will be implemented from 1 September 2013 and will be phased over 2 years -
In September 2013 – year 4 children will be retained at school and become a new year 5.
In September 2014 – year 5 children will be retained at school and become a new year 6.

Prescribed Information

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
 - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals (i.e. by 3 December 2012), any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5TQ.

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

It is proposed that Houghton Regis Community Lower School will extend its age range from a 3-9 years lower school to a 3-11 years primary school.

School capacity

- 5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current capacity of the school is 225 pupils in the main school plus provision for 52 part-time nursery places. Following implementation, the proposed capacity will be 315 places in the main school plus provision for 52 part time nursery places.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The school currently has an admission number of 45 at age 4+. This will not change.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Prescribed Information

There will be no change to the number of pupils to be admitted. However in September 2013 a new year 5 will be created and in September 2014 a new year 6 will be created to enable pupils, who would have otherwise have had to leave the school at the end of year 4, to remain.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

The number of pupils in year groups 1, 3 and 4 are currently below the admission number of 45 –
Year 1 – 34
Year 3 - 35
Year 4 – 28

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

The current number of pupils aged 4+ to 9 on roll is 198, plus 44 nursery aged pupils.

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

N/A

Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

N/A

Prescribed Information

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

N/A

Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

N/A

- (b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

N/A

- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

N/A

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

N/A

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

Prescribed Information

N/A

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

N/A

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

N/A

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

N/A

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

N/A

- (d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

N/A

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

N/A

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

N/A

Prescribed Information

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Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

- To raise standards and improve outcomes for young people particularly at age 11, 16 and 18; Y6 data has been below 'floor targets' for three consecutive years.
- To ensure that particular attention is paid to groups of children who are underperforming and exceeding in years 5 and 6.
- To provide stability, consistency and continuity for children in their primary years, through our ethos, curriculum, teaching and learning organisation.
- To provide shared services between schools and to ensure continuity of teaching and learning on transfer at age 11 across Houghton Regis and All Saints Academy in Dunstable.
- To provide equal access for all pupils to primary school education regardless of faith.
- To ensure our schools are based around communities and their needs.
- To provide specialist primary education for children in years 5 and 6.
- To improve transition for children on transfer.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

Informal consultation was carried out between 20 July and 8 October 2012

(a) The following persons were consulted-

Parents/Guardians of children currently attending Houghton Regis Lower School
Staff at Houghton Regis Lower School
The Chair of Governors of all schools in Central Bedfordshire (including Academies)
All schools in Central Bedfordshire (including Academies)
The Principal of Central Bedfordshire College
All members of Houghton Regis Town Council
All members of Dunstable Town Council
All Central Bedfordshire Councillors
Members of Parliament for South West Bedfordshire and Luton
Pre-school provision in Houghton Regis

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Pre-school provision in Dunstable
Luton Borough Council
Pre-school provision in Luton between Poynters Road and the M1 motorway
The Chair of Governors of Luton schools between Poynters Road and the M1 motorway
The Head teacher of Luton schools between Poynters Road and the M1 motorway
All relevant Trade Unions for both Teaching and Support staff
All church leaders within Houghton Regis
Manager of Tithe Farm Neighbourhood Centre
Head of Early Intervention and Prevention, Central Bedfordshire Council
Head of School Support, Central Bedfordshire Council
Regular visitors to the school including hirers of the school premises

(b) A public consultation meeting was held on 14 September 2012. The minutes of this meeting are at Appendix A.

(c) The results of the informal consultation are at Appendix B

(d) All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.

(e) A copy of the consultation document is attached at Appendix C. This consultation document was made available to all people listed in section (a) and was also publicised via Central Bedfordshire Council's publication 'Central Essentials' which is emailed weekly to head teachers and chairs of governors within Central Bedfordshire.

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

Estimated capital cost of this proposal is £200,000 for 2 new classrooms.

The school is currently at capacity and has no spare accommodation to house year five and six pupils.

Two new classrooms will be required from September 2013 to accommodate year five pupils. The school would not need additional accommodation the following year and could absorb year six pupils into the school.

The proposal is to build two new classrooms to provide accommodation for year five and year six pupils. Current quotes from building companies have been received and preliminary planning investigations have been undertaken.

The Governors of the school have funds of £120,000. Central Bedfordshire Council is to support the proposed development with a loan of £80,000. The governors of the school will submit a deficit budget in April 2013 until they are able to secure the £80,000 currently required.

There is housing development within the school's current catchment area and a proportion of the Section 106 monies secured by CBC from developers for educational use in the future may be allocated to support the project

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Prescribed Information

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Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

The current age range is 3-9 across the school, including part time nursery provision.

Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

The school already caters for pupils aged 3-9 with 225 places in the main school plus 52 part time nursery places. The provision for nursery aged pupils will not change.

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

The school currently has an admission number of 45 at age 4+. This will not change.

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

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N/A

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

N/A

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

N/A

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

N/A

- (b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

N/A

- (c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

N/A

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(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

N/A

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

N/A

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

It is believed that changing the age range will have a positive impact for pupils with SEND and for vulnerable learners e.g. LAC, building on from the current good practice already established in the school.

- The school has expertise in early intervention, resources and teaching methodologies to support children who find learning hard.
- The school's professional knowledge of how children learn will enable the school to provide effective intervention from those practitioners who do this best.
- The school will continue with the good and supportive SEND provision already in place and pupils will benefit from this for a further two years.
- Excellent work with families is already established to support all vulnerable children, SEND, LAC.
- Over the years, the school has established excellent relationships with other professionals in order to support pupils with SEND and their families and will continue this for upper Key Stage 2 pupils. e.g. local specialist provision
- Children with SEND receive very effective support and as a result make good and outstanding progress in the school.
- The school aims to support Gifted & Talented pupils within the school and to

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consider the role played by feeder schools.

- The school benefits from a highly skilled experienced SENCo.
- The two way sharing of information at transition will support more positive outcomes for pupils with SEND and vulnerable learners.

(b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

N/A

(c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

N/A

(d) details of how the provision will be funded;

N/A

(e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

N/A

(f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

N/A

(g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

N/A

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- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

N/A

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

N/A

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

N/A

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

N/A

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

N/A

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

N/A

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20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

N/A

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

N/A

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

N/A

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

N/A

Prescribed Information

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(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

N/A

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

Current extended school provision is run on an individual school basis. Shared services include Parent Support Assistants who are jointly funded by all schools in Houghton Regis and shared wrap around care between Houghton Regis Community Lower School and Thomas Whitehead Voluntary Aided Church of England School of E VA Lower. There are no plans to change these extended services.

This proposal will give the opportunity for joint extended school provision reflecting the needs of the community and the aspirations of school leaders.

The school will work in partnership to provide a range of extended services:

- Parent Support Assistants - their work has been invaluable in supporting the community.
- Parenting Support offer courses involving parenting e.g. Positive Parenting Programme, Strengthening Families.
- Transition support for pupils, schools and families.
- Shared training for parents and staff.
- Use of combined clubs and a range of After School activities.
- Promotion of inter-school sport and other activities for the community.
- Commitment to wrap around care.
- Holiday activities for local children and their families.
- Workshops to support adult learning and encourage family learning.
- Support for vulnerable families and pupils e.g. Siblings group and Young Carers.
- Support for families in areas such as relationships, health and safety.
- Shared usage of extended outside services.

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Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Demand for Year 5 and 6 places, which is the key element of this proposal, would arise from the proposed re-organisation of all Lower and Middle School provision within Houghton Regis to become a two tier (primary/secondary) area. All Saints Academy has recently been approved to become an 11-18 secondary school, 4 other local lower schools are approved to become primary with effect from September 2013 and Houghton Regis Academy has recently commenced its consultation on a change of age range from 9-13 to become 11-18. The proposal for Houghton Regis Community Lower School will therefore match the intended future form of organisation for the area.

Should the proposal not be approved, year four pupils leaving the school may not have access to a year five school place in Houghton Regis.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

N/A

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

N/A

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

The proposals will increase provision across the area and increase parental choice

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

N/A

Prescribed Information

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

N/A
