

Executive Determination meeting 13 August 2013

Proposal to change age range of Kensworth Voluntary Controlled Lower School

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**KENSWORTH VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED LOWER SCHOOL**  
Common Road, Kensworth,  
Bedfordshire,  
LU6 3RH

Tel 01582 872336

Mrs Annelore Kentish B.EdHons

29<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE UPPER RANGE OF  
KENSWORTH VC LOWER SCHOOL, COMMON ROAD, KENSWORTH, BEDFORDSHIRE,  
LU6 3RH TO A SINGLE PHASE PRIMARY PROVISION FOR 2014/15**

**The Purpose of the Consultation Document**

The purpose of this document is to seek your views on a proposal to extend the upper range of Kensworth VC Lower School from 3 - 9 years to 3 - 11 years. Extending our age range would create a full primary provision.

**Background**

Kensworth VC Lower School provides well for its pupils. Our vision is to extend the 'Good' performance of Kensworth into years 5 and 6 enabling us to build further on our identified strengths and caring ethos for the benefit of all our pupils and the wider community.

Kensworth VC Lower School consistently performs higher than the national average in all areas at Key Stage 1.

At present pupils transfer from Kensworth at the age of 9, (Year 4), in the middle of their Key Stage 2 primary schooling. This can affect their curriculum understanding, school continuity, and educational assessment.

We believe y/our children would benefit from the stability of a primary school setting organised to meet the specific learning needs of the upper Key Stage 2 child.

We also believe children and families in Kensworth and the surrounding area should have the same choice as - for example - those in Houghton Regis from 2013.

The Governing Body of Kensworth has therefore asked Central Bedfordshire Council to consider a request to change the school's age range to enable it to provide primary schooling for pupils up to age 11.

**Contextual position**

There is much change within the area of Houghton Regis and Dunstable, with a significant number of schools now being Academies and a general move towards what appears to be a two-tier system of education. The following points demonstrate these particular trends:

- All the Lower Schools in Houghton Regis have been granted permission to change their age range from 4 - 9 to 4 - 11 from September 2013.
- St. Mary's Catholic Lower School, Caddington has also received confirmation that they are able to raise their age range to 11 from September 2013.

#### Original proposal and consultation document

- Hadrian Academy and St Christopher's Academy, whose children eventually tend to feed into Queensbury Academy, have been granted primary (4 - 11) status from October 2012 and will each start retaining children in Year 5 from September 2013.
- Barnfield Academy (formerly Mill Vale Middle School) will admit children into Years R to 5 from September 2013.
- All Saints Academy, a 13 - 18 Upper School, has been granted permission by the Secretary of State to extend its age-range from 11 - 18 and will admit the first cohort of students into Year 7 in September 2013.
- The sponsors of Houghton Regis Academy have signalled their intention to become an 11 -18 secondary school, with an expected initial implementation date of September 2014.
- The sponsors of Queensbury Academy, a 13 -18 Upper School, have declared their intention to consult on changing its age range to become an 11 - 18 secondary school, admitting its first cohort of students into Year 7 in September 2014.
- The Governors of Manshead Upper School, a 13 - 18 Upper School, have also made clear their intention to consider a change to their age range in 2014.
- The Governors of Lark Rise and Ardley Hill Academies, both at present Lower Schools, are looking at extending their age ranges to become primary schools from September 2014.

With these changes in mind, Kensworth will continue to seek partnerships with other local schools and beyond in order to raise outcomes for pupils still further.

#### **Proposal**

The Governing Body of Kensworth VC Lower School is seeking your comments on the proposal to extend the age range to become a full primary school. These can be recorded on the form attached and returned to the school by post or by email to the Chair of Governors ([kensworth@cbc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:kensworth@cbc.beds.sch.uk))

It is proposed that there would be two stages of implementation starting in September 2014:

- September 2014 - Year 4 pupils would remain in current setting and continue to Year 5
- September 2015 - Year 5 pupils would remain in current setting and move into Year 6

We believe y/our children would benefit from a primary setting designed to meet the desired learning needs of the upper Key Stage 2 child.

The change proposed would provide stability and continuity of learning and would also support the changing face of schooling in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area.

However, in implementing this proposal we would fully support parents/carers who chose to :

- Keep their child(ren) at Kensworth School until the end of Year 6
- Transfer their child(ren) to middle school at the end of Year 4

#### **Objectives of the Proposal**

- To provide stability, consistency and continuity for pupils in their primary years
- To provide continuity in the curriculum, whereby each phase of education (primary and secondary) teaches two full key stages and each is mutually able to support progress by reducing the number of transition points
- To facilitate the continuity of Christian education
- To engage in greater collaborative working between phases with a view to enhancing the sharing of specialist provision
- To sustain high standards of education and maintain the nurturing and well-being of pupils by offering them only one change of school, thereby ensuring sustained progress in all aspects of their education
- To ensure that we offer a broad, balanced and cohesive curriculum which meets the needs of all pupils

Original proposal and consultation document

- To offer pupils in Years 5 and 6 a specialised curriculum through the sharing of expertise and resources with other partnership schools.
- To improve parental choice with regard to the variety of options and opportunities offered.
- To ensure our school continues to focus on the needs of the local community.

You are invited to meetings as part of this consultation - please see attached schedule for consultation

**School Capacity**

The current capacity of Kensworth Lower School is 75 children from Reception - Year 4 and a 15-place 4+ unit mornings only. We also have a 20-place Pre-school (Rising 3s - 4 years) on site.

The proposed capacity is 105 children from Reception - Year 6, and will then continue with the same provision for our early years. The pre-school provision will remain unchanged.

The school has enough available classroom space to cater for an extended upper age range.

There would be no requirements for building work at present apart from replacing some toilets and buying new tables and chairs. The cost for this work has been budgeted for in the 2013 - 2014 Budget.

**SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)**

Extending the School's age range will have a positive impact for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and other vulnerable learners, which will build on the current good practice already established in our school. This is because:

- We have the expertise in early intervention, resources and teaching methodologies to support children who find learning hard
- We are able to provide effective intervention strategies
- We will continue with the effective SEND provision already in place and pupils will benefit from this for a further two years

**Working with other Schools**

Kensworth VC Lower School is fully committed to working with schools in the Learning Partnership, and other schools in the local area, to establish a shared vision based on providing the very best outcomes for our children and their families. We aim to provide a range of collaborative opportunities which will ensure the continuity of provision for children and their families. We will continue to work in partnership to secure value for money by sharing suppliers, joint training, sharing professional expertise and identifying shared priorities for school improvement.

**Process of Consultation**

In order to engage in meaningful and informed consultation, we will be holding a number of consultation opportunities to engage with all stakeholders, as well as providing the opportunity for individuals and organisations to make written submissions about the proposals. All of this evidence will be collated into a Consultation Report that the governors will consider before making the decision to submit a proposal to the Local Authority.

The alteration of a school's age range must follow a set decision making process. The following table sets out the timetable to change the age range of Kensworth VC Lower School. The processes after March 2013 will only be actioned if the governors decide to proceed based on the feedback from this consultation process.

Action	Start date	Completion date
Informal consultation	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2013
Meeting with school staff	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	

Original proposal and consultation document

Meeting with Kensworth Lower School parents	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2013 6.30pm in the school hall	
Meeting with members of the community and other stakeholders	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 6.30pm in the school hall	
Publication Formal publication of the proposal	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2013	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2013
Decision made	August 2013	
Proposed implementation	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2014	

**Consultation Response Form**

Please read the consultation document and tell us what your views are.  
If you prefer not to use this form, you can also put your views in a letter.

Letters and forms should be sent to the address at the bottom of this form, or responses can be sent by e-mail to : [kensworth@cbc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:kensworth@cbc.beds.sch.uk)

All responses must be received by 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**Proposal**

It is proposed that, from September 2014, the Year 4 pupils at Kensworth Lower School will be given the opportunity to remain at the school and move into Year 5; then into Year 6 in 2015. The age range at Kensworth would change from 3+ - 9 years to 3+ - 11 years.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree

Q

Comment

For the purpose of analysis, please detail which group you represent (e.g. parent, carer, local resident, church official, etc.)

Please return form to:  
Mrs Annelore Kentish  
Head teacher  
Kensworth VC Lower School  
Common Road  
Kensworth  
Beds  
LU6 3RH



## **Kensworth V.C. Lower School**

### **Response to the consultation document on a proposal to extend the upper age range of Kensworth VC Lower School from 3-9 years to 3-11 years.**

In January 2013 after many discussions at Governing Body meetings it was agreed to submit a proposal to extend the upper age of Kensworth VC Lower School to become a full primary school. The Governing Body of Kensworth Lower School believes that the children of Kensworth should have the same choice as families in Houghton Regis and parts of Dunstable who can choose to send their children to a primary school. We have received very supportive comments from parents, stakeholders and other interested parties during the consultation period.

#### **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 Kensworth VC Lower School from 3-9 years to 3-11 years to create a full primary school.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL**

- To provide stability and continuity for pupils in their primary years
- To provide continuity in the curriculum, whereby each phase of education (primary and secondary) teaches two full key stages and each is mutually able to support progress by reducing the number of transition points
- To facilitate the continuity of Christian education
- To engage in greater collaborative working between phases with a view to enhancing the sharing of specialist provision

- To sustain high standards of education and maintain the nurturing and well-being of pupils by offering them only one change of school, thereby ensuring sustained progress in all aspects of their education
- To ensure that we offer a broad, balanced and cohesive curriculum which meets the needs of all pupils
- To offer pupils in Years 5 and 6 a specialised curriculum through the sharing of expertise and resources with other partnership schools
- To improve parental choice with regard to the variety of options and opportunities offered
- To ensure our school continues to focus on the needs of the local community

## **PROCESS OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION**

Informal consultation period ran from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The consultation consisted of a consultation document and meetings for parents and stakeholders.

Consultation documents were sent to the following people:

- Parents/Guardians of children currently attending Kensworth Lower School
- Parents/Guardians of children currently attending Kensworth Pre School
- Staff at Kensworth VC Lower School
- The Diocese of St. Albans
- The Chairs of Governors of local schools
- The Head teacher's of local schools
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Member of Parliament for Central Bedfordshire
- Dunstable Library
- Kensworth Parish Council
- All relevant Trade Unions for both teaching and support staff

The consultation document was also available on our school website and was published in Central Essentials.

## RESPONSES TO INFORMAL CONSULTATION

### Raw Data Collected From the Consultation Document

- Raw data collected:
- 46 families received consultation forms
- 33 responded - 73%
- 100% agreed with the proposal
- 32 out of 33 strongly agreed - 96%

### What some parents said:

- We very much feel that our son would benefit from the proposed school age increase at Kensworth School.
- Almost every parent in the village that we have discussed this with are also in full support of the change.
- We think the children will benefit from staying at Kensworth until the age of 11, bringing the age range in line with the rest of the country.
- I feel this would be a fantastic move to sustain the children's potential for high attainment and confidence and social esteem.
- I think this is an excellent idea. The school has excellent standards and has brought out the best in my daughter. I will be extremely happy if she is able to stay at this well performing, community spirited and friendly school until the age of 11.
- I am a parent of a Year 2 child and would like to express my delight in hearing that the age range may be extended at Kensworth Lower.
- I whole heartedly agree with the proposed change. The current three tier system is disruptive and absurd.

Minutes were recorded at the public meetings. Parents have been fully consulted, the proposal has in fact been parent/carers driven.

The 'Friends of Kensworth', the school's PTA, have discussed the details of the proposed change of age range and are strongly in favour of the proposal.

School staff commented that the pupils, school and local community would benefit from having upper Key Stage 2 pupils within the school.

Positive responses were received by several local Headteacher's who felt the change in age range would benefit the whole area.

Responses from interested parties were all in favour of the proposal.

Andrew Selous the local MP supports the proposal - "I recognise that this move is necessary to adjust to the conversion of Queensbury and Manshead, as well as All Saints to full secondary schools.

Richard Stay CBC Councillor representing Kensworth attended the parents meeting to give his full support to the proposal.

Support has also been given by the local Parish Council - one councillor wrote, "The proposal, I feel, will strengthen the school's presence in the village by creating a more vibrant community of which the school plays a major part."

The Education Board at the Diocese of St. Albans has also given their support to the proposal.

The school has received no response from the Unions.

### **Responses to points raised throughout the consultation**

Minutes were recorded at both public meetings. All points raised were positive.

#### **Would specialist MFL, PE, DT and Science teachers visit the school to provide these lessons or would this be covered all or part by the class teacher?**

Specialist staff for areas such as PE and MFL would be employed. Other areas such as Science and DT would be taught by the class teacher. Many staff already at Kensworth have experience of teaching at upper Key Stage 2. Specialist teachers from Manshead could also be used during the Summer Term when many of their pupils are on study leave.

#### **Would the school be able to provide PE/sports facilities?**

We would look to use the facilities of other local schools in order to provide an extended ? range of opportunities for all Key Stage 2 pupils.

#### **Would there be sufficient expertise to stretch and challenge pupils?**

Many staff in the school already have experience in upper key Stage 2. We would seek to employ a suitably experienced teacher with appropriate expertise. There would also be opportunities to share expertise and resources from the Learning Partnership to ensure that all pupils are able to fulfil their potential.

### **How would the school hall accommodate assemblies and lunchtimes with more children?**

Mrs Kentish assured everyone that assemblies could be split into KS1 and KS2 and that we already operate a 2 sitting system at lunchtime. The proposal does not exceed the number of pupils that have attended the school in the past.

### **How the new pupils were going to be accommodated?**

In her presentation Mrs Kentish was able to show a floor plan of the new layout.

This was well received, some parents commented that the proposed changes were sensible and would improve the school as a whole.

### **What some parents said after the presentation**

"Just a note to say how impressed I was with the meeting in regard to the proposed changes of age range at Kensworth Lower School. All questions were answered and suggestions taken on board. It would be fantastic if this could happen and by September 2014."

"After attending the consultation evening I think the change to primary status and age range would be a real benefit to the children of Kensworth. My husband and I are delighted that the change would be implemented in time for our boys to stay within the school."

### **Review of Original proposal in the light of the consultation**

In light of the information received from the consultation we believe that progressing with our proposal to extend the age range of Kensworth VC Lower School to become a primary school is what parents want. All the respondents were clearly in favour of the change and believe their children will continue to make progress if they remained at Kensworth to complete Key Stage 2. Parents also feel that by completing their primary education at one school their children will benefit both emotionally and academically. The proposal outlines clearly how the change of age range will be managed and strongly promotes the benefits to our pupils. The school has the capacity to enable this to happen. Our transition work will continue to ensure that there is a support network for children moving on to their next school. Kensworth will continue to have an active role in the 'Learning Partnership' as we see shared practice as important in the future of our pupils learning journey.

We feel that schools should be based around local communities and their needs, and comments at the public meetings indicate clearly that our parents want that to continue for their children beyond Year 4. We will continue to work closely with local schools to ensure the close working relationships continue.

### **Governing Body Statement**

The Governing Body met on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 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.

We (The Governing Body of Kensworth VC Lower School) fully support the proposal to extend the age range of Kensworth 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 the pupils in the school, and the contribution of the school's leadership and of the school's staff to this achievement and progress.

We feel very strongly that children up to the end of Year 6 should have a primary education. We will ensure the curriculum is delivered by highly qualified and skilled primary teachers and will meet the needs of all children. We believe that Kensworth can offer an excellent and exciting curriculum to pupils in Years 5 and 6. This is what our parents want and we are committed to ensure that this happens in 2014 and beyond.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE EDUCATION SERVICE</b> <b>KENSWORTH VC LOWER SCHOOL</b></p>
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Consultation Meeting with parents re: Proposed Change of Age Range to Kensworth VC Lower School

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 6.30pm in the School Hall.

Present:

Mrs P Frazer

Mrs A Kentish

Mr J Parker (Head Teacher of Manshead School)

Councillor Richard Stay (part)

Parents (see attached sign-in sheet)

Teachers

Governors

Mrs K Frazer (Clerk)

### **Introduction**

Polly Frazer introduced Anna Kentish who presented what a change of age range would mean for Kensworth VC Lower School and then asked parents for their questions and comments.

Before the question session began, Councillor Richard Stay announced that he would give his full

support to Kensworth School in changing the age range and also to Manshead and wished both schools the best of luck with their application.

### **Parent Questions;**

**What were the original advantages of being a 3 tier system?** He mentioned that he would be in support of the 2 tier system as this was the one he was familiar with. Anna Kentish said that the best answer would come from a middle school but suspects that it was because of the specialist provisions that they offered.

(Anna Kentish had mentioned her presentation that our Years 5/6 would be provided with specialist teachers for certain subjects such as Science, Sport, Foreign Language at Kensworth Lower School).

**Jim Parker** (Head Teacher of Manshead School) stepped up to explain Manshead's position and that it was due to consult shortly to extend it's age range to house pupils from 11-18 years. And while there is no 100% guarantee that it will happen, there have been no rejections so far for schools that are already ahead in the process. Jim emphasised how important it will be to look after those pupils in the transition phase and by forging strong relationships with the Primary schools, things should go forward seamlessly.

**How will all the children fit onto the site?** Jim Parker replied that they may have to reduce numbers per year group.

**Could Kensworth expand the year group number?** Anna Kentish replied that this would be a decision made by the Local Authority. Expanding would mean needing extra buildings and the money to build them but she would like very much for this to happen.

**How can we be assured that the children would be getting the specialist subjects into our school?** Jim Parker said that Upper Schools have quiet months where children are off-site studying and this is when they could invite pupils from Primary schools in to do the activities. This would be similar to how things work with Streetfield school at the moment.

**What's going to happen to Streetfield school?** The answer was that at the moment, the future is unsure. Some Middle Schools may remain as they are to accommodate pupils from Lower Schools who do not wish to become Primary schools.

**What would happen if Manshead's application was turned down and Kensworth's wasn't? Where would the Year 6 pupils go to?** It was explained that Kensworth and Manshead will find out the answer (before the end of this year's Summer term), at the same time. It was suggested that as the same person would be responsible for making the decision, it is likely that the schools would have the same outcome. Jim Parker said that as Queensbury school was expecting to be granted a change to their age range, it would be strange if Manshead were rejected.

**While very keen to keep her child at Kensworth until Year 6, a parent was concerned that he would be a 'guinea-pig' and would the first Year 5 get the dedicated teacher to themselves?** The answer was yes, the first Year 5 wouldn't share a teacher.

**Concerned by the 'enormous' jump from Kensworth school to Manshead in terms of size.** Jim Parker assured everyone that all schools will be feeling the same whether they come from a class size of 15 or 30 and to make sure that they adjust without too much discomfort, familiarity with the school and staff is key. It was also commented that leaving at Year 6, the pupils will be more mature and therefore may be able to cope with a move much better than leaving to go onto somewhere at Year 4.

**Could our children have a problem getting into Manshead as it will be taking on more pupils.** Jim Parker couldn't see this being a problem as the 'new' Houghton Regis secondary schools are taking in more pupils and therefore will free up some spaces in Manshead initially.

**How would the school hall accommodate assemblies with more children?** Anna Kentish assured everyone that this wouldn't be a problem as assemblies could be split into KS1 and KS2 and if necessary, the Village Hall could be used for bigger productions.

**Could after-school provisions could be set up as numbers increase.** Anna Kentish said that this was a strong possibility.

**Comment from parent** - having put 2 older children through the 3 tier system, she would welcome a 2 tier system for her youngest child.

**Jim Parker** stressed that whilst the 2 tier system would reduce the transition problem it is not a 'magic bullet' and that close working relationships are what will make it successful.

Parents were reminded to complete the Consultation Feedback form and those that had already done so were thanked.

Parents were invited to stay to look at various documents relating to the Change of Age Range.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm.

## **Appendix A (2)**

### **Record of Meeting with Stakeholders re: Proposed Change of Age Range to Kensworth VC Lower School**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 at 6.30pm in the School Hall.

#### **Present:**

Mrs P Frazer (Chair of Governors)  
Mrs A Kentish (Head Teacher of Kensworth School)  
Mr R Parsons (Head of school organisation and capital planning CBC)  
Mr A Todd (Parent Governor)  
Mr P Woods (Governor/Parish Councillor)  
Mrs D Brook (Governor)  
Mrs K Frazer (Clerk)

#### **Introduction**

Polly Frazer started the meeting by explaining how the Governors of the school had come to the decision to consider the change of age range. Polly welcomed Mr Rob Parsons from CBC. Polly then introduced Anna Kentish (Head Teacher) who presented what a change of age range would mean for the school and how it could be implemented.

#### **Questions and Feedback:**

Mr Parsons asked which questions had arisen from parents at the previous Consultation on 11<sup>th</sup> February and how these were answered. Anna Kentish explained that there weren't many questions asked as it was felt and mentioned by parents that their questions had been covered in the presentation. Anna reminded all that Jim Parker, Head Teacher from Manshead was present at the last meeting and that he did a great job in assuring parents that he fully supported Manshead's change of age range and that Manshead would act as a "feeder" school for Kensworth in time for 2016 when our first Year 6 would be moving on. Parents had commented that Jim Parker's input at that meeting was very valuable and reassuring.

Mr Parsons asked if Anna Kentish had received the latest School budget and how this would affect any planned changes to the school. Anna explained that although the budget had been cut significantly by £25K due to loss of deprivation and small school allowances, she has carried over sufficient funds (£60K) to put towards the necessary building work etc. Mr Parsons offered to get an idea of the number of children in Kensworth which may help to see how many are potential candidates for the school.

Anna Kentish explained that the proposed changes have been met positively by everyone and hasn't come up against anyone who is against the idea, so far. Mr Parsons re-iterated the need for the parents' voice to be heard and that the gathering of feedback is essential. Anna will be giving out parent Feedback forms to every parent at the imminent parents evenings. There has been a good response to date in the form of e-mails and printed forms filled out.

### **Closing remarks**

Mr Parsons wished the school Good Luck and said a decision would be made at the CBC Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Legal notices are to be served as the next step and Governors need to meet, record and review, making positive statements, before finalising the pack for submitting.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm



## Kensworth V.C. Lower School

### **Proposal to extend the age range of Kensworth Voluntary Controlled Lower School from 3 to 9 years to 3 to 11 years to create a primary school.**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that The Governing body of Kensworth Voluntary Controlled Lower School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Kensworth Voluntary Controlled Lower School, Common Road, Kensworth, Bedfordshire, LU6 3RH from September 2014. The proposal is to change the age range of Kensworth Voluntary Controlled Lower School by extending it from 3 – 9 years to 3 – 11 years primary school.

This will be implemented in two stages:

September 2014 – Year 4 children will be retained at the school and become a new Year 5.

September 2015 – Year 5 children will be retained at the school and become a new Year 6.

The current capacity of the school is 75 with 20 part time Pre School places and when the proposals are implemented the proposed capacity will be 105 with 20 part time Pre School places.

The current admission number for the school is 15 for year groups 4+ to Year 4 with 20 part time Pre School places. The proposed admission number will remain the same. Total capacity for September 2014 is expected to be 90 with 20 part time Pre School places. Total capacity for 2014 is expected to be 105 with 20 part time Pre School 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](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultations) and the school website [www.kensworthschool.co.uk](http://www.kensworthschool.co.uk)

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, Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ

Signed: Mrs. P. Frazer  
Chair of Governors, Kensworth VC Lower School

Publication Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013

#### **Explanatory notes**

It is proposed that extending the age range of Kensworth Voluntary Controlled 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 schools 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 school has enough available classroom space to cater for an extended upper age range.

## 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.

Kensworth Voluntary Controlled Lower School,  
Common Road,  
Kensworth,  
Bedfordshire,  
LU6 3RH

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

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

N/A

#### **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.

Implementation to take place in September 2014

- Two stages of implementation
- September 2014 – Year 4 children to remain in current setting and move in to Year 5
- September 2015 – Year 5 children to remain in current setting and move in to Year 6

The school has no plans to reintegrate pupils who are already at other local middle schools but will take children who have moved to the area from another school or who do not have school provision, providing the school does not exceed its admission number.

#### **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.

(a) 15/07/2013

(b) The 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.

The current upper age range would be extended from 9 to 11 years old (upper year would change from Year 4 to Year 6).

Kensworth would change from a Lower School to a 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 15 per year group ( R to Year 4) 90 plus 20 part time Pre School places
- The proposed capacity after the alteration will remain at 15 per year group (R to Year 6) making the new roll number 105 (plus 20 part time pre-school 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;

- No capacity change per year group
- The current capacity of the school to remain at 15 per year group (R to Year 6) and also to remain at 20 part time places for Pre School

(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;

- Stage1: No change to the expected number of admissions, increase in overall roll is by pupils in year 4 remaining for year 5. The first stage of the proposal will mean the school could have 90 on roll excluding Pre School. We will then have R to Year 5, age 4 to 10 years
- Stage2: No change to the expected number of admissions, increase in overall roll is by pupils in year 5 remaining for year 6. The second stage of the proposal will mean that the number on roll could be 105 excluding Pre School. The school will then have R to Year 6, age 5 to 11 years

(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.

**Maximum projected number on roll**

	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019	Sept 2020
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Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

Pre School	20(part time)						
R	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
1	11	15	15	15	15	15	15
2	11	11	15	15	15	15	15
3	10	11	11	15	15	15	15
4	11	10	11	11	15	15	15
5	13	11	10	11	11	15	15
6	0	13	11	10	11	11	15
Total	71	86	88	92	97	101	105

(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.

There are 65 pupils plus 21 part time Pre School pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposal.

**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.

The proposal will be implemented by the governing body of Kensworth Voluntary Controlled Lower School with the support of St Albans Diocese

**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

(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 4toThe 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;

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

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

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

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

(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

## Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

### Objectives

- To provide stability, consistency and continuity for children in their primary years, through the school's ethos, curriculum, teaching and learning organisation
- To provide a smoother transition to secondary schools with admissions from year 7
- To raise standards and improve outcomes for young people particularly at age 11
- To ensure that particular attention is paid to groups of children who are either underperforming or exceeding expected progress in years 5 and 6
- To provide equal access for all pupils to primary school education regardless of faith
- To ensure the school is based around communities and their needs
- To make working at Kensworth more attractive and help us recruit and retain good quality staff to improve the standard of education for the children

### Principles

The need to raise standards and improve outcomes for young people.

- Local data shows that children achieve well in lower schools from a starting point which is below national levels
- Local data indicates that the number of students achieving 5+ GCSEs A\* - C is below national average
- Increasingly, as professionals, the school believes that the children would benefit from the stability of a primary school environment, its organisation and its ethos
- The school believes that primary schools will also improve behaviour, supporting pupils for whom coping in Years 5 & 6 with the changes associated with transition, may put them at risk of exclusion

To ensure there is continuity of provision across the 0 – 19 age range so there is a 'one phase' approach to learning.

- Current key stage planning is geared around the structure used by the majority of schools in the UK. This means that the key stage boundaries align with the two tier system
- The need for transition between each tier, particularly in the middle of Key Stages can result in lack of curriculum understanding, continuity, assessment agreement and ownership of Key Stages
- Continuity of provision will provide curriculum continuity avoiding repetition and curriculum conflict
- Primary / secondary provision will reduce the number of times a child needs to move schools, it also makes transition and curriculum continuity easier because it sits at the end of a key stage, the natural transition for the vast majority of schools in the Country

Schools should be based around communities and their needs

- By maintaining and extending lower school provision to age eleven and developing partnerships with good secondary education, Kensworth will be better positioned to meet this principle
- By maintaining the excellent relationships between the school and their families
- By providing appropriately for the needs of the primary child through a primary curriculum delivery and a familiar environment that has knowledge of the individual child and their

families

- By meeting the needs of parents and families in years 5 & 6 through the close working relationships that have been nurtured over the years
- The school works in close co-operation with the local church community, and this is an opportunity to extend this for an additional 2 years
- This proposal specifically meets the needs of local parents who prefer that their children stay in a smaller year group setting until age eleven

New models of leadership and governance for schools should be considered

- Work collectively in partnership between primary and secondary phases enabling staffing flexibility across schools
- Secure “Best Value” by sharing suppliers, engaging in joint training and identifying shared priorities for school improvement

That vision should reflect recent current reform

- The curriculum is based on a primary / secondary model in line with the rest of the country
- Current primary and secondary curriculum and assessment initiative can be addressed effectively
- The 2006 EIA amendment to the education act places duties on local authorities to secure diversity in the provision of schools, and increase opportunities for parental choice. This proposal supports this amendment by increasing parental choice, and diversity of educational provision

### **Effect on school standards and school improvements**

#### **Leadership and Management**

Kensworth has strong and confident leadership and the professional capacity and skills to drive forward the proposed changes, through:

- Working closely with local schools in the Learning Partnership and other schools in Dunstable
- Shared governor meetings that focus more strongly on strategic direction and to set high expectations for schools
- Exploring more flexible approaches to school governance through sharing expertise
- Shared senior leadership that allows the school to work together to agree a vision for the schools, raise standards and share targets for school and community improvement
- Collaborative work on curriculum initiatives for upper KS2, building on the good practice that already exists in years 3 and 4
- Sharing the expertise and experience of upper key stage 2 that already exists within the schools
- Working in partnership with other local schools, who have already or will be extending their age range to 11
- Sharing a range of bought in services

The school also believes that a full primary school provides greater career development opportunities for new and existing staff than lower schools, and may be more attractive to new applicants.

#### **Curriculum**

The school believes that curriculum delivery is paramount to enable all pupils to have opportunities to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. This will be achieved through an engaging, challenging and purposeful primary curriculum that better meets the learning styles and needs of pupils and the school will address this in the following ways:

The school acknowledges there will be a significant impact on the school in the delivery, resourcing and teaching of some specialist subject areas, and the school appreciates that the curriculum for Years 5 and 6 will need careful planning. The school will do this by:

- Following the national curriculum that sets out clearly the core knowledge and understanding that all children should be expected to acquire in their later primary years
- Visits to other good/outstanding primary provision to see good practice, planning, teaching, learning and pastoral care

## Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

- Joint training and curriculum planning for Key Stage 2
- Working with local Primary Schools
- Curriculum leaders working together
- Sharing good practice, resources, facilities and expertise with partnership feeder schools

Teaching styles within upper Key Stage 2 will promote opportunities to further develop learning & thinking skills and independence through an enquiry based and reflective teaching style which will meet the needs of a range of learners. CPD will focus on innovative teaching, learning and in giving teachers the confidence to support all children to progress.

The school will continue to update its own knowledge and understanding of assessment in line with new government legislation. The school already benefits from the expertise of two members of staff who have experience of teaching and assessing upper Key Stage 2.

Target setting and monitoring will continue, as a whole school approach, as this has already proved successful. The school will moderate with other providers of Year 5 and 6. The school will continue to build upon high standards of APP to assess learning and meet individual needs through successful interventions. Pupils will be involved in their own self-assessment of progress and setting learning goals for the future.

The school has a strong commitment to PSHE within a Christian environment and keeping children safe. The school recognises the different challenges faced by upper KS 2 pupils and has strong links to local initiatives which will support their PSHE development e.g. SRE, Mental health.

### **Parents and community**

Ensuring that this school system works for families by promoting the confidence of parents and fully engaging with them and the community through:

- Making the school accountable to all stakeholders
- Knowledge of families and the community, meaning the school is well placed to address parental concerns
- Continuing to seek views and act on this feedback at a wider community level
- Continuing the current very good practice that exists within the school e.g. Parent/carer workshops on curriculum matters, open door policy which encourages good communication and supporting children at home

Initial research shows that parents are in favour of primary schooling, this was confirmed in the responses during the informal consultation. This change will promote increased confidence within the local community that the education system is geared to local needs and reflects parental wishes.

### **Behaviour**

Evidence from Ofsted reports, SIP reports and LA exclusion data show that behaviour is very well managed in the school. This is due to established behaviour management strategies that are successful for the following reasons:

- The school has in depth knowledge of the children and families and makes it a priority to build excellent relationships, especially with more vulnerable families
- The school uses a wide range of support mechanisms (including external agencies and small group work)
- The school has a consistent approach to behaviour management that is known and understood by all
- The school has positive effects on groups that tend to underperform; vulnerable learners, low achievers etc. because they know these children well.
- A familiar environment and favourable staffing ratio means that the school can continue to meet the needs of children, and address behaviour management

### **Transition**

Transition is a major key to successful lifelong learning. In order to achieve successful transition for all, there needs to be effective communication between different settings.

Good transition is fundamental to the success of this proposal; the school is fully committed to work with all future providers having agreed processes for transfer at age 11 so that the school journey becomes seamless. In order to achieve this seamless transition the school will ensure that there is :

- A shared curriculum, teaching, support, expertise and delivery as a two way process
- The sharing of data, target setting and assessments where there is a mutual trust of judgements and information
- A commitment to joint working over transition periods including post transition
- Leadership of transition
- Pupil involvement in their planned transition
- Pupils whose parents choose to change schools at the end of year 6 to a secondary school, may only experience one transition event before the age of 19

## **SEND**

The school feels that changing 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 believes that their professional knowledge of how children learn will enable them to provide effective intervention
- The school benefits from a highly skilled, experienced SENCo, and 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 and 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
- The school aims to maintain and share specialist staff already employed by schools to support SEND
- The school aims to support Gifted & Talented pupils within schools and to consider the role played by feeder settings and transition schools
- The two way sharing of information at transition will support positive outcomes for pupils with SEND and vulnerable learners

•

## **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 - 29<sup>th</sup> January –11<sup>th</sup> March 2013

(a) The following persons were consulted-

- Parents/guardians of children currently attending Kensworth VC Lower School
- The Diocese of St. Albans
- The Chairs of Governors of all schools in Central Bedfordshire (including academies)
- The Head teachers of all schools in Central Bedfordshire (including academies)
- Church Schools in Central Bedfordshire

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

- Hertfordshire County Council
- Luton Borough Council
- Central Bedfordshire County Council
- Dunstable Town Council
- Kensworth Parish Council
- Kensworth PCC
- Member of Parliament for Central Bedfordshire
- Downside Neighbourhood Centre
- Dunstable Library
- Pre-school provision in Dunstable
- All relevant Trade Unions for both Teaching and Support staff

(b) A consultation meeting for parents at the school was held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and a public consultation meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013. The minutes of these minutes are attached at Appendix A(1) and A(2)

(c) The results of the informal consultation are attached 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.

The capital costs for the proposal total £6,400 and all costs will be by the school governors.

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).

N/A

### 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+ to 9 across the school, including Pre School 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;

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

N/A

- (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;

N/A

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

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

- (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;

N/A

- (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

- (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

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

- (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.

This proposal will provide the opportunity to develop extended school provision reflecting the needs of the community.

The school will work to provide a range of extended services

- Transition support for pupils and families
- Shared training for parents and staff
- Clubs and a range of after school activities
- Promotion of inter school sports and other activities for the community
- Workshops to support adult learning and encourage family learning
- Support for vulnerable families and pupils

Support for families in areas such as relationships and health and safety

### 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;

The proposal will add a total of 15 extra places in year 5 and year 6, i.e. a total of 30 extra places. See Appendices A and B for evidence of the need and justification for the proposed increase.

- (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;

The Governing Body of Kensworth VC Lower School is passionate in their vision of creating a learning journey experienced in church schools. The Governing Body believes that the children should have the same choice as families in the neighbouring town of Houghton Regis who can choose to send their children to a primary school. Kensworth VC Lower School should become a full primary school, shaped by Christian principles, to ensure each child is provided with a continuous church based education structured around stability, consistency and continuity of learning. The impact of the school's values on pupils and the school community is a strength and this would continue to be a strength if Kensworth was to extend its age range.

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

- (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.

Please see the objectives of the proposal in Section 10.

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

N/A

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

N/A

### 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

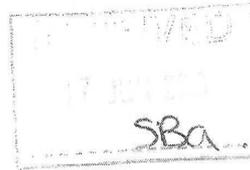
of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

N/A



**St Mary the Virgin Church. Kensworth**

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House  
Chicksands  
Shefford  
Bedfordshire  
SG17 5TQ



June 12, 2013

Dear Sir,

As members of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Kensworth, we are deeply involved with the activities of Kensworth Voluntary Controlled Lower School. Most of us have a close connection with the school, as past pupils, parents or governors, so this letter reflects our views on the proposals to change the age range of the school to 11, thus (3+ - 11).

- From the point of view of those involved with the activities of children in the life of the church, there is a strong connection between school and church at all times but particularly during the Christian festivals of Easter, Christmas etc. Our Sunday School and Messy Church are thriving and attract children from other schools besides Kensworth, but we have noted a reduction in numbers in some activities once the children transfer at Year 5 to other schools further away and their loyalties become necessarily divided. This also poses issues for parents with children of different ages with disparate commitments. We feel strongly that to have to make these choices at nine years old is too young. It has a marked effect on the ethos of the village community.
- Those of us who are parents are wholly in favour of keeping the children in the local school until they are eleven. Sending a nine-year-old child on an unsupervised bus to a much larger school is a daunting challenge for them, even though they are with friends, and the schools make every effort to smooth the transition. As a Voluntary Controlled school we work closely with local Church of England schools, but the Kensworth connection is invariably diluted when they become involved elsewhere.
- We have always been concerned about the move to a different school in the middle of Key Stage 2 of the National Curriculum, which was clearly designed for a two-tier educational system. The 3-tier model adopted by Bedfordshire County Council (as it was then) in the 1970s was considered progressive at the time, but did not find favour nationally: it was not taken up by many other County Councils, and has since been abandoned by most. In any case, we consider that it is totally unsuited to rural communities like Kensworth which entails very small children having to travel so far every day.
- We have every confidence that the skilled staff in Kensworth School can successfully educate their pupils to Key Stage 2 without the disruption of a change of school, teachers and ethos. Results in all assessments show that our children clearly benefit from the small classes and individual attention of the teachers, to all abilities. The school plans to augment the existing team with another full-time teacher and part-time specialist teachers.

## Representations received

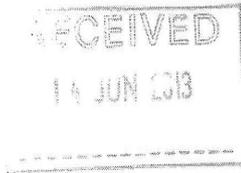
As the proposals clearly show, there is sufficient accommodation in the school and funding for such extra staff as will be required for the extra years. We note that plans are already in place to co-operate with other schools in a similar position for the sharing of specialist staff and equipment to enable successful outcomes for Key Stage 2.

Thank you in advance for your attention.

Yours faithfully

Peter Culley  
Hon. Secretary Kensworth Parochial Church Council

## Representations received



13<sup>th</sup> June 2013

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House  
Chicksands  
Shefford  
Bedfordshire  
SG17 5TQ



Dear Sir

**Re: Proposal to extend the age range of Kensworth Voluntary Controlled Lower School from 4 to 9 years to 4 to 11 years to create a Primary School.**

I wish to add my voice in support of the above proposal. I am a Local Authority Governor of the school and the parent of past pupils. I am also a retired (secondary school) teacher with experience of teaching within both the 2-tier and 3-tier systems locally.

When we moved to Kensworth we knew that our small children would face the challenge of being transported to Dunstable at the tender age of nine, but felt that the advantages of living in a friendly rural community would overcome any disadvantage that this would pose. We had faith in the dedication and skills of the staff of the school and later of the middle and upper schools to educate our children to the optimum of their abilities. Indeed they are all now professionally qualified and leading successful careers. Nevertheless, going to a larger school with unfamiliar systems, on an unsupervised bus, did pose problems: for example, if they carried a musical instrument they were often bullied. Older children can cope better with this kind of thing.

As a teacher, I have been able to see the differences between the two systems, albeit mainly at secondary level. It was obvious that the change of school at 13 years to upper school also posed rather unnecessary problems, in that within a few months of the upheaval, they had to decide on their GCSE choices. I always thought that those who had been in the same school for three years from year 7 were in a better position to understand their strengths, and the teachers were in a better position to advise them about their future direction.

I know that one cannot fault the work ethos of the staff in any of the local schools, and every effort is made to familiarise the children with the middle schools they go to from Kensworth, but unfortunately the results speak for themselves. Even now there is a public debate about children failing to make progress after the change at year 6, with discrepancies in SATS results between years 6 and 7. Two such upheavals before the age of 16 must necessarily be even more disadvantageous.

I feel the time has come for an update in Central Bedfordshire to conform to the national norm, and adopt a system for which the present National Curriculum is designed. It is only fair to allow the children of Kensworth to stay at the excellent local school until the age of 11.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully

(Mrs Ann D Brook)



20 June 2013

Dear Sir,

I understand that Kensworth VC Lower School has requested a change in status from lower to primary thus embracing the two-tier system which is prevalent in the rest of the country.

As a former pupil (1966 – 1972) and qualified secondary teacher working in Italy, I believe the change would be of benefit to the school and to the community as a whole, nurturing the abilities and psychological development of the village children in a caring and dedicated environment from the age of 5 to 11.

I visited the school this morning while on holiday in the country and was impressed by the vision of the head teacher, Mrs Anna Kentish, and her staff and feel sure that the two tier system would provide more scope for both staff and pupils to prepare for secondary education having completed Key Stage 2. The age of 11 is a natural break in a child's psychological and physical development and in Italy, also, is considered the best age to change schools and move into a young adult educational context.

Yours faithfully

Helen Putterill

Representations received



24th June 2013.

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services,  
Central Bedfordshire Council,  
Priory House,  
Chicksands,  
Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ



Dear Sirs,

**Proposal for a change of age range for Kensworth V.C. Lower School from 3+ to 9 to 3+ to 11**

I should like to express my wholehearted support for the above proposal.

I have lived in Kensworth for 36 years and have links with the school as a parent, grandparent and supporter for most of that time. Kensworth is a lively environment in which to live and bring up a family.

Kensworth is a small school able to build up an in-depth knowledge of every child and their family, tailoring learning and activities to encourage each pupil to achieve their best.

The School is very much at the heart of village life taking part, and often initiating, community activities such as Carnivals, May-Day festivities, School based events, and fund-raising activities for example Old Time Music Hall in aid of Help for Heroes.

The children are encouraged to look toward the wider community – for example a special performance of Christmas productions for the "Over 60s" club members at which the older children serve tea to the visitors, joining initiatives with Whipsnade Zoo for tree planting and much, much more.

Former pupils, no longer living in Kensworth, send their children to their old school to experience the great, ever evolving learning experience they had enjoyed.

It has been felt for some time that the abrupt change at age 9 to a larger school and, particularly the shock of an unsupervised school bus with young people up to 18, proved a great check in their progress – particularly the quieter less assertive children. Their attainment often dropped – sometimes permanently. Residents have voiced their wish, for a number of years, that Kensworth School could keep children up to 11. Children would have two more years at a good, progressive school and be more prepared and confident to face a wider environment. A change to two-tier schooling would bring Kensworth into line with the majority of schools in UK and thus offer broader options when changing schools or working with other schools in joint in activities etc.

Kensworth School's proposal covers all these points and has been welcomed in the village.

I hope you will approve the School's proposal.

Yours sincerely,

P.A.Frazer (Mrs)

17 JUL 2013

12 07 13

Dear Sir

I have lived in this village for over 50 years and my children attended Kensworth School.

Leaving and being bussed out of the village before the age of 11 does seem quite unnecessary and counterproductive on social as well as educational grounds.

Please consider this point of view in your deliberations.

Yours

5 July 2013

Dear Edwina

I am writing to you to express my support for Lancot Lower School, Kensworth Lower School and Ashton St Peters Lower School in respect to the proposals that are out for public consultation to extend their age range to become full primary schools.

The schools mentioned above are just three of the many schools in Dunstable and Houghton Regis who have already changed or hope to change to a two-tier system. I support this change and believe that standards of education within our area will not improve until we have a properly accountable school system that genuinely secures the best learning journey for children and young people. There are several reasons why I feel Councillor Mark Versallion should look upon these proposals favourably at the determination meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

There is increasing evidence that the current three-tier system operating in Central Bedfordshire is not achieving results that compare well with our neighbouring local authorities. The current progress measure for value added progress from key stage 2 to 4 is just one indication that we need to do something different. The average value added score from key stage 2 to 4 in Central Bedfordshire last year was 988 – only two upper schools achieved a score of more than 1000. In Milton Keynes the average score was 1014 and in Luton 1020. I appreciate that this might be considered a crude judgement but it remains an uncomfortable fact that these two neighbouring authorities (both have similar numbers of upper/secondary schools) are out performing Central Bedfordshire by a considerable margin.

Perhaps it is not a coincidence that progress between these two measuring points is so different between the three neighbouring authorities. At the moment the accountability for progress from age 11 to age 16 is split between two phases of education – the middle schools and the upper schools. There is a much heard argument that upper schools believe that middle schools spend all of their time preparing the pupils for SATs in year 6 and therefore do not deliver in year 7 and 8. The middle schools believe they do deliver in year 7 and 8 and the lack of onward progress is down to the upper schools.

From listening to middle and lower school colleagues discussing progress from Key stage 1 to 2 there are similar arguments raised. We know that split accountability for progress through the key stages is at best unhelpful but is also responsible for developing mistrust in the system which in turn has a negative impact upon the progress that children make. I think that a primary/secondary model will go some way to removing this mistrust and in doing so improve the transition and progress of students.

I have now been Head teacher at Manshead for 7 years. During this time I was convinced that I would be able to achieve two things. First, I thought I would be able to transform teaching and learning to mean that by the time the students reached key stage 4, they would have reached the required level of progress, no matter what their previous experience. Seven years on, and although monitoring by Ofsted and other external validation suggests that teaching is consistently good; that attitudes to learning are good; attendance is improving and the quality of leadership and management is good, results at key stage 4, are still not yet good enough. At key stage 5 results are excellent – proof perhaps of what we can do with students when we work with them for longer? The second thing I thought I could achieve was to develop a network of local schools that worked together to achieve seamless transition; that secured excellent pupil progress from age 4 to 19 and in the process negated the need to discuss the wearisome three-tier to two-tier argument. We achieved part of this goal. The Learning Partnership has been established and it remains a strong coalition of schools focussed on improving teaching and learning and in securing the pupil journey through a group of schools that have a common link with Manshead. Much had been achieved but the real benefits of true partnership working will not be realised until some schools within the partnership engage in discussion to commit to more formal links - a key part of successful, sustainable collaboration. As we cannot achieve this across all schools in the partnership then our aims of securing outstanding progress will be limited.

I hope that this personal perspective illustrates an important point. When I was asked, 7 years ago, by colleagues who had been in the authority longer than I, whether I thought two-tier was better than three, I would have replied “no”. I saw no compelling argument that would make it sensible to change or even that the number of tiers made a great difference. Seven years on, despite the huge improvements that many schools have made, my view is that the system must now change as the evidence that three-tier works is increasingly difficult to find.

The context in which schools are now working has also changed dramatically in this period that at times has caused uncertainty and anxiety. It is clear that the new political environment in which we work, delivers greater freedoms and flexibilities for school leaders to develop an education system that they believe provides the very best for the children and families that they serve. For a number of Lower Schools, including those that I write in support of, this means a belief that the needs of the children and families are best served by offering a full primary education up to the end of year 6. The natural consequence of this is to continue the education journey to a secondary school of their choice.

I believe there is now a compelling argument to allow schools to move towards a two-tier, primary/secondary model of education in Dunstable and Houghton Regis. Accountability for pupil progress is much clearer when a school has the opportunity to deliver two full key stages and I believe, as a consequence, pupil progress will accelerate. Removing a transition point will also help to secure better pupil progress and enable schools to act more quickly to intervene with any child or young person who falls behind. It is clear that standards of education attainment and achievement are falling short of our neighbours and

as a consequence we are putting our young people at a disadvantage in a very competitive world beyond school.

The proposals that a number of schools are making will enable us to adopt a two-tier system that will lead to better education outcomes for our community. I support the applications that Lancot, Kensworth and Ashton St Peters are making to become primary schools as I believe this change will make the difference needed. Manshead, as you know, has ambitions to become a secondary school so that we can play our part in continuing the education journey for the children who live in Dunstable, Houghton Regis and the surrounding area. I appreciate that the decision to agree to the proposed changes is a difficult one and that there will be great challenges ahead for the schools involved and the Local Authority. I really believe that this is the right time to allow schools to design a structure that they believe works best for the children and young people that they serve. This is why I urge you to support the proposed changes.

Yours sincerely

**Jim Parker**  
**Head teacher**

.....

Dear Edwina

**Kensworth CE VC Lower School**  
**Ashton St Peter's CE VA Lower School, Dunstable**

I am writing on behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education to offer full support for the proposed changes to Kensworth VC Lower School and Ashton St Peter's VA Lower School to become primary schools from September 2014, as set out in the Statutory Notices published on 3 June 2013.

The governing bodies of these two schools have consulted widely and the Board is in agreement with their plans which are, in our belief, in the best interests of the children of the area.

Yours sincerely

**Jon Reynolds**  
**Diocesan Director of Education**

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**From:** Katherine Luck  
**Sent:** 13 July 2013 14:30  
**To:** Customer Relations  
**Subject:** Proposed Change of Age Range for Kensworth VC Lower School

I write to express my views on the Proposal to extend the age range for pupils at Kensworth Lower School, from September 2014. As a parent of two boys, in Pre-school and Year 2, I would welcome the opportunity for them to stay at Kensworth school until the age of 11. I

Representations received

believe continuity and stability is very important and by changing schools at Year 4, I think this is lost somewhat. Children seem to suffer socially when they move on so young and education seems to suffer somewhat as evidenced in the drop in results at the surrounding Middle Schools. I think Kensworth school could sustain it's above average results by extending to Years 5 and 6. Kensworth school can most certainly offer the space in which to make the change physically, and even if this means adding on buildings/playgrounds etc in the future, I do not believe this would affect the beauty of it's rural setting. We are very lucky to have so much space which I think is important if we are to accommodate more children. Overall, I can only see the change being a very positive enhancement to what is already a very vibrant, successful, modern village school.

.....

**KENSWORTH VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED LOWER SCHOOL**

**Common Road, Kensworth, Bedfordshire, LU6 3RH**

**Telephone 01582 872336**

16<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House  
Monks Walk  
Chicksands  
Shefford  
SG17 5TQ

Dear Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services,

CONSULTATION REGARDING PROPOSED AGE RANGE CHANGES FOR KENSWORTH VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOL.

There have been 22 submissions to the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services resulting from the publication of the Statutory Notice regarding the proposal by Kensworth V.C School to change its present age range. Nine were in favour of the proposal and 13 were against. None of the negative respondents lives in the village of Kensworth and none specifically identifies Kensworth School – the majority have come from parents, staff and governors of Streetfield Middle School. This supports our statement that the parents and wider community of Kensworth are fully in agreement with the proposal. Indeed, had been lobbying for the change for some years.

The Governing Body is committed to the view that our proposal provides increased parental choice and is in the best interests of our pupils, their parents and the community of the village of Kensworth.

The Governing Body has reviewed all the responses received and consider most of the issues raised are addressed in the Governing Body's original proposal.

Several question the ability of Kensworth School to deliver the full Primary curriculum up to the end of KS2

Our plans are clearly set out in our Proposal P.6 and 7.

One asks the percentage of our current parents were consulted, the number responding and if they had been given full details of what was involved.

Analysis of the number of parents responding can be found in Appendix B. A large number came to our consultation meeting where they were given a comprehensive Power-Point presentation. A lively and positive discussion ensued. Parents were encouraged to discuss the proposal and its implication raising any concerns which were addressed at the meeting either by Anna Kentish (Head teacher of Kensworth Lower School) or Jim Parker (Head teacher of Manshead Upper School). The support was unanimous.

One respondent suggests Kensworth School is submitting this Change of Age Range to "jump on the bandwagon.

This is not the case. In fact the Governing Body has been considering changing the age range of our school since the area consultation in 2006. The proposed change was fully supported by our parents at that time. The Council voted (narrowly) against. Since that time parents have frequently asked if we have plans to change to a Primary school and what they can do to bring this about. When several other schools in the area

Response of school Governing Body to the representations received began the consultation process to change their age range the Governing body made the decision to put the proposal out to parents for the following reasons:-

- Parents had regularly asked the Head teacher and Governors if it was possible to change the age range.
- New families moving into the village were puzzled by the 3 tier system and unimpressed by the results at the end of KS2.
- Provide greater parental choice and help improve standards for all children.

Several respondents considered changes would result in an excess of Primary places in the area

Kensworth School does not propose to change our statutory number in each year group.

Some respondents suggest standards will drop

Whilst it is true KS2 standards have risen in the area over the last two years, it is still lower than that achieved in our geographic neighbours in a two-tier system.

Parents have been kept fully informed throughout the Consultation process. As an experienced year 6 teacher Anna Kentish was able to give parents a true picture of the upper KS2 Curriculum.

Since we began the consultation process to change the age range of Kensworth Lower School we have had considerably more requests to "view the School". Numbers in School are at the highest in fifteen years. Our Reception class is full for September 2013 and we have only two places for September 2014. Comments made at these visits show clearly this extra interest is largely due to the prospect of Kensworth School becoming a Primary school – i.e. the change is clearly what the parents want.

Parents in the Village are eagerly awaiting the results of the Determination Meeting in August.

We are surprised to receive the concerns and objections from the Head, staff and Governors of Streetfield Middle School. No-one from that School attended our Stakeholders' meeting where we were prepared and would have been delighted to discuss our plans with them.

Kensworth School was a founder member of the local Learning Partnership and have made it clear that our intention is to continue to work closely with other schools both within and outside the Partnership.

The main priority of Kensworth Lower School is, has always been, and will continue to be to provide the very best learning experience – academically and pastorally – for every child who comes to our School.

Yours sincerely,

P. Frazer (Mrs)  
Chair of Governors  
Kensworth V.C. Lower School.