

Executive Determination meeting 13 August 2013

Proposal to change age range of Lancot Community Lower School

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LANCOT LOWER SCHOOL

Putting children first

Lancot Drive, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2AP

Telephone (01582) 667956 **Fax number** (01582) 477164

E-mail office@lancotlowerschool.co.uk

Website www.lancotlowerschool.co.uk

Miss H Shead: Headteacher



CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF LANCOT LOWER SCHOOL, LANCOT DRIVE, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU6 2AP 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 Lancot Lower School from 3 – 9 years to 3 – 11 years to create a full primary school and to ask for your views regarding this proposal.

BACKGROUND

Lancot Lower School is a good school which provides well for its pupils. We are a school of choice within and beyond our local area. Local data shows that children achieve well in our school and that standards achieved are good.

We believe that our children would benefit from the stability of a primary school environment, its organisation and its ethos. National data shows that changing school impacts negatively on pupils' progress. 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 Lancot 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 2014.

The Governing Body has requested that 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 Lancot Lower School by extending it from a 3 – 9 years lower school to a 3 – 11 years full primary school.

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

Original proposal and consultation document

- September 2014 – Year 4 children to remain in current setting and move into Year 5
- September 2015 – Year 5 children to remain in current setting and move into Year 6
- September 2016 – Ensure pupils transfer to well established partner school

We intend to enable pupils in our current Year 3 to remain at Lancot in Year 5. Will take children who have moved to the area from another school or who do not have a school provision through the usual mid phase admissions process providing we do not exceed our admission number.

SCHOOL CAPACITY

Lancot Lower School currently has an admissions number of 60 pupils per year group from 4+ to Year 4, 300 pupils in total. In addition a 40 place nursery serves 80 pupils part-time – with some accessing wrap around day-care provided by the school. We also provide a 6 pupil specialist provision for pupils with severe social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. A capacity of 386 pupils in total.

We propose that the above remains the same with the addition of 60 Year 5 places in 2014 and 60 Year 6 places in 2015. The school would have a maximum capacity of 506 pupils.

This proposal would involve the provision of additional classrooms to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers.

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 significantly improve the learning journey for pupils from 3 to 18 years by ensuring the continuity of provision that two-tier systems bring.
- To significantly improve the outcomes for children, ensuring that they achieve higher standards in their social, emotional, behavioural and academic development.
- To sustain high standards of education and maintain children's wellbeing by offering only one change of school, thereby sustaining progress in all areas.
- To ensure that we have responsibility for entire key stages, enabling full accountability for progress and attainment.
- To enable more collaborative working with other schools in the primary phase structure, encouraging positive partnerships to ensure high quality localised educational provision.
- Offer all pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 an exciting and innovative curriculum provision that meets their developmental

Original proposal and consultation document

and academic needs.

- To improve parental choice by offering an alternative to the current lower/middle and upper option in Dunstable.

We believe that this move to a two tier approach will also:

- Help to raise standards and improve outcomes by the end of Key Stage 2
- Ensure that particular attention is paid to groups of children who are underperforming and exceeding in years 5 and 6
- Provide stability, consistency and continuity for children in their primary years, through our ethos, curriculum, teaching and learning organisation
- Ensure our school is based around our community's needs
- Provide equal access for all pupils to primary school education regardless of faith
- Provide specialist primary education for children in years 5 and 6
- 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 Lancot Lower School.

Action	Start Date	Completion date
Consultation starts	Friday 8 March 2013	Friday 3 May 2013
School parent and carer meeting	Wednesday 24 April 2013, in school at 3.30pm	
Public meeting	Wednesday 24 April 2013, in school at 6.30 pm	
Report on outcome of consultation produced by school and submitted to Local Authority	By Friday 10 May 2013	
Statutory Notice period	Monday 3 June 2013	Monday 15 July 2013
Report submitted by School Governing Body to Central Bedfordshire Council to request determination of proposal	Tuesday 16 July 2013	
Determination Meeting to decide upon the proposal	Tuesday 13 August 2013	
Proposed implementation	1st September 2014	

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: consultation@lancotlowerschool.co.uk

Original proposal and consultation document

A consultation meeting will be held on 24th April 2013 at 6.30pm with the Governors of the school to discuss the proposal.



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Miss H Shead: Head teacher



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 Lancot Lower School, or responses can be sent by e-mail to: consultation@lancotlowerschool.co.uk

All responses must be received by 5.00 pm on Friday 3 May 2013

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 Lancot 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 Lancot Lower School.

Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly	Don't

Original proposal and consultation document

agree		agree nor disagree		disagree	know

Further comments:

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)

.....

Original proposal and consultation document

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

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 Lancot 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.

Report of responses received and the outcome of the initial consultation



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Consultation Response Summary Report

Proposal to change the age range of Lancot Lower School from 3-9 years to 3-11 years

Consultation Period 8/3/2013 - 3/5/2013

Informal consultation was carried out between 8 March and 3 May 2013

The following persons were consulted-

Parents/Guardians of children currently at Lancot Lower School

Staff at Lancot Lower School

Parents/Guardians of children currently attending our stay and play group Cygnets

Local residents

The Chair of Governors of all schools in Central Bedfordshire (including Academies)

All schools in Central Bedfordshire (including Academies)

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

All relevant Trade Unions for both Teaching and Support staff

Head of Early Intervention and Prevention, Central Bedfordshire Council

Head of School Support, Central Bedfordshire Council

Based on written responses received via Consultation Response Forms during the period 8/3/13 to 3/5/13 I summarise the following.

A total of 88 responses were received.

84 individuals, one of who speaks informally on behalf of Lancot Place residents and 1 indicating himself to be an MP. 4 others did not declare themselves to be from an organisation or individuals.

Respondents described themselves as being in the following categories:

Parent/Carer of pupil at Lancot Lower School	78
Parent/Carer of pupil in Lancot Pre-School	12
Parent/Carer of a Cygnet	2
Lancot Lower School Pupil	4
Lancot Lower School Staff	4
Lancot Lower School Governor	1
School Governor (Studham)	1
Parent/Carer of pupil at Ashton Middle	3
Parent/Carer of pupil at Brewers Hill	3

Report of responses received and the outcome of the initial consultation

Parent/Carer of pupil at Priory	2
Parent/Carer of pupil at Streetfield	1
Parent/Carer of pupil at Queensbury	1

Gender person?

Male	13
Female	69
Transgender	1
No Response	5

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Yes	1
No	39
No Response	48

Ethnic Group

White British	72
White Other (Polish)	3
Black or Black British African	2
Black or Black British	1
Mixed White & Black	1
White Other (English)	1
Not declared	8

Question 1a) I support the proposed changes to the age range at Lancot Lower School

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Number of responses	67	12	4	3	2	0
% of total responses	76%	14%	5%	3%	2%	0
% of total responses by agree/disagree category	90%		5%	6%		0

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Question 1b) I support the timescale plan of the age range at Lancot Lower School

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Number of responses	63	16	2	3	3	0
% of total responses	72%	18%	2%	3%	3%	0
% of total responses by agree/disagree category	90%		2%	7%		0

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Report of responses received and the outcome of the initial consultation

Responses are overwhelmingly in support of the proposal with 90% of the respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. Three quarters of respondents strongly agreed. Only 5 people disagreed with the proposal. 90% also agreed/strongly agreed with the timescale of the proposal. 6 people disagreed with the timescale, 1 of whom was in support of the changes but wished it had happened sooner.

In addition responses were also made in comment form.

Summary of the number of comments made and reasons given in support of the proposal:

Limiting change/transition points	11	Finish a Key Stage in one school	1
Strong support/agree/best thing	12	Fantastic environment/adequate space	1
Good school/caters for pupil need exceptionally well	3	Children do not want to leave/settled/ enjoy school	3
Trust/security	3	Parent convenience/fewer schools to drop off at	1
Longed for change overdue	2		

Summary of comments made not in support of the proposal/timescale and reasons given :

Stay as they are	1	No science or food tech labs	2
Should have been sooner	1	Reduction in playing fields	1

Additional comments made/ issues raised:

Delay in change and decision making locally	1
Clarity required from council	1
Failure of proposal could see a good school close	1
Will partner school have same ethos and standards	1
Travel Plan concerns	2
Request that buildings be away from Lancot Place and no higher than existing buildings	1

Questions raised in the Further Comments box (*responses in italics*)

- Would the uniform be different? *This has yet to be decided but it is currently our intention to keep the swan logo.*
- Will it be up to middle school standard? *We expect and intend for our standards to remain high.*
- Who will be partner school? *We currently work alongside middle schools and are developing our links with emerging secondary schools.*
- Can I take a child out at Year 4? *Parents will still be able to remove a child at the end of Year 4 to attend a middle school of their choice. We will fully support this decision and work on transition for the young person as we do now.*
- How will teachers cope with teaching prep for KS2 SATS? *We do not teach prep. Our pupils will have high quality teaching and learning opportunities as they already do at Lancot. This will prepare them for life beyond primary school including examinations. We have a number of KS2 teachers already on staff.*

Report of responses received and the outcome of the initial consultation

- How will we continue to put children first? *This is our organisational moto. We will continue to make decisions based on what is best for Lancot pupils both now and in the future.*

Following a staff meeting, where the consultation was discussed, all staff were given the opportunity to respond. Four chose to do so, all positively in support for the proposal.

We received one letter from a teacher's union and this raised the following questions (*responses in italics*)

- The affect the changes may have on our members. *We do not currently have any of your members in our team.*
- What consultation has been had with the Heads/Governors of other schools? *Numerous meetings and conversations over a period of approximately 4 years.*
- Would we give recruitment priority to teachers from middle schools who find themselves without a post in the future? *All recruitment at Lancot is undertaken transparently and following the safer recruitment guidelines. Should these teachers believe they have the skills and experience that we require then I would strongly urge them to apply when a post is advertised.*
- Will we be offering training for staff? *Yes, we offer a range of professional development opportunities.*
- Do we have the facilities and expertise to teach science, French and design technology to a high standard? *Yes, we have a number of KS2 trained and experienced staff on our staff.*

On the basis of this data we can assume that the overwhelming majority of respondents are in support of the proposal to change the age range of Lancot Lower School from 3-9 years to 3-11 years with phase one beginning in 2014.

Summary Report prepared by Helen Shead, Head Teacher, Lancot Lower School
7/5/13

Proposal to extend the age range of Lancot 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 Lancot Community Lower School, Lancot Drive, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 2AP from 1 September 2014.

The proposal is to change the age range of Lancot 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 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 300 places in the main school plus provision for 80 part time nursery places and 6 places for pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Disabilities. Following implementation the proposed capacity will be 420 places in the main school plus provision for 80 part time nursery places and 6 places for pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Disabilities.

The current admission number for the main school is 60 for each year group. The proposed admission number will remain the same. Total capacity for September 2014 is expected to be 360 in the main school with 80 part time nursery places and 6 places for pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Disabilities. Total capacity for 2015 is expected to be 420 in the main school with 80 part time nursery places and 6 places for pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Disabilities.

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/publicstatutorynotices

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: 3 June 2013

Explanatory notes

Statutory notice of the full proposal and representation period

It is proposed that extending the age range of Lancot 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 school cannot accommodate the additional pupils and two new classrooms will be required from September 2014, with a further two new classrooms in September 2015. These will be funded from the school's own resources plus a loan from the Central Bedfordshire Council's Asset Loan Scheme.

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 .

Lancot Community Lower School
Lancot Drive
Dunstable,
Bedfordshire.
LU6 2AP

Category 2

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 will begin in September 2014 and will be phased over 2 years

- 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

It is intended that pupils in current Year 3 can remain at Lancot into Year 5. If there are spaces the school will also take children who have moved to the area from another school or who do not have a school provision through the usual mid phase admissions process.

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

- (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 July 2013

(b) 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 the age range for Lancot Community School would be extended 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 —

- (c) 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;

Current Capacity							
	3+	4+	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Inclusion
Pupils on roll	69	58	57	60	58	58	5
Admissions number	80	60	60	60	60	60	6

The current capacity of the school is 300 places , plus up to 80 pupils aged 3+ (see below) and an additional 6 inclusion places for pupils with BESD (Behavioural, emotional or social difficulties)The capacity within 3+ is part time, morning or afternoon sessions and access is via a rolling intake.

The future capacity will be 420 places with the addition of an extra 60 places in both Years 5 and 6. The capacity at 3+ will remain the same as will the provision for pupils with BESD

- (d) 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

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The school currently admits up to 60 pupils per year into the main school. This will not change. Lancot Lower School currently has an admissions number of 60 pupils per year group from 4+ In addition a 40 place nursery serves 80 pupils part-time – with some accessing wrap around day-care provided by the school. The school also provides a 6 place specialist provision for pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Disabilities (EBD) all of whom have statements of SEN and are placed by the Local Authority.

It is proposed that the above remains the same with the addition of an extra 60 places in Yr5 and YR6 to enable the pupils to remain at the school for the whole primary age range

- (e) 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;

Whilst the proposal will be implemented in stages, this will not affect initial admissions into the school since the proposal is to add additional places to enable pupils to remain at the school for a further 2 years.

- (f) 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.

N/A

(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 on roll is 365 comprising 291 pupils plus 5 inclusion (BESD) pupils and a further 69 pupils aged 3+

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

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

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 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

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

(3) 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—

- (c) 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

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

- (h) 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.

- To improve parental choice by offering an alternative to the current lower/middle and upper option in Dunstable.
- To significantly improve the learning journey for pupils from 3 to 18 years by ensuring the continuity of provision that two-tier systems bring.
- To significantly improve the outcomes for children, ensuring that they achieve higher standards in their social, emotional, behavioural and academic development.
- To sustain high standards of education and maintain children's wellbeing by offering only one change of school, thereby sustaining progress in all areas.
- To ensure that the school has responsibility for entire key stages, enabling full accountability for progress and attainment.
- To enable more collaborative working with other schools in the primary phase structure, encouraging positive partnerships to ensure high quality localised educational provision.
- Offer all pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 an exciting and innovative curriculum provision that meets their developmental and academic needs.

The school believes that this move to a two tier approach will also:

- Help to raise standards and improve outcomes for end of Key Stage 2
- 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 the school's ethos, curriculum, teaching and learning organisation
- To ensure the school is based around the community's needs
- To provide equal access for all pupils to primary school education regardless of faith
- To provide primary education for children in years 5 and 6
- To improve transition for children on transfer
- To address issues of recruitment and retention of good quality staff

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;

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

- (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 8 March and 3 May 2013

(a) The following people / organisations were consulted-

Parents/Guardians of children currently at Lancot Lower School

Staff at Lancot Lower School

Parents/Guardians of children currently attending the school's 'stay and play group' -
Cygnetts

Local residents

The Chair of Governors of all schools in Central Bedfordshire (including Academies)

The Head teachers of all schools in Central Bedfordshire (including Academies)

All members of Houghton Regis Town Council

All members of Dunstable Town Council

All Central Bedfordshire Councillors

The Member of Parliament for South West Bedfordshire

Pre-school provision in Houghton Regis

Pre-school provision in Dunstable

Luton Borough Council

All relevant Trade Unions for both Teaching and Support staff

Head of Early Intervention and Prevention, Central Bedfordshire Council

Head of School Support, Central Bedfordshire Council

(b) A parent/carer consultation meeting was held on 24 April 2013. Minutes of this meeting are at Appendix A.

A public consultation meeting was held on 24 April 2013. The minutes of this meeting are at Appendix B.

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

(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 D. This consultation document was made available to all people listed in section (a) and was also publicised via the school website and weekly newsletter. The school's closest residential neighbours were invited to the public meeting via leaflet drop. The consultation 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 school was originally built as a two form entry Lower School with kitchen, hall and swimming pool. This has since been expanded to include a library, ICT suite and new classroom and office space. In addition there are two small temporary buildings and a classroom used for the EBD (Inclusion) Provision.

The school would require a further four classrooms. This would give the school capacity for 506 pupils in total by 2014.

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

The school proposes to purchase a two classroom modular unit for use in 2014. This will be funded from the school's own resources at an estimated cost of £115k.

There will be a need for a further two classrooms. The earliest this will be needed is 2015. Should the school budget remain at its current level the school's preferred option would be to purchase the additional classrooms from uncommitted revenue and by using the Asset Loan Scheme. Realistically the school would expect to be in a position to borrow approximately £40k from this scheme, repayable over 3 years. However, should the school's budget decrease significantly the school plans to lease the classrooms over an agreed period of time; this would be without the need for any external funding support.

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).

NA

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 years.

The proposed age range is 3-11 years.

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—

- (i) 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;

N/A

- (j) 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

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

N/A

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

- (l) 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

- (m) 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

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

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—

- (n) 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;

The current provision for up to 6 pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Disabilities (EBD) will not change

- (o) any additional specialist features will be provided;

N/A

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

6

- (q) details of how the provision will be funded;

N/A

- (r) 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

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

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

N/A

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

N/A

- (u) 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

- (v) 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—

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

N/A

- (x) 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

- (y) 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

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

- (z) 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—

- (aa) 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;
- (bb) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (cc) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (dd) 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—

- (ee) 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

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

N/A

- (gg) 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).

NA

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

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—

(hh) 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

(ii) 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.

Lancot Lower School is currently part of the Living and Learning extended schools partnership and this will continue. This provides opportunities for parents and carers to access parenting support, academic support linked to their child's learning, family learning, Family Support Workers, support around drug and alcohol misuse and domestic abuse for example. In addition families are able to access many other bespoke services and holiday provision as well as support and guidance relating to accessing other agencies. Parents and carers make good use of the services provided through the partnership and indicators suggest that they would continue to do so. This is a commissioned service and increased pupil numbers would mean a rise in cost. However, this is in line with other larger schools as the school pays per child on roll.

The school offers wrap-around care for all pupils from 3+ to 9 years. This would be extended to provide spaces for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

The school offers a range of extra-curricular out of hours clubs and activities. These would be extended and to meet the needs of Y5 and Y6 pupils.

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

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

The proposal will create 60 new places per year group in Years 5 and 6, i.e. a total of 120 additional places.

- To improve parental choice by offering an alternative to the current lower/middle and upper option in Dunstable.
- To significantly improve the learning journey for pupils from 3 to 18 years by ensuring the continuity of provision that two-tier systems bring.

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

- To significantly improve the outcomes for children, ensuring that they achieve higher standards in their social, emotional, behavioural and academic development.
- To sustain high standards of education and maintain children’s wellbeing by offering only one change of school, thereby sustaining progress in all areas.
- To ensure that the school has responsibility for entire key stages, enabling full accountability for progress and attainment.

(kk) 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

(ll) 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—

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

N/A

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

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).

Prescribed information which accompanied the statutory notice

N/A

Representations received

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 13th 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

Representations received

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

Representations received

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

LANCOT LOWER SCHOOL

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Miss H Shead: Head teacher

19th July 2013

Dear Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services

Re: Consultation regarding proposed age range changes for Lancot Lower School

There have been 14 submissions to the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services following the publication of the statutory notice regarding the school's proposal.

1 In Favour of the proposal

From Jim Parker, Head teacher of Manshead Upper School, and is fully supportive of our proposal.

13 raised concerns regarding the proposal, summarised as below

These concerns have been reviewed by the governing body of Lancot Community Lower School. Many of the issues raised within these submissions are covered within the governing body's original proposal and Prescribed Information which accompanied the Statutory Notice.

3-2 tier debate – where is the evidence that standards will rise Key Stage 2? Results have risen considerably before the proposed changes have taken place.

Our proposal is based on the evidence that we are a good school with good standards. We hope our children can remain with us for the entire Key Stage so that they benefit from this good learning environment. In addition our education system, curriculum and assessment in England is organised in Key Stages. Disrupting a child's education part way through a key stage is therefore not ideal. The Sutton Trust recognises transition as a key factor in the success of young people. In their report 'Premium Policies, January 2012, they state, 'Students face several important transition periods during their

Response of the school Governing Body to the representations received

school life, all of which can have an adverse impact on learning as they adjust to new friends and environments.....and they take time to get used to new staff and different approaches to teaching.' By moving to 2 tier, removing one key transition event and completing the key stage in one school they are increasing their chances of achieving well over time.

Parents voted overwhelmingly previously to retain the 3 tier system – have all parents and prospective parents really been consulted with regarding these proposed changes.

Our recent consultation process was transparent and advertised both locally and through our school communication systems. In addition we have taken every opportunity at events, gatherings and through our website and school newsletter to inform and engage stakeholders in the process. We advertised the public meeting held at All Saints and the additional meeting in town. A number of our parents and staff attended the meetings. As the informal consultation summary shows, we are overwhelmingly supported by our families.

The proposed changes will create an over supply of places at Primary level. School will be competing for children when they should be working together. Some schools may have to close.

Our parents and carers have made it clear that they overwhelmingly support our proposal to continue until the end of Key Stage 2. Providing good schools and parental choice is paramount. We work closely with our neighbouring schools in our clusters. We do not envisage any good or better school being under threat due to pupil numbers.

Does the school have the facilities and specialist teachers for the curriculum for years 7 and 8? How often will children have to travel off site for certain subjects?

We propose to educate pupils in years 5 and 6 in addition to those we already have on roll.

We are well placed to support the education of pupils across the full primary range. The Head teacher and a number of other staff are trained and experienced in primary teaching and specifically in KS2. We have the on-site facilities and expertise to deliver the full primary curriculum to a high standard in all subjects.

Conclusion

Response of the school Governing Body to the representations received

It has been the position of the governing body of Lancot Lower School to seek to increase the age range to 11 years since 2011. This has been clear and transparent since the time of an earlier application in 2012. The proposal follows many meetings and discussions both within local clusters of schools and in the wider Dunstable area. It is thoroughly considered.

The decision is based on moving forward educational provision at Lancot to better meet the needs of our pupils and families. We are a school of choice with good outcomes academically, socially and emotionally in addition to providing for statemented pupils with EBD from across the county. We believe in increasing parental choice to allow our pupils to remain with us and complete the Key Stage should they so wish. Transition will always be supported regardless of when a child moves on and we acknowledge that some may still choose to move into the 3 tier system at age 9 years.

As we await the decision of the Council in relation to our proposal, I request that the above is taken into consideration. Whilst we understand that some schools in Dunstable may be finding it difficult to realise their aspirations and some parents in other parts of the town may disagree with the changes, we feel it necessary to continue on our path and secure a positive future for our children at Lancot and feel well supported in this by our families.

I look forward to the decision at the Determination Meeting on 13 August 2013

Yours sincerely

Mrs Janet Hughes
Chair of Governors