

**Appendix A:
Proposal to change the age range of Templefield Community Lower School, Flitwick from 4-9 to 2-9 years**

<p>Proposal to change the age range of Templefield Community Lower School, Flitwick, Bedfordshire from 4 - 9 years to 2 - 9 years</p>	
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Notice is given in accordance with section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools, October 2018' that Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds SG17 5TQ intends to make a prescribed alteration to Templefield Community Lower School, Malham Close, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1AJ from 1 September 2019.

This consultation invites interested parties to respond to the proposed change of age range for Templefield Community Lower School.

Notice date:	3 January 2019
School:	Templefield Community Lower School, Malham Close, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1AJ
Proposer:	School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5TQ

Description of proposed alteration

Central Bedfordshire Council proposes to change the age range of Templefield Community Lower School from 4 – 9 years to 2 – 9 years in order to enable the merger between the school and Windmill Pre-school which is a committee run, early years provision that operates out of an independent facility on the site of Templefield Community Lower School.

Evidence of demand for proposed alteration versus need, including results of preliminary consultation

In October 2018, the governing body of Templefield Community Lower School and the Windmill Pre-school committee launched a joint consultation regarding a proposal to lower the age range of the school by two years from 4-9 to 2-9 years.

The consultation ran from 1 October 2018 to 6 November 2018. Stakeholders who were advised of the consultation included staff, parents and carers of both Templefield Community Lower School and Windmill Pre-school, other pre-schools within the town, all other schools and academies within Central Bedfordshire, the local town council, the local diocese, relevant trade union representatives and local ward members of Central Bedfordshire Council. A press release was forwarded by the school to two local newspapers.

Two drop-in sessions were held for parents and other stakeholders at the school during the five week consultation.

28 written responses were received; 17 from parents, seven from employees of Windmill pre-school and four from staff and governors of the school. All of the respondents agreed with the proposal; comments submitted included –

'Upon hearing the details of the merger, I feel it will be of benefit to children in Windmill, still providing a nurturing environment whilst merging the facilities of the school and providing a smooth transition for starting Templefield.' (*Windmill Pre-School parent*)

'As a parent I think the merger is a good idea for all and the future of Windmill.' (*Templefield parent*)

'I would like to express my full support for the proposal. I consider that such a move would be a positive one with clear benefits for pre-school and school.' (*Windmill Pre-School employee*)

'I feel that the merger would be a positive change for pre-school, offering a more secure future for our setting.' (*Windmill Pre-School employee*)

'I feel that the merger will be excellent for transition, both socially and academically.' (*Templefield employee*)

Based upon the results of the consultation, both the governing body of Templefield Community Lower School and the Windmill Pre-school committee voted unanimously to proceed with the proposal and to submit a request to Central Bedfordshire Council to publish a statutory proposal for the change.

Objectives - including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice

The objectives of the proposed merger include –

- The opportunity to increase parental choice for seamless education for 2 – 9 within the town.
- To provide fully integrated provision with opportunities for pre-school children to utilise all of the school's facilities
- Closer working relationships between the staff working across the age range
- Further access to early support and interventions for those children with additional needs

- Access to before and after school care provision for parents of pre-school children
- Enabling the pre-school to utilise the services of the School Business Manager, giving the Pre-school Manager more time to focus on teaching and learning.
- Greater job security for current members of staff at the pre-school who would be employed by the school.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

There would be no adverse effect on other similar provisions within the area. The increase in funded hours for working parents (the 30-hour offer), is likely to result in an increased demand for pre-school hours within the area.

Project costs and indication of how these would be met

The day to day operations of the pre-school would be managed jointly by the Pre-school Manager and the Templefield School Business Manager and the day to day running costs would be met through revenue funding.

A greater number of pupils on the school roll would result in a stronger financial base for the school.

Staffing levels for the pre-school would continue to be in accordance with legal requirements.

There are no capital implications to the council arising as a result of the proposal.

Although the existing Windmill pre-school building is constructed from short life materials and is deemed to be a temporary building, the preschool children would continue to use the facilities and resources currently provided. In the long term the school would be looking to secure capital funding for a new purpose built facility on the school site.

Education standards and diversity of provision

The proposed change would not adversely affect parental choice within the town but would provide a secure and sustainable future for high quality education.

There is a strong correlation between children from other pre-school settings based within a school exceeding outcomes at the end of their early years foundation stage.

School size

Templefield Community Lower School has a published admission number of 60 per year group and there are currently 253 children on roll at the school.

The pre-school would be able to accommodate a maximum of 20 children for each session and

would offer the same sessions as those currently offered by Windmill. These would be each weekday during term-time, over two sessions; morning 9.00 am to 12.00 noon and afternoon 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm. Children staying all day would also be able to access the lunch club from 12 noon to 12.30.

Depending upon the availability of places, there may be provision to offer the 30 x funded hours.

Proposed admission arrangements

The admissions procedure for the school would not change and Central Bedfordshire's admissions policy would continue to be adhered to.

Should there be more applications than places, the following criteria is used to determine how places are allocated: -

- 1) All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after'
- 2) Children living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
- 3) Children living in the catchment area
- 4) Other children with siblings at the school
- 5) Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school site to the child's home address

Children in the pre-school at Templefield Community Lower School would need to apply for their statutory place (Year R) in the starting school admissions round, as there is no automatic transfer to the Year R group from the pre-school class and no guarantee can be given by the council or the school that children from the pre-school class will gain a place within the main school.

National curriculum

The school would continue to follow the age-appropriate National Curriculum.

Equal opportunity issues

There are no planned changes - there would be a continuation of the school's current policies and procedures to ensure there is no discrimination and to promote equal opportunities and foster good relations.

Community cohesion

This would enhance and improve wider opportunities and experiences within the local community for all families.

Travel and accessibility

This would not change for pre-school children - it would be the same as for all Templefield children.

Local children and families are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school and the school would work with Central Bedfordshire Council to update their Travel Plan.

School premises and playing fields

The pre-school children would be accommodated in the on-site building currently used by Windmill Pre-school.

There would be fully integrated provision with opportunities for the pre-school children to utilise school facilities, including the playing field, environmental garden, forest school, library, hall, playgrounds and games markings.

Proposed stages for implementation

If the change is approved by the council, it is anticipated that it would be implemented from 1 September 2019.

How to respond to this formal consultation

This formal consultation commences on 3 January 2019 and closes on 31 January 2019.

You can **have your say via the online form** which is available on the council's website here – <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/public-statutory/notices.aspx>

Or you can complete the response form on pages 6 and 7 and return it to the FREEPOST address provided at the end of the form.

Both on line responses and completed forms to confirm your support, raise any objections and submit any comments should be returned by **5 pm on 31 January 2019**

Following the close of the consultation, the council's Executive Member for Families, Education and Children will be asked to consider the responses received and determine the proposal.