

INFORMATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

Westfield Primary School Proposal to Extend the Age Range

Introduction

Every school has a defined age range for the pupils it can have on roll. For Westfield Primary School to provide pre-school early years education for three and four year olds, the school's defined age range would have to be changed from four to 11 years to three to 11 years.

Changing the age range of a community school such as Westfield Primary School requires the local authority to undertake a statutory process for prescribed alterations, including the issue of a public notice.

School and local authority details

The proposal is published by East Riding of Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Beverley, HU17 9BA.

The school to which the proposal relates is a community school, Westfield Primary School, Westfield Road, Cottingham, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU16 5PE.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The proposed change to the school's age range, if approved, will take effect from 1 January 2022. The school then intends admitting children to an Early Years Foundation Stage 1 class within the Spring Term of the 2021-22 school year.

Alteration description

To allow Westfield Primary School to offer provision for Early Years Foundation Stage 1 children by extending the age range of the school from 4-11 years to 3-11 years. The school will be able to accommodate up to 30 full time equivalent three and four old children in a school nursery. The school will receive funding for these pupils each term that will contribute to the funding for the schools costs as a whole and will therefore represent value for money for the project costs associated with this alteration.

School buildings and capacity

The current capacity of the school is 419. The capacity of the school will increase only to reflect the proposed age range change, and only for nursery pupils. The Published Admission Number for first time admission to the school in Foundation Stage 2 (Reception) is 60 and will remain at 60, with no planned increased in space available for pupils aged between Reception and Year 6.

Planning permission was granted in August 2020 for a small extension to the school building to accommodate three and four year olds.

Number of pupils on roll

At the time of publishing this proposal, there were 409 pupils on roll at Westfield Primary School in Reception and Years 1 to 6. The places available for existing children would not be affected by this proposed change, and the numbers of children on roll would be expected to increase by thirty full time equivalent three and four year old children, many from the existing families of children on roll at the school.

Objective

The objective of the proposal is to enable the school to provide Early Years Foundation Stage 1 places at the school for three and four year old children. The proposed changes to age range would enable the school to meet local need where there is parental demand for places for early years provision at the school. The school has identified demand for nursery places from existing parents and local residents during the course of their informal consultations, and have since, received 29 enquiries from parents about when places would be available for their children.

Project costs

When costed in late 2020, the cost of the building works was estimated at £179,000 plus professional services fees. The Council will contribute up to 50% of the project costs with the school being responsible for the balance. The Council manages funding for school places received as a result of new housing developments in the community known as Section 106 contributions. Such funding has been identified and can be utilised for this project.

Existing early years provision

Westfield Primary School is one of seven primary schools in the Cottingham cluster of schools. The other primary schools in the cluster include: Bacon Garth, Cottingham Croxby, Dunswell Academy, Hallgate, Little Weighton Rowley, and Skidby primary schools. Each has a defined catchment area. On average over the last 5 years for which local data is available 146 children have been born each year to families resident in these schools' catchment areas. The actual number in any given year group of children will vary from year to year but on average there are expected to be 196 children of age three to four year old resident in the local cluster primary schools' catchment areas.

Westfield Primary School is the largest of all the primary schools in Cottingham and is the only setting without pre-school provision for three-year-olds. This proposal would therefore bring Westfield Primary School in line with other local schools.

Proposed provision at Westfield Primary School

With the extended age range, the Foundation Stage 1 provision at the school will provide up to 30 places per session for children aged three and four years. There will be 10 sessions a week lasting 3 hours per session. There will be some flexibility for parents in the choice and number of sessions their children attend.

The proposed provision will be accommodated in a purpose-built, educational setting with appropriate facilities as an extension to the school building. The accommodation and facilities for the proposed pre-school provision are on the school's site and meet the current national standards. The accommodation will be accessible and suitable for any disabled pupils.

The Foundation Stage 1 provision at the school will be staffed on a 1:8 staff to pupil ratio, that is envisaged to be a full-time level 3 teaching assistant, a full-time level 2 teaching assistant, 2 part-time level 2 teaching assistants and a full-time level 1 apprentice teaching assistant. All staffing will be in line with statutory ratios for children of this age range. The dedicated Foundation Stage staff will also be supported by other school staff, as necessary, including qualified teachers, teaching assistants, nursery nurses and support staff.

Consultation and responses

A consultation exercise was carried out by Westfield Primary School between 29th January and 7th March 2021, by writing to local schools, nurseries, childminders, staff, and parents of pupils at the school, governors and the residents of some adjacent homes.

The school received 117 responses to the consultation, which comprised one negative response, one neutral response, and 115 positive responses.

The negative response came from a parent of a child at the school, who was concerned about the commitment of resource to such new provision given the ongoing pandemic. It is not envisaged that the provision will be in place until January 2022, and schools reopened for all pupils from week commencing 8th March 2021.

The neutral response was from a parent who thought that there was a risk the Primary School may become oversubscribed for Reception starters, and that there may be less space available for children of statutory school age should this proposal go ahead. The most recent data for school admissions shows that the school is able to offer places to all those families who have requested a place for their child in September 2021. As attendance at nursery is not a criteria for prioritising admission into the school for the Reception year, only such a future policy change in the admission arrangements, that would have to be separately consulted upon, could disadvantage any child in these circumstances. As plans are in place to provide additional accommodation for three-year-old nursery children, the space available to children of statutory school age is not planned to be reduced.

The 115 positive responses included those from parents of both current and prospective pupils, members of the school's governing body, and school staff. A substantial number of parental responses indicated that they would make use of any places in an expanded school.

Published Proposal - objections and comments

The Public Notice will be issued on 17th June 2021 in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The period for representations and objections will run from 16th June 2021 to 16th July 2021. After the closing date for representations and objections, the proposal, along with all comments received, will be submitted to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council for determination.

Objections or comments should be sent by email to schoolorganisation@eastriding.gov.uk or by

post to the School Organisation Officer, Pupil Services, East Riding of Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Beverley, HU17 9BA.

This document has been distributed to key stakeholders including parents, staff, neighbouring schools and local pre-school providers, local residents whose properties are adjacent the school buildings and points of access, local elected members, and the MP.