



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

FULL PROPOSAL

Change of Age Range at Kingham Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Kingham Primary School, Chipping Norton, OX7 6YD from 1 September 2018.

The proposal

The Local Authority, working with the Governing Body of the school, is proposing to alter Kingham Primary School's age range from 4-11 to 2-11, to provide a nursery offering up to 30 hours of pre-school activities a week, serving up to 52 places, subject to session availability.

This will effectively replace the provision by Kingfishers Playgroup, which currently operates on the same site under a lease from the local authority and is a registered charity run by a committee of community volunteers. The nursery will come under the governance of the school governing body, rather than a committee of community volunteers.

The school nursery will be offered on a flexible basis over three-hour morning and three-hour afternoon sessions every weekday during school term time. Sessions may be taken in any pattern, subject to availability, including a mixture of mornings and afternoons or whole day sessions.

The school will offer up to 15 hours a week of nursery provision free of charge, from the term after the child's third birthday. Parents may elect to pay for additional three-hour sessions, subject to availability, at the rate of £15.00 per session, up to a total of 30 hours a week.

The nursery will be led by a qualified teacher with appropriate experience for this age group, supported by at least one suitably qualified teaching assistant. The intention is also to provide an additional suitably qualified teaching assistant, subject to requirements.

Objectives

This proposal will ensure that pre-school education can continue to be provided in Kingham in a financially sustainable manner. The Kingfishers Playgroup Committee has experienced difficulty in maintaining the necessary management committee of community volunteers, without which the playgroup would need to close.

Both Kingham Primary School and Kingfishers Playgroup have Ofsted ratings of “Outstanding” so the extension of the school’s age range will help to continue ensure sufficiency and continuity of outstanding quality early years education and childcare for families living in the area.

The school will aim to offer a caring nursery environment, providing learning opportunities through high quality play and planned experiences, giving children time to reflect, practice and learn with no sense of failure, encouraging them to develop a positive attitude towards themselves and others, with a strong sense of self-respect.

Effect on other educational institutions

There is no predicted negative effect on other local provisions. Early years provision across the Chipping Norton area as a whole currently meets the needs of the local population.

Project costs and funding

The nursery will continue to operate within the purpose-built facility at Kingham Primary School that was specifically designed as an integrated Early Years Foundation Stage Unit. There are, therefore, no capital costs associated with this proposal.

The financial impact on the school is expected be cost neutral. The management of the school expects that there may be some net cost savings as a result of sharing administration, facilities and utilities with the school but these will not be significant as the playgroup previously paid for some expenses on a pro-rata basis.

The nursery will operate on a cost-recovery basis. Any budget surplus received, generated or carried over will be used to improve the facilities within the Early Years Foundations Stage Unit at Kingham Primary School and there will be no cross-subsidy of services.

Implementation

The change in age range will take formal effect from September 2018.

Any children who were enrolled in the Kingfishers Playgroup on 19 March 2018 will be able to continue in the nursery in Kingham Primary School in the nearest equivalent sessions, or in other sessions on request where available.

Any two-year-olds who were registered as attending Kingfishers on 19 March 2018 will continue to be accommodated under transitional arrangements, with appropriate staffing ratios. The school does not currently intend to continue to admit two-year-olds, but the proposed change in age range would make it possible for the school to do so, if it were to prove practical and viable in the future.

How to respond to this proposal

This full proposal can be viewed under the Current Consultations listings on the Oxfordshire County Council public website at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation>. Copies can also be requested by contacting:

Lucy Mills (School Organisation Officer)

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Tel: 07586478794 or e-mail: lucy.mills@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Any person may object to or make comments (representations) on the proposed expansion by sending them to the Local Authority using the online feedback form located on the Oxfordshire County Council website as detailed above, or by email or post to the above address.

All representations must be received by midnight on 14 May 2018.