

**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION  
22 APRIL 2013**

**APPLICATION TO OPEN A NEW FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT**

**Report by Director for Children's Services**

**Introduction**

1. St Peter's CE (Aided) Primary School has completed the first stage of the scheme for applying to open a Foundation Stage Unit (new nursery class). In order to proceed to the second stage the application requires the approval of the Cabinet Member for Education.

**Background**

2. The proposal is to open a Foundation Stage Unit with 30 children aged 3-4. 15 places would be full time F1 and the remainder would be part time F2 and F3 places. An existing Pre-School on the site would close and where possible staff will TUPE across to the school. The pre school and parents support this application to transfer all management, administration and governance to the School. The aim is to improve the management and organisation of the Foundation Stage and to raise the quality of teaching and learning for these youngest children, and this links to a corporate objective of raising achievement.

**Financial Report**

3. The finance officer has assessed the financial position with the school and governors. The report shows it to be in balance for all three years. This indicates the sustainability of the proposal assuming the number of children planned for will be forthcoming.

**Premises Report**

4. The premises report indicates that the space is sufficient for the proposed pupil numbers under the Early Years Statutory Framework. There are sufficient toilets and the environment is secure. It has access to an outdoor area and the available space in all areas is maximised for play and active learning. The FSU will be in a purpose built extension to the school, with work proposed to start on site in Summer 2013. The building would be ready for occupation by April 2014.

## Quality Report

5. An early years specialist teacher will be appointed to lead the FSU and planned staffing is suitable for the expected numbers of children. The School Headteacher has sought regular advice from the County Council early years advisory teacher in developing the FSU plans. An Ofsted inspection in November 2012 resulted in a 'requires improvement' outcome. The inspectors recognised that there was need for improvement in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school is receiving regular support from the Early Years Advisory Team (Focused Improvement) and an ECERS audit has been arranged. This should help to focus the staff on making changes to improve the opportunities for F1 children, It will also help the school to continue to forward plan for the new FSU. The report from the Senior Early Years Team Leader concludes that the unit will provide a high quality and inclusive EYFS environment and anticipates that outcomes for Foundation stage children will be positively influenced by the new FSU.

## Responses from Informal Consultation

6. All the required consultations have been carried out and the responses received are positive.

## RECOMMENDATION

7. **The Cabinet Member for Education is RECOMMENDED to agree to the publication of statutory notices to take this proposal forward to the next formal phase.**

### JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Background papers: Proposal form from school, reports from finance and premises officers and the advisory teacher for the area. These are available from the Contact Officer – or from Janine Foulkes-Williams, Senior Officer (Early Years Organisation) 01865 815181  
[Janine.foulkes-williams@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Janine.foulkes-williams@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Debbie Rouget, Sufficiency and Access Manager, Early Years and Childcare. 01865 810617  
[debbie.rouget@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.rouget@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

March 2013