

Annex 1: Responses to stage 1 consultation on proposal to Close Edward Feild Nursery School and Provide Alternative Early Years Provision

Summary:

6 responses - 2 against and 4 in support.

Respondent 1: Parent of child at Robin Playgroup and child at Edward Feild Primary, Local Resident

Responded in Support of Proposal

Additional Comments:

I have said yes but am not totally sure as I do not know what the impact will be on my child who will be affected by the changes. If it is simply a financial decision then yes as the school needs to be able to operate in a cost effective manner to ensure it maintains the high quality of education it currently provides. My main concern is to do with how the EYFS curriculum will be managed by the Robin Pre-School and I would like further information on how that will be run. I would want to ensure that there is a seamless transition from Robin Pre-School into Reception in terms of learning goals and outcomes. I have a child who will be directly affected (in Robin playgroup and due to join Nursery in Sept 13) and hope that the parents of those children who will be affected will be given some more detailed information in due course.

Reply From Edward Feild Nursery School Business Manager:

Your concerns are quite understandable, and match our own. We are still working out the details of staffing when the change happens, so unfortunately I can't give you definite answers, but it has already been agreed that the curriculum across Robin and Reception would be led by the school's foundation stage co-ordinator who would have dedicated time every week to work in the pre-school, both with the children and modelling good practice to other staff. This, we believe, will ensure a high quality of curriculum is maintained and developed. It would also ensure that transitions between rooms (Robin to Reception) are as seamless as possible. Transition from Robin to Nursery is very successful at the moment, even without the this proposed formal link, so we would expect this to be even better in future.

We are concerned to provide as much continuity as possible for children who are in the nursery in December and are actively exploring ways of ensuring this. Mrs Wilkes also talked to you about the 1:8 child:adult ratio, higher than in nursery, which applies in pre-schools..

More information will be made available to parents as soon as possible, but you will understand that we need to work our way carefully this process to make sure we get it right.

Respondent 2: Parent of Child at Edward Feild Nursery Schoollorna J

Objected to Proposal

Further Comments:

Since attending the Nursery (my child) has thrived under the care of the teaching staff. The care they have for the children is obvious not only in how the children behave but also the excitement shown by most of the children in attending the Nursery. I am concerned that the level of teaching (both in academic work and social skills) will be restricted. I myself have been a nursery nurse in the past and I know I would be unable to provide the level of teaching shown by the Nursery teachers at present. I feel that nursery schools provide an important introduction to a child's schooling and am sad that my 2nd (child) will not be able to have the same experience as my older (child) has. I am guessing that (*3 members of staff named*), will no longer be employed at the Nursery and hope you realise what amazing teachers you are missing out on. I understand how difficult the decision is and maybe the only solution is for more money to be allocated for early years education so that the school does not have to fund the nursery.

Reply to Respondent 2 From Edward Feild Nursery School Business Manager:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our consultation on the closure of the nursery school and expansion of Robin Playgroup. Oxfordshire County Council have asked us to respond to your comments. We are equally concerned to ensure that a high quality of pre-school education continues on site and hence have specifically included dedicated time for the Foundation Stage Co-ordinator in the proposal. This will obviously not fully replace the contribution of a full-time teacher, but we believe it provides the best value we can get from the funding available to the children at Edward Feild from age 2 to 11. As you say, the only way round this would be for more money to be allocated to Early Years Education centrally.

We are examining all the options for keeping the nursery staff at Edward Feild for as long as possible and yes, we do know how amazing they are! The governors and playgroup are currently making plans for next year and more information about staffing will be available later this term. However I can say that there will be significant school contribution (in addition to the long term co-ordinator time above) during the first year to assist Robin Pre-school during their expansion to maintain the high quality of their provision, in particular in the 3-4 year old curriculum.

Respondent 3: Local day Nursery Owner
Objected to Proposal

Further Comments:

The maintained nursery schools in Kidlington have previously set the benchmark for quality educational provision for 4 year-olds

Comment From Edward Feild Nursery School Business Manager:

This is nice to hear, but we don't really understand the point of this objection. It seems (the respondent) agrees with us that the previous educational standards have been high, however the reality of our current situation is that the resources are no longer available to sustain that quality of provision in the format of a nursery school. Therefore we are proposing to do the next best thing and provide substantial school

support to a financially sustainable setting, with the aim of still setting the benchmark for quality early years education within Kidlington.

Respondent 4

Local resident and childminder
Responded in support of proposal

Respondent 5

Parent of child at Edward Feild Primary and Robin Playgroup, Staff or Governor of School, Local resident
Responded in support of proposal

Respondent 6

Parent of child at Edward Feild Primary and Edward Feild Nursery Schools
Responded in support of proposal