

Annex 3

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

Contact details

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Proposal published by Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND
Proposal to close Five Acres Nursery School, Blackthorn Road, Ambrosden, Bicester OX25 2LN

Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

31 August 2013

Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult have been complied with.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

- a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a) a) List of persons consulted:

The governing body of any school which is the subject of

Consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012)

proposals (if the LA are publishing proposals)	– 28 January 2013).
The LA that maintains the school (if the governing body is publishing the proposals).	n/a
Families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the school.	Through distribution of consultation leaflets (to families via children) (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013)
Any LA likely to be affected by the proposals, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils.	The proposals are not judged to affect other local authorities.
The governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected.	Other Oxfordshire schools consulted through online consultation (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and alerted via email. Early years providers were alerted by email and sent leaflets.
Families of any pupils at any other school that may be affected.	Consulted through online consultation and via email to other schools' Headteachers (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
Any trade unions who represent staff at the school; and representatives of any trade union of any other staff at schools who may be affected by the proposals.	Consulted through online consultation and via email directly (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
(If proposals involve, or are likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character) the appropriate diocesan authorities or the relevant faith group in relation to the school.	Oxford CE diocese and Birmingham and Portsmouth RC dioceses consulted through online consultation and alerted via email (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
The trustees of the school (if any).	n/a
(If the proposals affect the provision of full-time 14-19 education) the Learning and Skills Council	n/a
MPs whose constituencies include the schools that are the subject of the proposals or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposals.	Local MP sent a copy of the consultation leaflet.
The local district or parish council where the school that is the subject of the proposals is situated.	Local district and county councillors consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and online consultation.

<p>Any other interested party, for example, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (or any local partnership that exists in place of an EYDCP) where proposals affect early years provision, or those who benefit from a contractual arrangement giving them the use of the premises.</p>	<p>Members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group consulted through online consultation and meetings.</p>
<p>b) n/a</p> <p>c) Twelve responses to the consultation were received. Nine respondents supported the proposal in principle. Two opposed the proposal in principle, but one of these had misunderstood the proposal and retracted their objection following explanation by a council officer.</p> <p>The reasons given for supporting the proposal were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial benefits for both establishments • Time freed up for administrative work. <p>The concerns raised by the respondent that objected were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a manager of an independent preschool on one of the school sites, the respondent was concerned that the nursery budget would be diverted to the primary school with a knock-on effect on the quality of opportunities for the nursery children. • The respondent was also concerned whether nursery staff would be required to “move to other areas of the school...affecting the stability of these very young children”. <p>d) The consultation leaflet is still available to view online on the original public consultation webpages at http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk and was made available online and was distributed to all parents of children at the school, staff and governors, local councillors for the area and childcare providers in the area.</p>	

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

Oxfordshire County Council intends to merge Five Acres Nursery School and Five Acres Primary School in Ambrosden through the legal mechanism of closing the nursery school and extending the age range of the primary school.

The reasons for proposing this change are to consolidate the Governing Body's financial responsibility into one budget where it currently must manage two. With a single budget to manage, funding could be directed toward priorities agreed upon across the whole school whereas currently for

example, the primary budget cannot be spent on the nursery schools.

Additionally if the proposal is approved, only one Ofsted inspection would need to be carried out, and only one set of data requested by the Department for Education would need to be returned by the school staff. This would release administrative and management time.

Because of changes made in April 2011 by the DfE to the Early Years Single Funding Formula for nursery schools, there is now no financial advantage to running two establishments in parallel and the duplication of work and time would increasingly become an unnecessary financial drain on the Governing Body.

Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

The Governing Body and Headteacher of Five Acres Nursery School are the same for Five Acres Primary School. In closing the Nursery School and effectively making the provision part of the Primary School, there is no expectation that there will be any effect on standards, diversity and quality of education.

Provision for 16-19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

n/a

Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The places currently provided by the nursery school will continue to be provided by the primary school. There will be no displaced pupils as a result of the formal closure of the nursery school.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the

impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

n/a

Current School Information

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

The provision at the nursery school is for 60 children on a part-time basis (30 full-time equivalent).

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

Provision will be continued through the primary school.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

n/a

Impact on the Community

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

This closure will have no adverse impact on the local community, as provision will continue through the primary school.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

All services offered will remain the same, provided by the primary school.

Travel

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

Provision will continue on the same site through the primary school.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

n/a

Related Proposals

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

These proposals are related to the proposals to alter the lower age range at Five Acres Primary School, so that the current Nursery School effectively becomes the Primary School's nursery class.

Proposals to expand Five Acres Primary School to an admission number of 60 from its current 45 will shortly be determined. However this proposal is not related to the proposal to close Five Acres Nursery School, or alter the age range of the Primary School.

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
 - b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
 - c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; &
 - d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,
- as required by section 15(4)

n/a

Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;

- b) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) All services offered by the nursery school will be continued as part of the primary school at the same site.b) While legally closing the nursery school, the primary school would continue to offer the same level of service at the same location, and therefore will not reduce quantity or quality of provision. Specialist staff will continue to be employed for the early years age range.c) Replacement provision would be at the primary school on the same site and in the same building. |
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Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

n/a
