

## PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

### **Proposal made under School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:**

#### **In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

West Kidlington Nursery School and West Kidlington Primary School, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1EA. Both schools are run by Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND and are federated with each other.

#### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented:

31 March 2015

#### **Objections and comments**

Any person may respond by 4 February 2015, sending their comments or registering an objection or support in writing to:

Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST Oxfordshire County Council.

Responses may also be emailed to

[diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk) putting WEST KIDLINGTON in the subject line, or can be submitted online via a feedback form at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

#### **Alteration description**

The proposal is to close West Kidlington Nursery School as a separate establishment and alter the lower age range of West Kidlington Primary School, to effect a “merger”. 3-year olds would be admitted into a nursery class on the school roll.

### **School capacity**

West Kidlington Primary School has a Net Capacity of 420. This proposal would not affect the Net Capacity, as accommodation for 3 year-olds is excluded from its calculation. There would be no change in accommodation as a result of this proposal.

### **Objectives and reasoning**

West Kidlington Nursery and Primary Schools are already federated, and share a Governing Body and a Headteacher.

The introduction in April 2011 of the Early Years Single Funding Formula, which funds eligible children attending settings, rather than the number of places provided (as previously), means there is now no financial advantage in the two establishments being separate.

This proposal's intention is to maintain the same level of high quality early years places while improving the financial viability and long term future of this provision. To do this, it is proposed that the Nursery School closes as a separate establishment, and the Primary School age range is extended to include 3 year-olds, effectively "merging" the two establishments into one.

In practical terms, there would be no alteration on the ground that parents, children or teaching staff would notice. All provision would remain in the same accommodation as it is currently. The change proposed is purely administrative in nature. As such, there will be no displaced pupils and accessibility and convenience of provision for local parents is not affected.

In removing the need to duplicate work (e.g. preparation for two separate Ofsted inspections and managing two separate budgets for the two establishments), the aim is for back office and management staff time to be freed up and processes streamlined to make them more efficient.

### **Consultation**

The consultation ran from 9 September 2014 – 21 October 2014, for the prescribed six-week minimum period. Persons consulted: the governing body and staff of both schools, their partnership primary schools, parents /

guardians of both schools' pupils, the local MP, relevant Parish, District and County Councillors, trade union representatives, Church of England and Catholic Dioceses, members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group and county council teams.

Three responses to the consultation were received.

Two respondents supported the proposal in principle, as it would maintain the good provision for early years children on the site.

One respondent objected, concerned that the proposal would close a Nursery School rated "Good" by Ofsted and that parents would be confused if they had children in the nursery class and had to apply for a place in Reception class in the same school for the next year.

The county council responded to the respondent that objected as follows:

- West Kidlington Primary School is also rated "Good" by Ofsted and already has the same Headteacher and governors as the Nursery School.
- No staff changes are proposed.
- All parents, wherever their child attends nursery / preschool, must apply for a place in Reception year group at a school for their child when they reach the correct age. This would not change as a result of this proposal.

The consultation document was widely distributed by both the school and the county council and is available to view on the county council website in the Current Consultations list at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

## **Project costs**

There are no costs associated with this proposal. The financial implications are anticipated to be positive, as the reduction in time and work required by management and staff in maintaining two separate establishments should result in time and cost efficiencies.