



# OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## **FULL STATUTORY PROPOSAL**

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)  
(England) Regulations 2013

### **Change of Age Range at Valley Road Primary School, Henley**

#### **1. School and LA details**

**School:** Valley Road Community School

**Address:** Valley Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1RR

**Local Authority:** Oxfordshire County Council

#### **2. Description of alteration**

Oxfordshire County Council, working with the Governing Body of Valley Road Primary School, proposes to alter the school's age range from 3-11 to 4-11.

The Governing Body proposes to consolidate all early years provision under the private childcare provider, Cygnets of Henley Ltd., which already operates on the school site.

#### **3. Evidence of demand**

Take up of nursery class places at Valley Road has been variable, with the nursery not reaching full capacity at any point in the 2017/18 academic year. Council sufficiency data however indicates a shortfall in funded provision for funded three and four year olds in Henley. A school survey in 2018 highlighted that a key reason for not choosing the school nursery class was the need for childcare covering the full school day. The Council would like to retain the same level of early years provision and the integrated places offered by Bishopswood Special School. The proposal would support this ongoing provision and extend the flexibility of the childcare offer to the community.

#### **4. Objectives**

The current school nursery is not financially viable when not full and has an adverse effect on the school budget.

The proposed alteration would:

- Consolidate all on site early years and childcare provision under the management of Cygnets of Henley – judged ‘Outstanding’ at their last Ofsted inspection.
- Retain the same overall number of funded early education places.
- Retain the Integrated Nursery arrangements with Bishopswood Special School.
- Extend access to ‘wrap-around’ childcare, supporting working families.
- Improve the school budget position.

## **5. The effect on other educational institutions within the area**

The proposal is largely a change of management and is unlikely to affect other educational institutions. Bishopswood Special School - which integrates 8 nursery places within Valley Road nursery class - will continue this arrangement using the same accommodation but with Cygnets managing the mainstream nursery places.

## **6. Project costs and funding**

No capital alterations are required. Lease costs will be met by Cygnets and the annual rent payable will be reviewed to reflect the increased space usage at the school.

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

The proposal would be implemented from the start of the 2019/20 Academic Year. Children on Valley Road nursery school roll at 31 August 2019 would transfer to Cygnets Nursery from 1 September 2019.

## **8. Objections and comments**

Comments or objections must be received by the local authority by **Friday 14 June 2019**.

Respond by:

- using the online questionnaire at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultations)
- or emailing [school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk) (please quote ‘Valley Road School Consultation’ in the header)
- or in writing to **Joanne Booker, Access to Learning, Oxfordshire County Council, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND**

## **9. Decision-making**

The decision-maker for this proposed change is Oxfordshire County Council. The decision will be made by the Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services at a meeting which is open to the public, and publicised on the county council’s website. The decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of this representation period, and is currently expected on 10 July 2019.