

**Proposal to close West Kidlington Nursery School
in order to merge provision with West Kidlington Primary School**

9 September 2014 – 21 October 2014

See full details and respond via a quick online questionnaire at

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

What is the proposal?

The county council is proposing that West Kidlington Primary School “merges” with the associated nursery school. The two establishments already share a Headteacher and Governing Body, and the members of staff have the same employer. The proposed change would therefore be administrative in nature, and it is hoped there would be no noticeable change for pupils, parents or teaching staff.

The process to achieve the “merger” involves the legal closure of the nursery school as a separate establishment, and it becoming part of the primary school, as a nursery class. The primary school’s age range would change from 4 – 11 to 3 – 11.

If the proposal goes ahead there would be no effect on admissions; children in the school’s nursery class would still need to apply for a place in the school’s Reception year, just as they do now.

Why is this being proposed?

Significant grants which previously supported the Nursery school have been withdrawn. The Nursery school can no longer set a workable budget.

What happens if the proposal doesn’t go ahead?

If the school and nursery remain separate, there would be no immediate change to pupils, parents and staff on a practical level. However, it is likely that the duplication of administrative time and work in running two separate establishments would increasingly become an unnecessary financial drain on the Governing Body. 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. Detail of the changes may be viewed on the DfE website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/delivery/funding/a0068704/early-years-funding-reform>

What happens next?

This public consultation seeks your views on the proposal, and **runs until 21 October 2014**. Following the end of the consultation period, a report will be written summarising the responses received and will go before the Member for Children, Education & Families or, in some circumstances, to the full Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet.

Following consideration of the responses received, a decision will be made by the Member (or Cabinet) on whether to proceed to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposal, which is the next step. If a Notice is published, it will appear around all the schools' sites and in local newspapers. This is a second opportunity for the public to respond, and this period last for four weeks. On the closure of this period, a second report is written and a final decision is made by either the Member or Cabinet.

It is likely that the full process above would mean a final decision in March 2015.

How do I respond to the consultation?

You can give us your views in several ways. The quickest and easiest way is online at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> where all our consultations are listed. Click on the right consultation and then use the online questionnaire and submit your views directly.

Alternatively, you may write to us or print off the form at the back of this leaflet and post it to: **Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

You may also email your views to us at:

WestKid2014-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Remember your response must be received by 21 October 2014

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RESPONSE FORM

I / We wish to make the following comments:

Signature

Name

Address (optional)

Parent / carer of a child at West Kidlington Nursery School

Parent / carer of a child at West Kidlington Primary School

Parent / carer of a child not yet at school

Governor / Staff

Local resident

Other (please specify)

RETURN BY 21 OCTOBER 2014 to

Diane Cameron

School Organisation & Planning

CMDCEF5

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(no stamp required)