

# **Consultation Proposal Document To Lower The Age Range At**

## **St. Peter's CE (Aided) Primary School, Heswall**

**From 4-11 to 2-11 by September 2018.**

### **Current provision**

St. Peter's CE (Aided) Primary School, Heswall currently provides education for children 4 – 11 years of age. We are a fully inclusive school valuing and respecting everyone equally.

The purpose of this document is to propose changes to the age range at the school. The school propose to lower the age range by 2 years, this being to accommodate children aged 2½ – 4 years in an appropriate pre-school provision in existing facilities at the school. The governing body of the school needs to consult on the proposed changes in line with DfE guidance, and wishes to receive the views and comments of all stakeholders involved with our school. The consultation period will run for 4 weeks from:

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

The governing body will consider all comments received during the consultation period.

### **School and LA details**

	<b>Current:</b>	<b>Proposed:</b>
Age Range	4 – 11 years	2 – 11 years
Provider Type	Primary School	Primary School and Pre-School
Local Authority	Wirral	Wirral

## **Why is the consultation taking place?**

Currently the youngest children that the school can admit are in the Reception class. In order to admit younger children a process must be followed to ensure that the school are compliant with all of DfE requirements. The first step in this process is that the local community and stakeholders must be asked for their views.

## **Consultation**

Although Governing Bodies are no longer required to follow a statutory process for the alterations set out above, they are nevertheless required to adhere to the usual principles of public law: they must act rationally; they must take into account all relevant considerations; and they must follow a fair procedure. The DfE expects that in making the changes set out above Governing Bodies will:

- Liaise with the LA and trustees/diocese (if any) to ensure that, where possible, a proposal is aligned with wider place planning/organisational arrangements, and that any necessary consents have been gained, and;
- Ensure effective consultation with parents and other interested parties to gauge demand for their proposed change(s) and to provide them with sufficient opportunity to give their views.

Once proposed changes have been implemented, the Governing Body must inform the Secretary of State.

Beyond this there is no published guidance as to what is deemed to be rational and fair.

## **Why is the school making this change?**

The proposed change is to allow for the provision for 2½ - 4 year olds as part of the whole school structure from September 2018. An outside provider, using facilities owned by the School, has provided the current provision for 2½ - 4 year olds. The current provision provided by the outside provider will finish on the 31st August 2018 and it is proposed that the provision for 2½ - 4 year olds will from 1st September 2018 be managed by the school. Accountability for the provision for 2½ - 4 year olds will be overseen by the governors and senior leadership team of the school, who have extensive experience of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision.

Age appropriate experiential play and EYFS education will be accessible for all children. Dependant on need some children may also require that the EYFS curriculum offers differentiation to support specific needs. All staff in the provision will be knowledgeable about age appropriate development and characteristics of

effective learning for 2½ year olds and also have a clear understanding of expectations and tracking processes of attainment for the 3 and 4 year old children.

The school owns the facilities used by the current provider and will run the 2½ - 4 age group provision from the same facility, though the ability to use the whole of the school facilities will enhance the provision to the age group. There will be no change to the level of provision available, which is a maximum of 32 places in the morning and 32 places in the afternoon provision. Given that there will be no change in the level of provision, there will be no impact on other current local schools and pre-school provision.

All 2½, 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a level of free Early Years Foundation Stage education from the beginning of the school term following their second birthday until compulsory school age. We wish to provide the opportunity to take up the free entitlement with the option for additional paid hours in a maintained school and pre-school setting.

Applications for a Reception school place need to be made in the usual way; there is no guarantee of securing a school place as a result of your child attending the Pre-School provision at our school.

### **What would the Early Years provision look like?**

The provision will be very similar to what is currently provided; there will be high quality Early Years Foundation Stage play based provision - including role play, sand, water, construction, early literacy, early mathematics, mark making and outside play. There will be free flow between areas including the outside, offering children a choice of activities and allowing them to engage in learning which is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development. The difference will be that this provision will be managed by the senior leadership team of the school, leading to better continuity of provision.

### **Will the proposed change result in any educational impact on the existing primary school provision?**

We have conducted a thorough assessment of the resources needed and effects on the existing primary school provision and we do not see that there will be any adverse impact on any existing level of provision. The school will be able to successfully manage this change allowing for 2½ - 4 year old provision.

## **Consultation process timescale**

Process	Date
Publication of consultation	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Consultation process	11 <sup>th</sup> June – 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Analysis of responses	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Decision communicated	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Final implementation of proposals	September 2018

## **How can you ask questions, get more information and comment on the proposal?**

If you have any questions or comments regarding the consultation please email: [schooloffice@stpeters-heswall.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@stpeters-heswall.wirral.sch.uk) or write to the school:

St. Peter's CE (Aided) Primary School  
Thurstaston Road  
Heswall  
Wirral  
CH60 4SA

We will be allowing four weeks for receiving responses. All responses must be received by the end of the working day on 9th July 2018 in order for them to be considered by the governing body when making its decision.