

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **22 January 2020**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **Lowering the age range at Stonegate CE Primary School**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to lower the age range at Stonegate CE Primary School to enable the governing board to provide early years provision on the school site.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorise a change of age range at Stonegate CE Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2020.

1 Background

1.1 The governing board of the school wishes to lower its age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to accommodate families who wish to access early years provision on the school site.

1.2 The aim of the proposal is to integrate, fully, a twelve-place nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) within the school. The governing board wishes to ensure that the school supports the local area by offering high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage. The aim is to build on the work already done by the school to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.

2 Supporting information

2.1 The governing board consulted between 7 June 2019 and the 5 July 2019 on a proposal to lower the school's age range with effect from 1 September 2020. The governing board consulted with staff, families of children at the school, the local community and other interested parties.

2.2 By the close of the consultation period six responses had been received, all in support of the proposal. A further 16 people responded to the needs survey, indicating a requirement for early years and wraparound childcare provision at the school.

2.3 On 7 October 2019, the Lead Member considered the outcome of the consultation and approved the publication of a statutory proposal to lower the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11. A copy of the Lead Member report can be viewed by following the link under background documents below.

2.4 The statutory proposal was published on 22 November 2019 on the local authority's website. A brief notice was published in the Sussex Express newspaper and posted on the entrances to the school.

2.5 Publication of the proposal was followed by a four-week period of representation, when further comments or objections could be made to the local authority. By the end of the representation period no comments or objections had been received.

3. Factors to be considered by the decision maker and types of decision

3.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of maintained schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

3.2 The process set out above complied with these requirements.

3.3 The regulations set out a number of factors to which the Lead Member should have regard before making a final decision on the proposal. These are set out in **Appendix 1**.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 In conclusion, the local authority believes the proposal to lower the age range at Stonegate CE Primary School would help to build on work already done by the school, ensuring a fully integrated EYFS to help secure good outcomes for all children. The proposal is in line with local authority's strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.

4.2 For this reason, the Lead Member is recommended to authorise a change of age range at Stonegate CE Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2020.

STUART GALLIMORE Director of Children's Services

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Lead Member report and minute from 7 October 2019:

<http://esmoderngov01v/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=456&MId=4031&Ver=4>

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Factors for the Lead Member to consider

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor John Barnes

APPENDIX 1

The Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability should have regard to the following factors before reaching a final decision on the proposed change of age range from 4-11 to 2-11 at Stonegate Church of England Primary School.

1	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements	The notice complied with statutory requirements as set out in 3.1 of the report.
2	Are the proposals related to other published proposals	The proposals are not related to other published proposals.
3	Was consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices	The governing board undertook a period of consultation between 7 June and 5 July 2019 on a proposal to lower the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to enable them to provide early years provision on the school site.
4	Have any particular comments or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposals	Six comments in support of the proposal were received during the representation period, with a further 16 people responding to the needs survey. No comments or objections were raised during the representation period.
5	The effect on education standards and diversity of provision	The local authority does not believe the proposal would have a negative impact on other providers, schools and academies in the surrounding areas as it is about changing the admission arrangements for the school to include children from two years old to support its long term sustainability and promote excellence across the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
6	The demand for places	The school would provide early years places by utilising space within the school. Based on current eligibility criteria, forecasts of need in the Stonegate area indicate there are likely to be sufficient early years places over the next few years. The proposal is in line with the local authority's strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.
7	Has capital funding been identified and secured to enable the proposals to be implemented?	No capital investment is required by the local authority to implement the proposal. The school has secured external funding to refurbish an existing space within the school building to provide places for two, three and four year olds who are eligible for early years funding.
8	The proposed admission arrangements	The proposal would not affect the admission arrangements of the school, which would remain as published.
9	National curriculum	Stonegate CE Primary school would deliver the EYFS for children aged 2-5 years.
10	Equal opportunities issues	<p>The local authority does not believe there are any equality issues arising from the proposed changes. The new provision would be available for all children aged 2-4 in the local area who require a place.</p> <p>The proposal would have a positive impact by integrating, fully, nursery provision into the EYFS within the school. The governing board wishes to ensure that the nursery continues to support the local area and to offer high quality early education for all, delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the EYFS. This would build on the work already done by the school to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.</p>
11	Community cohesion	The local authority believes that the proposal would enhance community cohesion by enabling the governing board to offer funded places to two, three and four year olds.
12	Travel and accessibility	The local authority does not believe the proposal would have any impact on travel and accessibility as the nursery provision is within the school's current footprint and would attract younger siblings of pupils already attending the school.