



Notice of Consultation to extend the age range of Kewstoke Primary School

Dear parents, carers, local residents and other interested parties.

The Governors of Kewstoke Primary School and North Somerset Council intend to extend the age range of the school from 4-11 years as it currently is to 3-11 years. This would enable the school to provide a preschool class where 3 and 4 year old children would be able to access their free nursery education entitlement.

At present Local Authorities, such as North Somerset, offer funding for 15 hour universal entitlement and additional 15 hours for some working parents. For more information, see website <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs>

This can be accessed in a variety of settings, such as day nurseries, child-minders and maintained nursery classes on school premises, and in a variety of ways such as 5x3 hour sessions or a combination of sessions across the week.

We propose to help fill this need for spaces by extending our age range to include 3 year olds and make the school age range from 3-11 years. Although there is current provision in the local area there is sufficient demand for spaces, coupled with the extra funding available from the government to warrant the extra provision. We feel that with our community centred ethos and our highly trained staff we are able to provide those eligible children with the high quality nursery education they are entitled to.

Our current site offers us ample space to accommodate an extra class of children. There would be minimal disruption to the children we already cater for and no disruption to the local community in terms of building works.

In 2014 the government its commitment to access this free education funding, meaning a larger number of providers are needed. North Somerset support this view and have stated that:

“Research highlights the important role of parents and the importance of high-quality early education in supporting children's learning and development. The foundation years (pregnancy to age five) are critical to children's life chances and most children who are developing well at the end of their foundation years go on to achieve well in school.”

In the immediate locality there is no school led provision offered for 3 year olds so we would be able to offer this choice for parents. This would be especially advantageous for parents with children currently on our roll as it would ease transition into the school and support progress for children with an increased continuity of care.

We propose to offer 10 nursery places from January 2018 by extending our age range to include 3 year olds and make the school age range from 3-11 years.

The consultation period for this proposal will take place between:

Thursday 23rd November 2017 and Thursday 21st December 2017

We very much welcome all views on this proposal and would invite you to respond within four weeks of this notice. Please contact North Somerset Council by emailing early.years@n-somerset.gov.uk with any comments/views by 21st December 2017. Or to contact them - North Somerset District Council, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ. Telephone number 01934 888888

North Somerset Council supports this request and therefore proposes the alterations described in this notice.

All responses will be considered.

For more information, or if you require clarification on any of the above points please contact the school office on 01934 623430.

Many Thanks

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