

Formal Consultation to lower the age range of Brockenhurst CE Primary School

The governing body of Brockenhurst CE Primary school want all our children to have the best possible start to their education and are therefore consulting on lowering the age range of the school.

What is the proposal?

Governors are proposing the age range change from 4-11 to 2-11 with effect from 1st October 2021. Brockenhurst CE Primary school currently has capacity for 210 children. By incorporating pre-school provision the total capacity of the school would increase to 230. Brockenhurst pre-school would therefore cease to exist as a charitable trust. And be incorporated into the management and leadership of the school.

Why is the governing body proposing to lower the age range of the school?

The governors have carefully considered the options and consider lowering the age range of the school will support:

- continuity of education for children from 2-11 and enable an even smoother transition from early years to our reception class
- those who apply and are successful in gaining a place in our reception class will have benefited from being pupils of the school from a much earlier age (it should be noted that attending the pre-school does not automatically guarantee a place at the school)
- staff at the pre-school will become part of the school team and will therefore have access to a wider range of training and development
- the school will have a flexible offer of education and care which can respond to local family needs
- research suggests that primary schools which also manage pre-school provision achieve better outcomes for pupils.

How will the proposed change benefit our children?

If the proposal is approved there will be many benefits for our children:

All staff across the pre-school and school will be able to plan and develop the curriculum together so that it meets the needs of all children

All children will have access to the outdoor facilities of our site including the forest school area

There will be continuity for children who move from the pre-school to the school to remain in environment they are familiar with from early years to the end of key stage 2. They will be taught and supported by staff who know them well and have developed relationships with them and their families from a young age.

What happens next?

This consultation seeks your views on the proposal and runs until Friday 24th September. Following the end of the consultation governors will review all responses received and make a decision on whether to proceed. This decision will be communicated via the school website by Wednesday 29th September.

How do I respond to the consultation?

Your views are important and we value your opinions. You can give us your comments by email or in writing

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We look forward to your feedback.

Thank you