

Statutory Proposal to change age range from 4-9 to 2-9 years

School:

Wimborne First School
School Lane
Wimborne
Dorset
BH21 1HQ

URN: 113679

DfE number: 8382040

Local Authority:

Dorset Council

Description of alteration and evidence of demand;

Wimborne First School are proposing to open as Wimborne First and Nursery School moving from an age range of 4-9 to 2-9 years with effect from 1st September 2020.

The demand for places is at present fulfilled by a number of local pre-schools, however, for a known few, their future sustainability is unknown and therefore this will create a need for alternative provision especially for funded hours for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. The Wimborne community is continuing to develop and the increase in housing will bring more families to the area in need of childcare and school placements.

Provision Objectives:

The on-site Nursery will be a governor run Early Years provision and these powers allow schools to provide any charitable purpose (such as early education) for the benefit of families of pupils at the school, or families who live or work in the locality of the school. This will provide strong standards, early identification of needs of pupils and allow for strong transition into school. With our own on-site nursery provision, we would be confident of the assessments in place for the children moving up to main school as they would be moderated by the Early Years staff from the school. This would also mean that we would be more in control of early intervention such as Speech and Language and Paediatric referrals because the children would be seen by the school SENCo at a much earlier stage. We will work closely with Dorset Early Years and Childcare service to promote and implement activities and training around school readiness. This can only help to further support good outcomes for children in our main school, which is Ofsted, rated as Good in February 2019. Standards, planning and delivery of the curriculum will be overseen by a designated member of the school's senior leadership team creating strong links with the schools improvement plans.

The effect on other educational settings in the area

The desire is to serve the present community where needed but also to take into consideration the increase in families moving into the area due to the new housing developments and needing childcare and school places. There is currently a shortfall of funded places for eligible 2 year olds in the Dorset area.

Based on the expected demand, we would anticipate that this provision at Wimborne First School would have limited negative impact on other local schools or childcare providers and would provide much needed early education opportunities locally.

Project costs

The new school site that has been built for Wimborne First School has included the provision for a nursery. Therefore all building and resourcing costs have been covered by Dorset Council as part of the new build. The school would need to employ members of staff with the necessary qualifications to manage and run the nursery adhering carefully to statutory ratios.

Implementation

We would like to make the following offer to parents for our Nursery provision:-

Age Range

We propose to take children from 2 years of age to 4 years of age.

Term time and through the year

We aim to run the setting in support of parents wanting term time only and parents wanting children to have childcare throughout the year (49 weeks). We would offer wrap around care from 7.45am to 5.45pm in line with the provision offered to our school age children.

Vouchers and funding

We would accept:-

Tax free child care vouchers

Early Education Funding from 2 years of 15 hours

Early Education Funding for 3 and 4 year olds for 15 or 30 hours (if eligible)

Implementation Timescales

Our aim is to open our new Nursery setting on the new site on 1st September 2020. We hope to offer care from 2 years of age and wrap around care from 7.45am to 5.45pm. This setting will also hope to operate a holiday offer therefore covering 49 weeks a year to help support working parents.

We are aware that a 4-week period of formal consultation would need to take place and that during this period; any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal.