

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 18 PROPOSALS FOR ALTERATIONS TO SCHOOLS

Extract of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 (as amended)

1. Contact details

The proposal to discontinue the nursery provision delivered by Clitheroe Edisford Primary School, Edisford Road, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 2LN, by permanently raising its age range from 3-11 years to 4-11 years with effect from 1 April 2022, is published by Lancashire County Council, the relevant local authority. Clitheroe Edisford Primary School is a community school. The local authority can be contacted at the following address: County Pupil Access Team, Education Improvement Service, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 0LD.

2. Description of alteration and evidence

This proposal is for the closure of Clitheroe Edisford Primary School (the school) nursery by permanently raising its age range from 3 to 11 years to 4-11 years. The school will remain open and unchanged for primary school provision.

Participation in Education or Training

When the school approached the local authority to discuss the future of its nursery provision, it was proposed that overall financial position of the school would be improved by permanently raising the age range from 3 - 11 years old to 4 - 11 years old. At present, the 4 -11 part of the school is providing financial subsidy to the maintained nursery class as the retention of the nursery class is having a significant impact on the school budget.

Should the outcome of the consultation be to remove the nursery at the school, there would not be an adverse financial impact on the local authority.

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As evidenced in the annual LCC Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report there is more than sufficient good quality providers in the Clitheroe area. There has been a drop in the live birth rate and there are a significant number of surplus places in this administrative area.

Prior to seeking a decision to close the nursery, the governors verbally consulted with parents on how the school could increase the uptake in places. Parents fed back that they felt limited by the 9 am to 3 pm offer, that was only available during term time. For September 2021, the anticipated intake suggested only 3 pupils would enrol.

Additionally, the governors at Edisford Primary School have explored the possibility of leasing the nursery to a private provider. This will assist the school in reducing their

sizable budget deficit. An application has been made for an OFSTED Registration and the Local Authority has been advised by the head teacher that this is being finalized.

It has been reported by the school that the number of 3-year olds attending the school is low and reducing. As can be seen from the LCC Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report, there are many other early years providers in the local area. As such, the local authority does not believe that there will be an adverse impact on participation should the school permanently raise its age range from 3-11 years old to 4-11 years old.

Conclusion

As the number of prospective pupils interested in attending the nursery is low and reducing and there are several alternative nursery providers in the neighbouring areas offering provision, the local authority does not believe that there will be an adverse impact on participation should the school not offer nursery provision in the future.

3. Objectives

The objective of this proposal is to permanently raise the age range of the school from 3 to 11 years to 4-11 years with effect from 1 April 2022, through the closure of the nursery.

There is limited interest from families in attending the nursery, which has 9am to 3pm provision, term time only.

The primary element of the school is unaffected by this proposal.

As the number of pupils accessing the nursery is reducing and there is a wide range of alternative providers in the district, the closure of the nursery is not expected to have an adverse impact on the community.

4. Effect on other local education institutions

As the proposal is to close the nursery provision at the school, there is not expected to be any adverse impact on other local providers.

5. Project Costs and Value for Money

The overall financial position of the school would be improved by permanently raising the age range from 3 - 11 years old to 4 - 11 years old. At present, the 4 -11 part of the school is providing financial subsidy to the maintained nursery class, which is having a significant impact on the school budget.

6. Implementation

It is proposed to close the school's nursery on 1 April 2022.

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nursery class which is having a significant impact on the school budget.

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The overall financial position of the school would be improved by permanently raising the age range from 3 - 11 years old to 4 - 11 years old.

7. Procedure for responding to the consultation

Following publication of this proposal on 2 December 2021, any person may respond, support, object to or make comments on the proposal by posting them to County Pupil Access Team, Education Improvement Service, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 0LD.

Responses can also be emailed to Edisfordconsultation@lancashire.gov.uk or

Have your say! Consultation page - www.lancashire.gov.uk

To be considered as part of the decision making process to determine the proposal, responses must be received no later than 20 January 2022.