



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Full Proposal Document Extension of Age Range at Dunmore Primary School, Abingdon

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Dunmore Primary School, Northcourt Road, Abingdon OX14 1NR from 01 January 2018.

The Local Authority, working with the Governing Body of the school, is proposing to alter Dunmore Primary School's age range from 3-11 to 2-11.

Dunmore Primary School currently has 41 pupils (aged 3-4) on roll in its Nursery, with additional children to be admitted as they turn 3 years old at the start of the spring and summer terms in 2018. From September 2017 the Governing Body has used its community powers facility to provide day care for up to nine 2 year olds in the mornings only, but wishes now to establish formal provision for 2 year olds as part of the school.

The existing Nursery accommodation is sufficient for up to 60 Early Years children at any one time.

The proposal

The school would offer a 12 place day care setting for 2/3 year olds with 15 hours entitlement, plus wraparound care, using the former Children's Centre accommodation which is located on Dunmore Primary School's site. Spare capacity would be offered to fee paying parents of 2 year olds.

The school would additionally offer 60 places in its Nursery for 3/4 year olds with a mixture of 15/30 hours of entitlement and wraparound care for this cohort from 7.45-9am and 3-5.45pm daily (term time) using the former Children's Centre accommodation.

Alongside this, the school would deliver enhanced wraparound care for its Reception year group cohort also using the former Children's Centre accommodation.

From January 2018 therefore, the proposed new and enhanced provision would be:

Provision	Times	Maximum number of children	Accommodation
CORE 2-3 year olds (15 hour funded priority)	9am – 12 OR 12 - 3pm	12 (24 places)	Former Children's Centre building
Wraparound for 2-3 year olds	EITHER 7.45 – 9am OR 3 – 5.45pm	4	Former Children's Centre building
CORE 3-4 year olds (Nursery age)	9 – 3pm	60	Existing Nursery class room + 'Beehive' space in Dunmore School
Wraparound for 3-4 year olds	7.45 – 9am, 3 – 5.45pm	12	Former Children's Centre building
Wraparound for 4-5 year olds (Reception)	7.45 – 8.45am, 3.10 – 5.45pm	12	Former Children's Centre building

The room formerly used as an adult meeting room/staffroom in the Children's Centre building would be earmarked to host multi-agency meetings relating to children on the school roll.

The existing Fun Kids holiday club would use the building to enhance its provision.

Need / Demand

Early Education (from 2 if less advantaged/in receipt of disability allowance) has been identified as seeming to make a difference to children's life chances.

The school's own research estimates that up to 6 children per year group may choose Dunmore Primary for day care (2 year olds payed places). This would also be on the proviso that wraparound care was offered. By offering wraparound care options the school would be more popular to the potential 12 families per year group (including families entitled to 15 hours of 2 year old provision) who identified this lack of provision from age 2 as the main reason they did not use the Nursery. Through offering enhanced wrap around care opportunities for families with children in the Early Years Foundation Stage the school would automatically increase the number of in-catchment children attending its Nursery provision.

In Abingdon wards, 88 places for funded 2 year olds are needed, but only 70 are available. This gives a sufficiency of 80% and a shortfall of at least 18 places in the area. By increasing provision at Dunmore Primary School, Oxfordshire County Council is striving to meet its duty to ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision.

In serving families of 2 year olds, the school governors would be in an improved position to look at plugging the gaps in early intervention/identification of need for families with an entitlement to free childcare for 2 year olds. The school would be able to support these families in order to get them the help that they need from other agencies. This understanding could translate to smoother transitions into partnership schools for these vulnerable learners.

The school's current offer of 9am-3pm Monday – Thursday and 9 – 12 Friday (without wraparound care) has become less popular to parents with year on year reductions in numbers of children attending its Nursery. In 2017/18 the school opened its Nursery provision on Friday afternoons following parental demand investigated as part of the 30 hour offer. Numbers for this year have subsequently increased.

School research into the reduction in numbers suggests that parents who do not currently choose the Nursery require wraparound care and up to 30 hours provision (58% of survey return).

The school leadership team estimates that 12 children per year group (of those surveyed) could take up some form of wraparound care. There is a waiting list for current wraparound care (Fun Kids club) which is available on a first come, first served basis to 3 – 11 year olds.

Additional Information

There would be no change to the current admissions policy for children into the Nursery at the school (aside from the age range alteration), or to admissions into the school's Reception. Children attending the Nursery would still, as now, need to apply for a school place in Reception class at the correct time. Attending the Nursery does not mean that the child is automatically allocated a place in Reception.

The school has recently been rated Good by Ofsted (January 2017): the extension of its age range will help to ensure sufficiency and continuity of good quality early years education and childcare for families living in the area.

The former Children's Centre accommodation would become a part of Dunmore Primary School's buildings at no capital cost. The school may need to employ additional qualified teaching staff, depending on attendance patterns.

This full proposal can be viewed under the Current Consultations listings on the Oxfordshire County Council public website at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation>. Copies can also be requested by contacting:

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Any person may object to or make comments (representations) on the proposed change by using the online feedback form located on the Oxfordshire County Council website as detailed above, or by email or post to the above address. Alternatively, a written response may be handed in at the school's reception office.

All representations must be received by midnight on 24 October 2017.