

Statutory proposal for a prescribed alteration

Proposal to Alter the Lower Age Range at Hirst Wood Nursery School to include 2 year olds

School and Local Authority details:

Hirst Wood Nursery School, 3 Carlton Avenue, Shipley, BD18 4NJ.

Local Authority - City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, City Hall, Bradford BD1 1HY

Description of alteration:

The proposal is to alter the lower age range from age 3 to 2 at Hirst Wood Nursery School making provision for up to 36 part time 2 year old pupils to be admitted to the nursery school with effect from 1 September 2018.

The school currently caters for pupils aged 3 to 5 (inclusive) and the proposal is to alter the lower age range to cater for pupils aged 2 to 5 (inclusive).

The current net capacity of the school is 270 square metres and is proposed to be increased by 64 square metres using the current (outbuilding) community room which would accommodate pupils aged 2 years.

The current number of 3 and 4 year old children attending the nursery school is 81 part time (January 2018 census). The proposal would make provision for upto 36 part time 2 year old pupils to be admitted to the nursery school.

No new or additional site is required for this change however conversion of a current outbuilding on the existing school site will be made into a purpose-built nursery for 2 year olds.

Evidence of demand:

The take up of 2 year old places in this area is on average 72%. The private nursery situated on Saltaire Primary School site, which has now closed consistently delivered 10 places to funded 2 year old children who, on a whole, lived less than ½ mile from their provision. There are further 10-12 children who are not accessing their funded place within ½ mile. There are sufficient places within a mile of the provision but the parents are not accessing these.

Parents are expressing that they wish to take up places within Hirst Wood Nursery School as they have siblings currently attending the nursery school and find the school more accessible than the childcare providers.

Before the consultation to lower the age range Hirstwood sent out questionnaires to local families and there was an overwhelming demand from parents to use the provision. This is mainly due to accessibility and the fact they have older siblings in either the Hirst Wood Nursery school or Saltaire Primary school

This may have some impact on local providers in the area but mainly on the childminding sector for the younger age group. Both Hirst Wood Nursery School and Saltaire Primary School are working in partnership with the local childcare providers (including childminders) to promote childcare choices in the area to ensure parents are aware of what is on offer to them

The private day nursery based on a nearby site has closed. Hirst Wood Nursery school is receiving demands from parents to offer 2 year old places. This would support the children and families within the local area.

There is no spare capacity in other nursery schools in the local area.

Consultation:

The Local Authority consulted interested parties and the consultation process started on 23 April 2018 and closed on 25 May 2018. A summary of the responses to the consultation is attached.

Objectives:

The objectives of the proposal are to change the lower age range of the nursery school from 3 - 5 years (inclusive) to 2 – 5 years (inclusive).

This proposal will support the children and families within the local area with a focus on disadvantaged two year olds who are less likely to have experienced play and learning opportunities outside the home, and might fail to achieve their full potential. We can anticipate a significant gap between their outcomes and those of their less disadvantaged peer groups.

Early Education for two year olds seeks to redress some of that imbalance. Research has shown that access to quality early education improves children's outcomes and this provision forms the significant part of early education for two year olds.

There is strong evidence that early education makes a positive difference to young children. The 'Effective Provision of Pre-school Education' study found that high quality early education has particularly strong impacts on the cognitive and social development of disadvantaged children, and that these benefits last throughout primary school.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation:

The proposal is to alter the lower age range from age 3 to 2 at Hirst Wood Nursery school with effect from 1 September 2018.

Project Costs:

There would be no costs to the Local Authority to implement the proposed changes to the lower age range at Hirst Wood Nursery School.

Objections and comments:

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, i.e. by 5pm on 5 July 2018, any person or organisation may object, support or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Nina Mewse, School Provision and Places Officer, 1st Floor Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford, BD1 1NN or email educationconsultation@bradford.gov.uk

Summary of responses to consultation on Altering the Age Range at Hirst Wood Nursery School

Consultation was open between 23 April 2018 and 25 May 2018

Breakdown of responses (37):

Group	Agree	Disagree	Other
Parent or child attending the nursery	16	1	
Parent of other child under 3 years	3		1
School Governor	2		
Staff member	1		
Councillor or MP	0		
Member of Local Community	3		
Other Childcare Provider	0	2	
Local School	5		
Other	3		
Total	33	3	1

Responses in support of the Proposal

- A number of comments showed they felt that the provision and education at Hirst Wood Nursery is excellent, lowering the age range would allow more children to access this.
- It is recognised that early education provision is important especially for disadvantaged children, this proposal would support this.
- Some respondents commented that the change in age range will enable access to children who have been displaced or would not have a nursery to attend due to the closure of the private nursery.

Responses against the Proposal

- This proposal would take children away from private childcare business.
- There are enough places in the local area so there isn't enough demand.
- Siblings will be separated if the offer is for 2 years and not for babies.