

Attleborough Junior School Statutory Proposal to change the Age Range

1. LA details

Norfolk County Council
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DL

2. School details

Attleborough Junior School
18-20 Besthorpe Road
Attleborough
Norfolk
NR17 2NA

3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

The proposal is to extend the school's age range from 7-11 to 3-11 and enlarge the physical capacity of the school from 410 places to 420 places. The admission number will be set at 60 thereby creating a 2 form entry all-through primary school.

The proposal is related to one other proposal to extend the age range at Attleborough Infant School in order to move from an infant/junior model of primary education to an all-through single tier primary model.

Norfolk County Council conducted a consultation on this proposal from November 2015 to January 2016, which demonstrated that the principle of all-through primary education was seen as a positive. Parents clearly saw the advantages for the continuity of their children's learning, and appreciated the idea of having to build a relationship with a single school throughout the primary years. They were also attracted by the practical advantages of having to take their primary age children to one location.

4. Objectives and reasons

These proposals are part of a set of proposals which have two main objectives:

- To ensure a sufficient supply of school places in response to housing growth and other demographic changes. A number of housing sites are under construction in Attleborough and others have planning consent. In the longer term there are plans to build some 4,000 houses in the town.
- To create a system which is sustainable in the long term and is consistent with the County Council's view that all-through primary education is in the best interests of the children

There are many strong educational reasons for this preference:

- Stronger relationships are established with parents through consistent communication and reporting
- Children can benefit from a wider range of teacher expertise across key stages and a broader curriculum, and have greater continuity in their learning.

- It is easier to track children's progress and attainment in one school
- It is less likely that there will be a dip in children's performance at school because they do not have to move from one school to another when they are seven
- The curriculum can be planned coherently to support pupils' learning as they move through the school
- Over seven years, staff get to know children and their families very well, and can plan coherently to support the needs of individual children as they move through the school

In our experience, parents like the security of knowing that once their child has been admitted to Reception in a particular school, he/she is assured of that place until the time comes to move to the High School and parents who have a number of children in the primary phase would only have to build a relationship with one school.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

As stated above, these proposals for Attleborough Junior School are related to a similar proposal for Attleborough Infant School. Other primary phase schools in the Attleborough cluster group are already all-through primaries, and as such are not in the scope of this review. These proposals will mean that all the primary phase schools in the Attleborough Academy cluster will be all-through primary schools.

6. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met

The approved capital budget (May 2015) makes provision for the Attleborough project as follows:

- a. Land acquisition: Part of the block allocation
- b. New school building: £8m
- c. Enlargement of junior school: £2m

The latest assessment (November 2015) of costs is as follows:

- a. Land acquisition: £1.7m
- b. New school building: Phased build 630 primary £11.863m, all-in-one 630 primary £11.238m
- c. Enlargement of junior school: £2.495m

Available developer contributions signed up to at present are in the region of £700,000. Given the number of developments in the area, a substantial amount more should be available in the future.

Headteachers and governors have met with council officers to develop options for their buildings. Two open events to display the plans for the proposed new building to replace and relocate the infant school, and the extension and

remodeling works to the junior school took place on 24 February and 9 March 2016.

7. Implementation date and proposed stages

Implementation will begin in September 2017.

8. Consultation

The proposal for Attleborough Junior School formed part of an extensive consultation held between November 2015 and January 2016. As part of that consultation, a public meeting was held at the school on Monday 7 December 2015. The consultation document is attached. Responses were low, two respondents agreed with the proposal, one a school governor, the other a local resident. There have subsequently been some parental challenges to the proposed transitional arrangements which are being addressed locally by the governing bodies of both schools.

9. Related proposals

This proposal is related to the proposal published for Attleborough Infant School.

10. Procedure for making representations

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals by emailing us at schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk, or by writing to us at:

Attleborough Schools Consultation, FREEPOST, 1H2076, Floor 8, Bay 10, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp