

July 2020

Report to the Executive Director of Children's Services for decision on a statutory change of age range at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, Caister-on-Sea

The proposal

To change the age range from 2 – 7 to 4 – 7 years, at Caister Infant School & Nursery, Caister-on-Sea, from 1 September 2020.

An initial consultation for this proposal was held from 20th April to 22nd May 2020. 895 consultation documents were distributed, and 3 responses were received. After reviewing these responses, I agreed, as Executive Director of Children's Services, to proceed to the statutory Public Notice to change the age range at Caister Infant School & Nursery.

Public notice and representation period

A statutory public notice was issued by Norfolk County Council and was published in the Great Yarmouth Mercury on 5 June 2020. Copies were displayed at all the main entrances to Caister Infant School & Nursery. The four week representation period came to an end on 3 July 2020.

See Appendix 1 for the Public Notice and Appendix 2 for the Prescribed Information which includes a copy of the consultation document.

There was one response from a parent received during the statutory public notice period.

All statutory requirements in relation to the statutory consultation were complied with.

The decision

In coming to a decision, the Decision Maker is obliged to consider the following factors:

Education standards and diversity of provision

Caister Infant School & Nursery was rated Good by Ofsted in June 2016.

The change to the age range at Caister Infant School & Nursery is a result of recent changes in early years education by the Department for Education. Many families are now entitled to 30 hours per week of funded early years education, instead of the previous entitlement of 15 hours.

Governors at Caister Infant School & Nursery are keen to provide more flexibility of early year provision as requested by parents, but this proved difficult via the current maintained nursery arrangement. The Governors will run the nursery for 2 – 4 year olds via their Community Facility Powers from 1 September 2020. There will be no major

change to the school – both the school and nursery will continue to be governed by the same board and led by the same headteacher.

We cannot foresee any impact on other early years providers locally, as new places are not being created. The school's Published Admission Number (PAN) will remain at 90 places, the school capacity will remain at 270 pupils.

Equal opportunities issues

The Council has considered that there are no specific discrimination issues that arise from the change being proposed.

Community cohesion

The Council has considered that there are no specific community cohesion issues that arise from the change being proposed.

Travel and accessibility

It is not anticipated that there will be any increased impact on peak time traffic at the school, as the provision is already accommodated on the school site and not looking to expand the numbers.

Capital, school premises and playing fields

There are no project costs associated with this proposal, as the nursery places will be provided in the space that was previously used at Caister Infant School & Nursery.

Conclusion and recommendation

In considering the proposals, the Decision Maker can decide to:

- Reject the proposal
- Approval the proposal
- Approve the proposal with a modification
- Approve the proposal subject to it meeting a specific condition.

One response was received during the statutory notice period. They disagreed with the proposal and were concerned that the current early years provision for 2 – 3 year olds would stop, especially as this nursery is “considered the best in Caister”. However, the proposal is clear that the Nursery will continue in its current format, it is the governance of the Nursery that is changing to enable governors to continue to offer early years provision.

No new evidence has been received to discontinue with this proposal.

It is therefore **recommended** that the Director of Children's Services, in her role as Decision Maker as delegated by Norfolk County Council, should **decide in favour** of the proposal to change the age range of the school with effect from 1 September 2020.



Proposed change to Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, Norfolk County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to the following school, in accordance with section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, by changing the age range served by the school as indicated from 1 September 2020:-

Schools	May 2020 Number on roll	Present age range of pupils	Proposed age range of pupils	Annual intake		Capacity	
				Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, Kingston Avenue, Caister-on-sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 5ET	245	2 - 7	4 - 7	90	90	270	270

The Nursery will still provide early years education at Caister Infant (Community) School offering places to 2 – 4 year olds. This proposal relates to a change in how the early years provision is managed. Currently the school offers:

- Maintained nursery, as part of Caister Infant (Community) School, 51 places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Caister Infant (Community) school still want to provide nursery provision, however they want to manage it via Section 27 of the Community Powers Regulations, not as part of the main school. To do this, Caister Infant (Community) School must legally change the school age range.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained my email from schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk or by writing to the School Organisation Team, Children’s Services Floor 8 (Bay 34), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to, or make comments on, the proposal by sending them to the School Organisation Team, Children’s Services Floor 8 (Bay 34), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL or by email to: schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk

Signed: Sara Tough
Executive Director of Children's Services

Publication Date: 5 June 2020

Explanatory Note

The school’s determined admission arrangements for school entry in September 2020 remain unchanged and there is no change to the fact that a nursery place does not in any way guarantee a place at the school, as documented on the admissions policy on the school web site; <https://www.caisterinfant.co.uk/admissions/>

**Statutory Proposal to change the Age Range at
Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, Caister-on-sea**

1. Local Authority details

Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 2DL

2. School details

Name	Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery
Type	Community
Address	Kingston Avenue, Caister-on-sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 5ET
Age Range	2-7 years
Capacity	270 pupils; Numbers on roll = 245
Ofsted	Last Ofsted; 28 June 2016 Rating; Good

3. What changes are proposed?

This proposal is to change the age range from 2 – 7 years to 4 – 7 years, from 1 September 2020.

4. Why do we want to do this?

This proposal relates to a change in how the early years provision is managed. Currently the school offers maintained nursery, as part of Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery.

Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery still want to provide the nursery provision, but would like to manage it via Section 27 of the Community Powers Regulations, not as part of the main school. To do this Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery must legally change the school age range.

The Nursery is popular and provides 26 sessional places. It was rated Good by Ofsted in June 2016.

What will this mean for children aged 2 – 4 years?

Parents should not see any difference. They can still claim their funded entitlement per week for early years education. The early years education and preparation for starting school will continue as it does now.

The governors and headteacher at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery will continue to manage the nursery, as they do now. However, it will be through their Community Powers Regulations. This means governors can provide more flexible nursery provision to meet the needs of parents.

5. When will the changes happen?

If the proposal is agreed by the local decision maker; the Executive Director of Children's Services, Norfolk County Council, it is intended that the change in age range will be implemented on 1 September 2020.

6. Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

We cannot foresee any impact on other early years providers locally, as new places are not being created.

7. Will the proposed change result in additional traffic near the school

There will not be any impact on peak time traffic at the school, as the provision is already accommodated on the school site. There will not be an increase in the number of pupils attending the school site.

8. Will there be any changes to the school building?

No. The nursery places will continue to be provided in the same area within Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery.

9. Will this definitely happen?

No. There is a statutory process we must follow to make this type of change to schools.

10. Consultation

An initial consultation was held from 20th April to 22nd May 2020. Approximately 895 copies were distributed and 3 responses were received. Of those, 2 people neither agreed or disagreed with the proposal and 1 person agreed. The Consultation Report is available at Appendix A and includes the consultation proposal in Appendix B.

11. Related proposals

The proposal is not related to any other.

12. How can I make my views known?

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals by:

- Emailing us at: schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- Writing to us at: School Organisation Team, FREEPOST, 1H 2076, Floor 8, Bay 34, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.

13. What happens next?

The following table sets out the key dates for the consultation and decision making. At any point the proposal may be withdrawn. The dates set out below meet the Department for Education requirements for consultation on school organisation proposals.

School organisation process	Date
Public Notice published	5 June 2020
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	5 June – 3 July 2020
Decision required, no later than	31 August 2020
If approved, change of age starts	1 September 2020

Appendix A – Report on informal consultation

Report to the Executive Director of Children’s Services for permission to publish a public notice

The Proposal: To change the age range from 2 – 7 years to 4 – 7 years, at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, Caister-on-sea from 1 September 2020.

Reason for the proposed change	<p>The proposal is to change the age range from 2 – 7 years to 4 – 7 years, at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, Caister-on-sea from 1 September 2020. This proposal relates to a change in how the early years provision is managed. Currently the school offers maintained nursery, as part of Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery.</p> <p>Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery still want to provide the nursery provision, but would like to manage it via Section 27 of the Community Powers Regulations, not as part of the main school. To do this Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery must legally change the school age range.</p>		
Consultation details	<p>The consultation proposal is attached in Appendix A. The consultation ran from 20 April 2020 to 22 May (5 weeks). 895 reports were distributed to key stakeholders, including councillors, early years settings, local schools.</p> <p>All statutory requirements in relation to the statutory consultation, publication and decision-making were complied with.</p>		
Number of responses in favour of the proposal	1 respondent (34%) agreed	Number of responses against the proposal/no opinion	2 respondents (66%) neither agreed or disagreed
Summary of views expressed in favour of the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided that Nursery provision is held at or above the current levels I am wholly in favour of this change. • There must be no reduction, real or implied, in service levels and accessibility after this change in status. 		
Summary of views expressed against the proposal / no opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My agreement would depend on who would provide the provision going forward and how they would provide it. A good to outstanding provision going forward would be desirable in terms of providing the best outcomes for all children. • I would hope careful consideration as to who would provide the Childcare for 2-4 is undertaken. By changing the age range I believe it would better serve the children within the school. The EYFS provides a clear curriculum for this age range and with Ofsted inspections having a clear focus on curriculum, values and preparedness in the 2-4 age range it actually make sense that the 		

	<p>school is recognising this and providing differentiation to the age groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I feel that there could be job losses within the school if the age range changed. • Privatising the nursery would still allow the children to learn and jobs could be saved.
Commentary	The majority of respondents are not against the proposal. The nursery provision will continue to be run by the school, as it is now. It will offer the same provision as the current maintained nursery and it is not anticipated that there will be any change to the current school staffing structure. This proposal is to change the arrangements for the management of the nursery provision.
Resource implications	There are no resource implications. The Nursery will continue to occupy its current accommodation.
Recommendation	To proceed to Public Notice stage to change the age range from 2 – 7 years to 4 – 7 years, at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, Caister-on-sea.

I give permission for a public notice to be issued on the proposal to change the age range from 2 – 7 years to 4 – 7 years, at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, Caister-on-sea. This will appear in the Great Yarmouth Mercury on Friday 5th June 2020.



Signed: Sara Tough
(Executive Director of Children's Services)

Date: 27 May 2020

Consultation on proposed change of age range at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, Caister-on-sea

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to discuss the proposed changes to the provision at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, Caister-on-sea by changing the age range from 2 – 7 years to 4 – 7 years, from 1 September 2020.

The Federation's Governing Body would like to use Section 27 of the Community Powers Regulations to run the Nursery.

The consultation will run for 5 weeks from Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May 2020. Norfolk County Council will consider all comments received during the consultation period. We are consulting with all relevant stakeholders as required by law, when making changes to school age range arrangements.

Why are we proposing this change

This proposal relates to a change in how the early years provision is managed. Currently the school offers maintained nursery, as part of Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery.

Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery still want to provide nursery provision, but would like to manage it via Section 27 of the Community Powers Regulations, not as part of the main school. To do this Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery must legally change the school age range.

The Nursery is popular and provides 26 sessional places. It was rated Good by Ofsted in June 2016.

Parents should not see any difference. They can still claim their funded entitlement per week for early years education. The early years education and preparation for starting school will continue as it does now.

The governors and headteacher at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery will continue to manage the nursery, as they do now. However, it will be through their Community Powers Regulations. This means governors can provide more flexible nursery provision to meet the needs of parents.

What are the benefits of this proposal

Norfolk County Council and the governors at Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery believe this proposal will have the following benefits;

- Offer more flexibility to parents for nursery provision
- Strengthens the sustainability of the early years education offer by Caister Infant (Community) School & Nursery, by transferring the nursery to be managed via the Community Facility Powers
- There will be no change to the early years education offered to 2 – 4 year olds, which will be provided in the same accommodation.

The earliest this change could happen is 1st September 2020.

How can you have your say

We would like to hear your views on our proposal and you can do this by;

- accessing our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/caister-infant>
- or emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
- or writing to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, Floor 8 (Bay 34), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR,

We need all responses by 22 May 2020.