

Statutory Proposal to change the Age Range at Fakenham Infant and Nursery School

1. Local Authority details

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

2. School details

Name	Fakenham Infant & Nursery School
Type	Community
Address	Norwich Road, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 8HN
Age Range	3 – 7 years
Capacity	270 pupils; Numbers on roll 1 December 2018 = 233
Ofsted	Last Ofsted; 4 June 2015 Rating; Good

The school currently has an admission number of 90 places offered at Year Reception (YR). Pupils transfer to a Junior School at the end of Year 2.

3. What changes are proposed?

This proposal is to extend the school's age range from 3 - 7 to 2 – 7 years. Currently the school takes children into the Reception Class at the start of the school year after their fourth birthday. The admission number of the school will remain at 90 pupils in Year Reception. The school currently runs a maintained nursery for 3 and 4 year olds for 38 places (am and pm sessions). There are 8 places for 2 year olds each morning and afternoon.

4. Why do we want to do this?

Historically the provision for 2 year olds has been run on the school site by Colkirk pre-school, alongside the nursery provision for 3 and 4 year olds which is run by the school within the same building. The school was approached by the Colkirk management committee, with regard to a merger due to the difficulties in recruiting committee members.

A voluntary playgroup has a legal duty to run by an effective committee and it has proved increasingly difficult to recruit to this voluntary role. This has an impact on the sustainability of the playgroup and staff security.

In March 2018 the Governors agreed to take on the responsibility for 2 year old provision via Section 27 of the Community Powers Regulations. This provision started on 19 October 2018. The school and playgroup have seen the responsibility for 2 year old provision transferring to the school as a positive and exciting move which will not only protect the existing places which are already offered on site but also strengthen the early education offer for parents.

This proposal to change the age range formalises the governance arrangements for the 2 year old provision by legally changing the age range of Fakenham Infant and Nursery School.

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 March 2019.

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. The proposal may in fact see a reduction in the number of journeys made by those parents with children in both settings.

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

No. The nursery places will be provided in the space that was previously used by Colkirk pre-school.

9. Will this definitely happen?

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

10. Related proposals

The proposal is not related to any other.

11. How can I make my views known?

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

- Completing the online survey; <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/fakenham>
- 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.

12. 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	4 January 2019
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	3 - 31 January 2019
Decision required, no later than	1 March 2019
If approved, change of age starts	1 March 2019