

Hethersett (Church of England) Voluntary Controlled Junior School Statutory Proposal to change the Age Range to admit pupils from the age of 2.

1. LA details

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

2. School details

Hethersett CE VC Junior School
22 Queens Road
Hethersett
Norfolk
NR9 3DB

3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

Norfolk County Council has a duty to ensure a sufficient supply of school places to respond to housing growth and other demographic changes. We are responding to the major housing allocation of 1200 dwellings in Hethersett by proposing a major change to the way the primary phase of schooling is organised in the area. At the heart of this proposal is a brand-new school building in the new development area.

It is proposed to change the age-range at Hethersett Woodside Infant & Nursery School and at Hethersett (Church of England) Voluntary Controlled Junior School, so that both become full 2-11 primary schools with nurseries *and* the relocation of Woodside Infant and Nursery School to a new site in the major housing area north of the area.

At the moment, Hethersett children start their statutory education in Year R at the Infant School and have to transfer to the Junior School after three years. We are proposing to change this pattern so that all children in Hethersett can attend one of two all-through primary schools (from Reception to the end of Year 6).

We will undertake a capital programme of refurbishment and expansion at Hethersett CE VC Junior School, to prepare for the increase in pupil numbers.

Norfolk County Council's policy on school organisation is to favour all-through primary schools where these are achievable.

If this proceeds, the change would be made from 1 September 2019.

An initial statutory consultation was held between Monday 12 June and Friday 21 July 2017. Over 722 consultation documents were distributed in accordance with the Department for Education guidance on statutory school organisation changes. Consultees included pupils; parents and carers; staff; other schools in the local area; the local MP; the local District and County Councillors; Diocesan Bodies and early years providers. The consultation document explained the proposal and provided a range of means to respond.

Four stakeholder meetings were agreed between the Head teachers and the County Council prior to the start of the consultation and were held as follows:

20 June from 9 – 10am at Hethersett Woodside Infant and Nursery School – 13 people attended

21 June from 6 - 7pm at Hethersett CE VC Junior School – 10 people attended

26 June from 6 – 7pm at School – Hethersett Woodside Infant and Nursery School - 32 people attended

4 July from 3.15 – 4.15pm at Hethersett CE VC Junior School – 14 people attended

4. Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

Norfolk County Council's policy is to expand schools that are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Hethersett CE VC Junior School was inspected in 2017 and rated Good.

Norfolk County Council's policy on school organisation is to favour all-through primary schools, where this is achievable. Whilst there is little difference in the current performance of one form entry and two form entry, we know that larger schools find it easier to attract strong leaders and teachers and are more sustainable.

This proposal offers parents the choice of two primary schools in the Hethersett area.

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

This proposal is related to a proposal to expand the age range of Hethersett Woodside Infant and Nursery School, to become an all through primary school and relocate the school to a new site within the strategic housing development, north of Hethersett.

6. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

Hethersett CE VC Junior School will need refurbishment and expansion. The scheme is at initial development stage and is funded at present for £50,000 development costs. Further funding as the scheme develops will be drawn, first, from available section 106 funding and, secondly, from Basic Need unallocated. Approvals will be sought through the 2018/19 Corporate capital development process starting in September 2017.

7. Implementation date and proposed stages

The proposal will be implemented on 1 September 2019.

8. Related proposals

This proposal is related to the proposal to expand and relocate Hethersett Woodside Infant and Nursery School. This will change the age range from 3 - 7 to 2 – 11 from 1st September 2019 and relocate the school to a new site within the strategic housing development, north of Hethersett.

9. Procedure for making representations

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals by responding to the survey at <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/hethersett/> by emailing us at schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk, or by writing to us at:

Hethersett Consultation, FREEPOST, 1H 2076, Floor 8, Bay 29, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.