

Statutory Proposal to change the Age Range at St George's Primary & Nursery School

1. Local Authority details

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

2. School details

Name	St Georges Primary & Nursery School
Type	Community
Address	St Peters Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 3BQ
Age Range	3 – 11 years
Capacity	262 pupils; Numbers on roll 1 April 2019 = 256
Ofsted	Last Ofsted; 20 June 2018 Rating; Good

The school currently has an admission number of 30 places offered at Year Reception (YR).

3. What changes are proposed?

This proposal is to extend the school's age range from 3 - 11 to 4 – 11 years, from 1 September 2019.

4. Why do we want to do this?

Currently the main school (St George's Primary) takes children into the Reception class at the start of the school year, after their fourth birthday and this will continue.

This proposal relates to a change in how the early years provision is managed. Currently the school offers:

- Maintained nursery, as part of St George's Primary school, 52 places for 3 and 4 year olds

St George's Primary school still want to provide nursery provision, but want to manage it via Section 27 of the Community Powers Regulations, not as part of the main school. To do this, St George's Primary School must legally change the school age range.

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 St. George's Primary School 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 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. 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 St. George's Primary School

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 25 February to 5 April 2019. During that period, two public meetings were held at the school on 28 February and 7 March. No parents/members of the public attended. The consultation document is attached at Appendix A. Approximately 351 copies were distributed and 25 responses were received. Of those 16 people agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal and 4 people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal. 5 people neither agreed or disagreed. Consultation Report is available at 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	26 April 2019
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	26 April – 24 May 2019
Decision required, no later than	24 July 2019
If approved, change of age starts	1 September 2019



Consultation on proposed change of age at St George's Primary & Nursery School, Great Yarmouth

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to discuss the proposed changes to the provision at St George's Primary and Nursery School, Great Yarmouth, by changing the age range from 3 – 11 years to 4 – 11 years, from 1 September 2019.

The published admission number (PAN) and admission arrangements for the main school will remain the same.

The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Monday 25th February – Friday 5th April 2019. 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

The proposed changes at St. Georges Primary & Nursery School are 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.

This means parents are looking for more flexibility from nursery providers. Governors at St. Georges are keen to provide more flexibility, but this is proving difficult via the current maintained nursery arrangement. The Governors are proposing to run the nursery for 2 – 4 year olds, via their Community Facility Powers from 1 September 2019.

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.

What are the benefits of this proposal

Norfolk County Council and the governors at St. George's Primary & Nursery School 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 St. Georges, 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 2019.

How can you have your say

We will be holding drop-in events where you can come and find out more about this proposal:

- 2 – 3pm, Thursday 28th February, at St. George's Primary & Nursery School
- 5 – 6pm, Thursday 7th March, at St. George's Primary & Nursery School

If you are unable to attend these events but would like to comment on our proposal, please use one of the following;

- Complete the attached form and hand it to the school office
- Write to School Organisation Team, FREEPOST IH 2076, Floor 8 (Bay 34), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH
- Email schoolreweiv@norfolk.gov.uk
- Access our online survey: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/st-georges>

We need all responses by 5 April 2019.

Appendix B – report on the consultation responses



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

The proposal;

To change the age range of St. George’s Primary & Nursery School, Great Yarmouth, from 3 – 11 to 4 – 11 from 1 September 2019.

Reason for the proposed change	The proposal is to change the age range to the main school, to change the governance arrangements for the nursery provision. This will be managed by governors, via their Community Facility Powers, which enables them to offer a more flexible early years provision, as requested by parents.
Consultation details (see Appendix A for the consultation document)	An informal consultation was held from 25 February – 5 April, to develop the proposal to change the age range. 351 consultation documents were distributed to parents, governors, staff at St. George’s Primary & Nursery and key stakeholders. Two consultation events were held on 28 February and 7 March. There were no attendees.
Number of responses	25 responses received. 64% (16 respondents) agreed or strongly agreed 16% (4 respondents) disagreed or strongly disagreed 20% (5) neither agreed or disagreed.
Summary of views expressed in favour of the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More flexibility for parents who want their children to receive nursery education at St Georges • More flexibility for parents to have a job with more hours per week • Strengthens the sustainability of the early years education offer • School continually support parents to a high standard and I feel they make decisions in best interests of children • It is easier and more able to focus on school activities • I agree that under 4 be in the same group as nursery, and above 4 in school group (academic) • It is beneficial for parents and children • I know that my son is handled by professional teachers and with good facilities that can support the development of his learning process. • The change of hours is an added value to parents and children, because in my case I have two children and different schedules, which becomes very complicated for me. The children also need more time for better learning.

Summary of views expressed against the proposal/no opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have one more child and when he will be 3 years old, I wish to register him with same nursery • As a private run playgroup the more schools that open nurseries taking children from a young age, making it very hard for us to continue as we are getting very low in numbers
Commentary	The majority of respondents are supportive of the proposal and view it as a positive change for the children and the community. The nursery provision will continue to be run by the school. It will offer the same provision as the current maintained nursery.
Resource implications	There are no resource implications. The Nursery will continue to provide early years provision.
Recommendation	To proceed to the Public Notice statutory proposal, to change the age range of St. George's Primary & Nursery School to admit pupils from 4 – 11.

I give permission for a public notice to be issued on the proposal to change the age range of St. George's Primary & Nursery School, Great Yarmouth. This will appear in the Yarmouth Mercury on Friday 26 April 2019.

Signed:



(Executive Director of Children's Services)

Date:

9/4/19