

June 2019

Report to the Executive Director of Children's Services for decision on a statutory change of age range at St George's Primary School, Great Yarmouth

The proposal

To change the age range from 3 – 11 to 4 – 11 years, at St George's Primary School, Great Yarmouth, from 1 September 2019.

Public notice and representation period

A statutory public notice was issued by Norfolk County Council and was published in the Great Yarmouth Mercury on 26 April 2019. Copies were displayed at all the main entrances to St George's Primary School. The four week representation period came to an end on 24 May 2019.

See Appendix 1 for the Public Notice and Appendix 2 for the Prescribed Information.

There were no responses.

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

St George's Primary School was rated Good by Ofsted in June 2018.

The change to the age range at St. George's Primary School 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 St. George's Primary School 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 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.

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 30 places, the school capacity will remain at 210 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 St George's Primary School.

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.

There were **no** responses to the proposal during the statutory notice period.

It is therefore **recommended** that the Director of Children's Services, in her role as Decision Maker as delegated by the Children's Services Committee, should decide in favour of the proposal to change the age range of the school with effect from 1 September 2019.

Appendix 1 – Public Notice



Proposed change to St. George's Primary & Nursery School in Great Yarmouth

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 2019:-

Schools	April 2019 Number on roll	Present age range of pupils	Proposed age range of pupils	Annual intake		Capacity	
				Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
St Georges Primary & Nursery School, St Peters Road, Great Yarmouth Norfolk NR30 3BQ	256	3 - 11	4 - 11	30	30	262	262

The Nursery will still provide early years education at St. Georges Primary School, offering places to 3 – 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 St George's Primary school, 52 places for 3 and 4 year olds

St George's Primary 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, St George's Primary 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: 26 April 2019

Explanatory Note

The school's determined admission arrangements for school entry in September 2019 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://stgeorgesprimary.norfolk.sch.uk/index.php/policies/admission-policy/>

**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.

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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