

Report to the Director of Children's Services for decision on a statutory change of age range at St John's Community Primary School and Nursery, Horning

The proposal

- a. To change the age range at St John's Community Primary School and Nursery, Horning Road, Hoveton, Norwich, Norfolk, NR12 8NX from 3 - 11 to 4 - 11 years from 1 September 2024. The published admission number (PAN) for the main school will not be affected by these proposals. The nursery provision will be offered in a more flexible way, according to parental demand.
- b. To run all nursery provision for 3 year olds via Community Facility Powers under the direction of the School Governors from 1 September 2024.

Public notice and representation period

A statutory public notice was issued by the local authority and was published:

- In the Eastern Daily Press on 24 June 2024.
- Copies were displayed at all the main entrances to St John's Community Primary School and Nursery.
- Shared with parents (440), federation staff (50) and governors

The four week representation period came to an end on 19 July 2024.

There were **2** responses:

1 agreed with the proposal.

1 strongly disagreed with the proposal.

Comments were made in response, included the following:

- Concern relating to changing start and end times of the nursery, impacting parents with children attending both the school and nursery.

Two parents approached the school to gain reassurance that the nursery would remain open in September. However, they did not choose to formally respond to the public notice.

A representative from the Early Years Learning Team commented on behalf of Norfolk County Council, stating: "The school have been running the nursery on this basis for a trial period to ascertain if the quality of provision could be maintained alongside offering a sustainable, flexible service to families. From feedback received from the school this model appears to offer the best option to ensure the longevity of the provision, which is needed within the local area. We understand that the offer currently being made to families will remain, so there are no implications for existing or future users.

Due to the current expansion of funded early years provision and the expected increase in demand from working parents, we would ask that the school continues to review the offer made to families to ensure it is meeting the needs of the local community”.

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

Nursery provision will continue to be provided on the site of St John’s Community Primary School and Nursery, both the school and nursery will continue to be governed by the same board and led by the same head teacher. The nursery provision will operate via Section 27 Community Facility Powers under the direction of the School Governors of the Green Shoots Federation.

Parents are increasingly seeking more flexibility from nursery places, to support them with work and other commitments. This can be difficult for some schools to manage when nursery places are offered via a maintained nursery model, which the school currently has, where there is less scope for flexibility and the related costs are high.

This change provides an opportunity for the school to re-configure how early years provision is delivered to enable it to meet the needs of local parents and remain sustainable.

There will be no material change to the school’s operation – both 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 232 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 that 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 continue be provided in the space that was previously used.

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 was a low response to the proposal (2 representations) during the statutory notice period. The concerns on the potential impact to parents with children attending both the nursery and school have been noted. However, the proposal does not set out intentions to alter the start or end times of the school or nursery day.

There will be no material change to the school's operation – both school and nursery will continue to be governed by the same board and led by the same headteacher.

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 changing the age range of the school with effect from 1 September 2024.

July 2024

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

Proposal to change the age range of St John's Community Primary School and Nursery, Hoveton from 3-11 years to 4-11 years from 1 September 2024

Notice is hereby given that Norfolk County Council approves the above statutory proposal as set out in the public notice to change the age range of St John's Community Primary School and Nursery from 1 September 2024.

This proposal under section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 is to make a prescribed alteration to St John's Community Primary School and Nursery, Horning Road, Hoveton, Norfolk NR12 8NX, to change the age range from 3 -11 to 4-11 years from 1 September 2024.

The reasons for this decision are that:

- The statutory procedural requirements have been met.
- The proposal meets the criteria laid down in statutory guidance in relation to the likely impact of the proposal on standards and school improvement, local choice and diversity, surplus places, community cohesion and race equality.
- The views of all interested parties, including those most likely to be affected, have been considered.
- There was very limited objection to the proposal.



Signed:

Date: 01 August 2024

Sara Tough
Executive Director of Children's Services
Norfolk County Council