

June 2019

Report to the Executive Director of Children's Services for decision on a statutory change of age range at Drake Primary School, Thetford

The proposal

To change the age range from 3 – 11 to 4 – 11 years, at Drake Primary School, Thetford, from 1 September 2019.

Public notice and representation period

A statutory public notice was issued by Norfolk County Council and was published in the Thetford & Brandon Times on 24 April 2019. Copies were displayed at all the main entrances to Drake Primary School. The four week representation period came to an end on 21 May 2019.

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

There was **1** response. Thetford Town Council discussed this proposal at their meeting on 14 May 2019 and support this proposal to change the age range.

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

Drake Primary School was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in October 2013. The school currently provides early years provision in two ways;

- Nursery
- Drake Little Pirates Day Care.

The proposed change to the age range at Drake Primary School means that governors can still offer early years education, but through Little Pirates Day Care. The school want to do this as 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 Drake 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 all their provision for 2 – 4 year olds, via their Community Facility Powers from 1 September 2019, at Drake Little Pirates Day Care and close the Nursery. There will be no major change to the school – both the school and Drake Little Pirates Day Care 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 60 places, the school capacity will remain at 420 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 Drake 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 was 1 response to the proposal during the statutory notice period, which was in support.

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.

Proposed change to Drake Primary School, Thetford

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
Drake Primary School Fairfields Thetford Norfolk IP24 1JW	365	3 - 11	4 - 11	60	60	420	420

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained by emailing 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: 24 April 2019

Explanatory Note

This proposal relates to a change in the early years provision. Currently the school offers;

- a maintained nursery for 3 and 4 year olds for 52 places (am and pm sessions)
- Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care from birth to 4 year olds.

Both settings (Drake Primary Nursery and Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care) offer the same provision. From 1 September 2019, Drake Primary School wants to offer all nursery & day care through Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care only.

Statutory Proposal to change the Age Range at Drake Primary School

1. Local Authority details

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

2. School details

Name	Drake Primary School
Type	Community
Address	Fairfields, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 1JW
Age Range	3 – 11 years
Capacity	420 pupils; Numbers on roll 1 April 2019 = 365
Ofsted	Last Ofsted; 8 October 2013 Rating; Outstanding

The school currently has an admission number of 60 places offered at Year Reception (YR).

3. What changes are proposed?

This proposal is to change 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 (Drake Primary School) 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 the early years provision. Currently the school offers;

- a maintained nursery for 3 and 4 year olds for 52 places (am and pm sessions)
- Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care from birth to 4 year olds.

Both settings (Drake Primary Nursery and Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care) offer the same provision. From 1 September 2019, Drake Primary School wants to offer all nursery & day care through Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care only. To do this, Drake Primary School has to 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. Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care is a not-for-profit organisation. The early years education and preparation for starting school will continue as it does now.

The governors and the headteacher of Drake Primary School will continue to manage Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care, via their Community Facility Powers. The staff in the Drake Primary Nursery will move with the current nursery children, up to the main school in September 2019. Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care is graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

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 the offer for early years provision remains the same.

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 Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care places will be provided in the space that is currently used by the Nursery.

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 11 March to 5 April 2019. During that period, two public meetings were held at the school on 15 March and 20 March. 3 parents/members of the public attended. The consultation document is attached at Appendix A. Approximately 735 copies were distributed and 4 responses were received. Of those 1 people agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal and 3 people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal. 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	24 April 2019
Statutory consultation (representation stage)	24 April – 22 May 2019
Decision required, no later than	22 July 2019
If approved, change of age starts	1 September 2019



Consultation on proposed change of age at Drake Primary School, Thetford

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to discuss the proposed changes to the provision at Drake Primary School, Thetford, 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 4 weeks from Monday 11th March – 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

Drake Primary School currently provides early years provision in two ways;

- Nursery
- Drake Little Pirates Day Care.

The proposed change at Drake Primary School means that governors can still offer early years education, but through Little Pirates Day Care. The school are proposing this as 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 Drake Primary School are keen to provide more flexibility for parents, but this is proving difficult via the current maintained nursery arrangement. The Governors are proposing to run all their provision for 2 – 4 year olds, via their Community Facility Powers from 1 September 2019, at Drake Little Pirates Day Care and close the Nursery.

There will be no major change to the school – both the school and Drake Little Pirates Day Care 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 Drake Primary School believe this proposal will have the following benefits;

- Offer more flexibility to parents for day care provision
- Strengthens the sustainability of the early years education offer by Drake Primary School, by only offering Drake Little Pirates Day Care, which is 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:

- 8.45 – 9.45am, Friday 15th March, at Drake Primary School
- 5.30 – 6.30pm, Wednesday 20th March, at Drake Primary 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/thetford>

We need all responses by 5 April 2019.

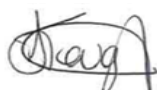
Appendix B – Report on Consultation **Report to the Executive Director of Children’s Services for permission to publish a public notice**

The proposal;

Change the age range of Drake Primary School Thetford 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/day care provision. The school currently offers a 52 place maintained nursery for 3 -4 year olds and Little Pirates Nursery Day Care from birth – 4 year olds. Both settings offer the same provision. The change of age range in the main school, will enable the governors to run one provision, through Little Pirates, via their Community Facility Powers, which offers more flexibility in early years provision to parents.
Consultation details	An informal consultation was held from 11 March – 5 April, to develop the proposal to change the age range. 735 consultation documents were distributed to parents, governors, staff at Drake Primary School and key stakeholders. Two consultation events were held on 15 March and 20 March. There were 3 attendees.
Number of responses	4 responses received. 1 agreed or strongly agreed 3 disagreed or strongly disagree.
Summary of views expressed in favour of the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree with this direction Drake school is going. I have been assured that this will not have any negative impact on the school.
Summary of views expressed against the proposal/no opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe little pirates is a profit making business and runs very differently from a council led school. Age 3 is the most important learning age and the school/council should be inclusive rather than detaching themselves. Private nurseries dictate sessional times and costs • I have a 2 year old child. I am dreaming that he can go to this school from January. • Current provision within Thetford for 3 year + funded options is already declining due to closure of Surestart Nurseries. • I feel this setting stands out from all the other settings in our area, staff and facilities are brilliant and give the best start in education to the children. Like the 15 funded hours spread over week which runs with school term and are shorter sessions, especially for summer born children. Staff are part of the school team, giving access to the school events and facilities. Concern about the longer day care hours.
Commentary	<p>The response rate was low and it is clear that there is some mis-understanding about the Little Pirates provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not a profit making business - It is and will continue to be run by the school - It will offer same provision as the current maintained nursery i.e. shorter sessions linked to school terms, as well as longer day session starting from 7.30am - It will continue to provide 3 year + funded options. <p>This proposal will enable the school to offer more flexible day care and continue its strong links as part of the school.</p>
Resource implications	There are no resource implications. The school will continue to provide early years provision, through Little Pirates Nursery & Day Care.
Recommendation	To proceed to the Public Notice statutory proposal, to change the age range of Drake Primary 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 Drake Primary School, Thetford. This will appear in the Thetford and Brandon Times on 24th April 2019.



Signed: (Executive Director of Children’s Services)

Date: _____ 9 April 2019 _____