

**From:** Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

**To:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

**Subject:** Proposal to change the age-range of Bysing Wood Primary School in Faversham from 4-11 years to 2-11 years, through the addition of a school run nursery

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Key Decision:** No

**Decision No:** 19/00009

**Past Pathway of Paper:** N/A

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member decision

**Electoral Division:** Faversham Division, Mr Anthony Hook

**Summary:**

This report outlines the proposal and timeline to change the age-range of Bysing Wood Primary School in Faversham from 4-11 years to 2-11 years, through the addition of a school run nursery.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to agree to:

- a) issue a public notice to permanently change the age range of the school and subject to no objections being received to the public notice; and
- b) change the age range from 4-11 years to 2-11 years in order to establish a school run nursery.

**Introduction**

1. The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-2022 sets out our commissioning intentions for education and how we will carry out our responsibility for early education and childcare. This includes overarching aims to meet the duty on all local authorities in the Childcare Act 2016:

- to improve outcomes for young children
- secure sufficient childcare to allow parents to work
- ensure sufficient and flexible childcare including 15 hours of early education for eligible 2-year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds and 30 hours of free childcare for all 3 and four year olds of eligible parents.

The Proposal supports the aims of the Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2016-2019 to:

- develop a more integrated approach to early years and childcare provision and services
- ensure better continuity of provision and services across 0-5 age range
- ensure an increasing number of children are school ready at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- mitigate the effect of poverty, inequality and disadvantage through the provision of high-quality early education and childcare, including support for provision and carers and narrowing early development achievement gaps.

## **2. Background**

2.1 Bysing Wood Primary School currently provides early years education for children who turn five when in the Reception class. Following a decision to close taken in December 2018 by the Management Committee of Rainbow pre-school (located on the school site), the Local Authority has asked the school to consider running a nursery provision in the former Rainbow accommodation. This accommodation is owned by KCC and adjoins the Children's Centre buildings. The sudden closure of the nursery has left a shortfall of pre-school places in the locality. Although the children attending the nursery at the time of closure were found alternative places in Faversham, these provisions are now at capacity and the school and nursery serve an area where several new housing developments have commenced build-out.

2.2 Bysing Wood Primary School was judged "Good" by Ofsted in February 2017 with strong and effective leadership. The Local Authority is confident that the school has the capacity to establish a successful nursery provision. This would ensure that sufficient pre-school places would be available for local families and to meet increasing demand likely to arise from the nearby housing developments.

## **3. The Proposal**

3.1 It is proposed to change the age-range of Bysing Wood Primary School from 4-11 years to 2-11 years. The Governing Body fully supports the option of establishing a nursery. The nursery provision would operate under the school's Ofsted registration and provide places for two, three and four year olds. As Rainbow pre-school has already closed, there is the possibility of establishing the new nursery provision from the start of the summer term, subject to business planning and Cabinet Member agreement. Below is an estimated timeline for the process:

Public Consultation Period	07 January to 04 February 2019
Report on the outcome of the consultation for circulation to Cabinet Committee	08 February 2019
Public Notice period if agreed	07 March to 04 April 2019

Implementation	From the start of the summer term or by 01 September 2019
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3.2 This timeline would require a decision to be taken outside of Cabinet Committee in order to complete process and allow the nursery to be established from the summer term 2019.

3.3 The views of the Local Member for Faversham Division, Mr Anthony Hook, will be sought during the consultation period.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to agree to:

- a) issue a public notice to permanently change the age range of the school and subject to no objections being received to the public notice; and
- b) change the age range from 4-11 years to 2-11 years in order to establish a school run nursery.

#### **5. Background Documents (plus links to document)**

8.1 Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

8.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision  
[www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision)

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