

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

19/00009

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

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

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

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, I propose to:

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

Reason(s) for decision:

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.

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.

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

Equality Implications

An EQIA was completed as part of the process and found via this link:

<https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/BysingWoodPrimarySchool/consultationHome>

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for KCC. The former Rainbow Pre-school accommodation forms part of the Children's Centre located on the Bysing Wood Primary School site. The school will be able to take over this accommodation and will themselves finance the purchase of the equipment from the former Rainbow Pre-school.

Legal Implications

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Cabinet Committee considered a report at its meeting on 11 January 2019. The minute extract is as follows:

School Expansions/Alterations

(Item 14)

Ms White (Area Education Officer - East Kent) and Mr Adams (Area Education Officer - South Kent) were in attendance for this item.

1. The Chairman set out the proposed decisions to expand or alter the following schools: Speldhurst Church of England Primary School, Tunbridge Wells, Finberry Primary School, Ashford, and Bysing Wood Primary School, Faversham.

2. RESOLVED that the decision (19/00009) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to 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 change the age range from 4-11 years to 2-11 years in order to establish a school run nursery, be endorsed.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

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.

This proposal will allow the Council to continue to offer provision for the residents of Kent and to meet our duties as an Local Authority.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None.


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14 February 2019
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signed

date