

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

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

**Subject:** **Recommendation to approve a change to the age range of Seal Church of England Primary School, Zambra Way, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0DJ site to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4-year-old children from September 2019**

**Classification:** **Unrestricted**

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

**Electoral Division:** Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley

**Summary:**

This report informs members of a proposal to change the age range of Seal Church of England Primary School, Zambra Way, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0DJ site to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4-year-old children from September 2019.

**Recommendation:**

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to approve the change of age range of Seal Church of England Primary School, Zambra Way, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0DJ site to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4 year old children from September 2019.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Seal Village Pre-School is located on the site of Seal Church of England Primary School and the majority of their children feed into the school through the KCC admission policy. The proposal is that the Seal Village Pre-school become part of Seal Church of England Primary School and is run as a maintained pre-school.
- 1.2. The pre-school has access to the grounds, however becoming part of the school would mean they have improved and increased access to all facilities within.
- 1.3. This proposal will not create additional provision on site. As such, it will not attract additional road traffic to and from the school.
- 1.4. The school offers extensive CPD to staff and would aim to continue to develop the staff within the current pre-school. Through this new arrangement, the children within the pre-school would be given Forest School as part of their Early Years curriculum offer, along with the use of the school's technology, resources and facilities. There would be greater transition for children from pre-school into Foundation Stage as they would be situated in a classroom next door within the main building. The pre-school would be located within the new building planned

to be built this year and this will give the children more space and a nicer environment in which to thrive.

## **2. Financial Implications**

### **2.1. Capital**

There is no capital cost to KCC.

### **2.2. Revenue**

Funding will be according to the Early Years Funding Formula.

### **2.3. Human**

The existing staff will be retained, however, they will be employed by the school and contracted to Kent County Council rather than through a privately run pre-school. The existing Pre-School will dissolve its charity and as part of a TUPE process, the staff will transfer over and be part of the school.

## **3. Kent Policy Framework**

- 3.1. The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2019-23 identified a pressure on nursery places in the Sevenoaks district due to increased demand from changes in demographics and small scale house building. This proposal will ensure the continued viability and sustainability of the provision at Seal Church of England Primary School.

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. A consultation was held from 7 May 2019 to 4 June 2019, including a drop-in session on 13 May 2019. There were two attendees at the drop-in session, but no consultation responses were received.

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

Equalities impact Assessment

The impact assessment can be found via this link:

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

## **5. Views**

### **5.1. The Local Member**

Mr Roger Gough has been informed of the proposal. His comment was: "Seal Church of England Primary School is a good school and the proposal to change the age range of the school to include nursery provision has my support."

## 5.2. Area Education Officer:

The analysis of the demand for Early Years provision in the area, indicates that there are immediate pressures and we cannot afford to lose the capacity provided by this provision. I therefore support the proposal.

## 6. Conclusions

- 6.1. Forecasts for Early Years demand for the Sevenoaks East planning area indicate a continuing demand for Early Years places.
- 6.2. The existing provision will function more efficiently under the governorship of Seal CE Primary School, without which the future of the provision is far from secure.

## 7. Recommendations

7.1 The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to approve the change of age range of Seal Church of England Primary School, Zambra Way, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0DJ site to include nursery provision for 2, 3 and 4-year-old children from September 2019.

## 8 Background Documents

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

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-thecouncil/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunitiesimproving-outcomes>

- 8.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision

[www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision)

## 9. Contact details

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