

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO LOWER THE AGE RANGE OF KELSALL PRIMARY SCHOOL, FLAT LANE, KELSALL, TARPORLEY, CHESHIRE CW6 0PU FROM 5 – 11 YEARS TO 2 – 11 YEARS

PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this consultation document is to provide information relating to a proposal for an increased provision of child care and education service to the community of Kelsall and the surrounding area based on the Kelsall Primary School site by a merging of the current Kelsall Pre-School and Kelsall Primary School provisions. This would in effect lower the age range of Kelsall Primary School from 5 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years. The high-level vision would be to offer a comprehensive wrap around child care and education service provision for the age groups 0-11 years.

BACKGROUND

There have been tentative discussions between both schools over the past few years about the possibility of Kelsall Primary School and Kelsall Pre-School merging to form one educational establishment providing a single education service for pupils within Kelsall and the surrounding areas. Both schools have “Outstanding” OFSTED gradings and it is now felt there is an opportunity to provide an increased provision of child care and education service to the community of Kelsall and the surrounding area based on the Kelsall Primary School site by the merging of the current Kelsall Pre-School and Kelsall Primary School. The initial vision is for provision for 2 -11-year olds and the longer-term vision to offer a comprehensive wrap around child care and education service provision for the age groups 0-11 years.

The capital costs involved with this merger would be subject to a grant application to central government

CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION

Kelsall Preschool currently offers Early Years educational provision for children from the age of 2 years up to 4 years. There is also a ‘Rising Fives’ provision on Friday afternoon for children due to start Reception class. The provision can be either funded or non-funded depending upon age, family circumstances and the number of hours attended.

Sessions are offered for each weekday Monday – Thursday and Friday morning, with Friday afternoon reserved for Rising Fives. There are three sessions;

- 09.15hrs – 11.45hrs,
- 11.45hrs – 12.45hrs
- 12.45hrs – 15.15hrs.

Numbers of children attending each session varies between 20 – 27.

27 is the maximum number that can be catered for at each session.

There is a total of 56 children on the books presently.

Before and after school club services are offered between 08.00hrs – 08.45hrs and 15.15hrs – 18.00hrs. There are presently 94 children on the books. There are up to 48 children who regularly attend after school club and 42 children who attend the before school Breakfast Club’. Friday’s are generally quieter with fewer children using this care provision. Kelsall Primary School premises are utilised for part of this provision due to; the high number of children attending, the differing needs of older children and the

limited space and resources available at the preschool facilities.

Holiday Club. Kelsall Preschool and Klub do not presently offer holiday club provision due to the previous lack of uptake. Kelsall Primary School has started to offer limited holiday time sports clubs, but again uptake has been low.

PROPOSAL

High Level Long-Term Vision

The high-level vision would be to offer a comprehensive wrap around child care and education service provision for the age groups of 0 years – 11 years.

Nursery & Early Years

The provision of nursery and Early Years services would aim to meet local demand for this provision. It was expected that the numbers for nursery provision would lower but may grow over time. It was suggested that this provision would only be offered once the Early Years and club services were established, however any new building work and facilities would need to be designed to accommodate this service.

The provision of Early Years (2-4 years) service would be a priority with maximum numbers set within national guidelines (i.e. 26 children in each group per session).

Term Time Before / After School Care.

A provision would be offered for term time week day before and after school care for age range 0-11 years from 07.30hrs until 18.30hrs. No maximum number would be set.

Holiday Club

A provision would be offered for out of term holiday club for age range 0-11 years from 07.30hrs until 18.30hrs. No maximum number would be set. The intention is to offer a range of engaging activities relevant to different age groups, both on and off site.

Cost of Services

The cost of the service provision would be comparable to other providers of similar services in the area, plus be competitive. The costing model would be developed once more detail had been defined.

ACCOMMODATION NEEDS.

The Governing Body is proposing to lower the age range of Kelsall Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years to develop a nursery class for a maximum of 26 pupils at any one time, in addition to the current reception class. The nursery class will require a qualified teacher and appropriately qualified teaching assistant(s).

The governing body does not consider the current accommodation to be suitable. Time has been spent discussing new accommodation requirements to enable the vision to be delivered. It was agreed that this new accommodation would need to extend from the existing school hall area towards the school field (allotments area). The school hall itself would need to be extended and a number of additional rooms (estimated x 4) in the extension. Also needed would be extra storage and other necessary facilities (cloakrooms, wash / shower, storage, etc.). Easy access to covered outside play area would also be needed. Catering and office needs were also considered, alongside the need for safe access to and from the building. It is proposed to obtain drawings of possible schemes once the consultation has been concluded.

The development of a nursery provision will not alter the capacity of the primary school which is 210 pupils.

ADMISSION CRITERIA – please see notes below

a) Nursery

i. If at any time in the future the Academy opens a nursery, the number of places available will be published in advance on the Academy website. The nursery will adopt the same admissions arrangements as the rest of the Academy, with the exception that no appeal will be allowed against the refusal of a place.

ii. It is important to note that attendance/enrolment in the nursery will be distinct and separate and have no relevance to attendance in the primary or other sections of the Academy for which a separate application will have to be made in accordance with the LA's co-ordinated admissions arrangements. No appeal will be allowed against the refusal of a place in the nursery.

iii. Oversubscription – If the nursery is oversubscribed, priority will be given to children with Statements of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plans where the Academy is named. The remaining places will then be offered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria which applies to the Academy as a whole (as described in paragraph 12 below), except that sibling priority will only apply where a sibling already attends the Academy nursery or primary school. iv. Waiting list – The nursery will keep a waiting list which will be used to fill casual vacancies occurring as a result of an enrolled child leaving during the academic year or withdrawing from a place that has been offered. The list will be compiled in accordance with the Admissions Code so that children will be ranked in line with the Academy's oversubscription criteria (see paragraph 12 below).

PROCEDURES WHERE THE ACADEMY IS OVERSUBSCRIBED

1. Where the Academy is named on a pupil's Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan, that child will be admitted by the Academy. If the number of applications for admission to school is greater than the PAN, applications will be considered against the criteria and order set out below:

a) Looked After Children and children who have been previously looked after (pursuant to the Admissions Code)¹

b) Children of members of staff will have priority where the Academy is oversubscribed. A staff member, regardless of role, must have been employed to work at the Academy for two or more years, at the time the application for admission is made.

¹ 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school." (footnote 16 of the School Admissions Code 2014). A previously looked after child "includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002."

Cheshire Academies Trust Admissions Policy 2017-2018

c) Children who at the time of the admission have a sibling who attends the Academy. For this purpose “sibling” means a whole, half or step-brother or - sister or an adopted child resident at the same address. In respect of applications to the Academy, the fact that an applicant has a sibling attending the nursery school will not be a factor giving rise to priority.

d) Distance measurement – A child’s home will be the address at which the child normally resides and which has been notified to the Academy and other relevant agencies as being the child’s normal place of residence.

i. In those cases where the relevant LA measures distance on behalf of a CAT Academy, the method they adopt for measurement and also selection between equal applicants and those living in flats will apply.

ii. In those cases where a CAT Academy is required to carry out the measurement itself, priority will be given to those children who live closest to the school using a straight line measurement (as the crow flies) taken from Ordnance Survey Data from the Academy building’s main reception to the main entrance of the child’s home. Where a child resides in a block of flats, the distance will be measured from the Academy building’s main reception to the main entrance of the building in which the flats are located.

Note: In the case of multiple births or brothers and sisters in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the Academy, both will be considered together as one application.

In the event that there are two families with equal applications and only one available place then the academy will draw lots to determine which family is offered the place.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROPOSAL

- To ensure high quality, inclusive early years and foundation stage provision is available to the community of Kelsall and its surrounding area;
- To ensure free entitlement for eligible three and four-year olds is available flexibly and extended across the school day to meet the needs of working parents in Kelsall and its surrounding area and also to ensure free entitlement is available to those children eligible to 2 year funding where circumstances apply.
- To work with CW&C, local community groups and all other stakeholders to develop multi-use buildings suitable for the needs of young people in Kelsall and its surrounding area;

NEXT STEPS - CONSULTATION

The governing body are keen to listen to the thoughts of the local community regarding this proposal. If you have any comments you wish to share or queries we may be able to answer for you please email them to pre-schoolconsultation@kelsall.cheshire.sch.uk marking your email ‘*Kelsall Pre-School Consultation*’.

The local governing body will make a decision in by the end of the Autumn Term 2017 as to whether or not they wish to proceed with this proposal. Please ensure we have received your comments by **13 October 2017** to ensure they are taken into account in the decision-making process.

If the governing body decide to move forward with this proposal an application to extend the age range of the school will be made to the Regional Schools Commissioner in the Spring Term 2018.

KEY DATES

- **Consultation Process from 20 September to 13 October 2017**
- **Open Forum on Monday 2nd October 2017 from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in Kelsall Primary School (opportunity for residents to ask questions etc)**
- **Pre-School Committee to consider options and recommendations arising from the consultation – w/c 27 November 2017**
- **Kelsall Primary Governors to consider options and recommendations on 5 December 2017**
- **CAT Board considerations, if required, 6 December 2017.**