



FLITWICK LOWER SCHOOL

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Chair of Governors: Mr D. Blair

Consultation on proposed merger of Busy Bees Pre-School Flitwick with Flitwick Lower School and a permanent change of age range from September 2020

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to discuss the proposed changes to the provision at Flitwick Lower School for under 4s, which requires lowering the school's age range by 2 years. In line with legal requirements, the school's Governing Body is carrying out a preliminary consultation on the proposed changes.

The consultation period will run for 5 weeks from Monday 7th October 2019 to Tuesday 12th November 2019. The school's Governing Body and the committee of Busy Bees Pre-School Flitwick will consider all comments received during the consultation period. We are consulting with all stakeholders as required by law when making changes to school age range arrangements, and will also advertise the proposal locally in order to gather the views of the wider community, including other schools and pre-schools.

What change is being proposed?

Children are currently admitted into Flitwick Lower School in the September following their fourth birthday. All younger children attend Busy Bees Pre-School Flitwick or other Early Years settings.

From September 2020, a merger with Busy Bees is proposed, thereby lowering our school's age range by 2 years. As part of this merger, the Governing Body will take over the management of the Pre-School. This will make the school's age range 2 – 9 years, rather than the current 4 – 9 years.

The proposed change will not affect the age at which the children are admitted into pre-school or the school's determined admissions arrangements. Children who attend Busy Bees Pre-School Flitwick will not be guaranteed a place at the school.

Why is the school proposing this change?

Busy Bees Pre-School Flitwick committee approached Flitwick Lower School to discuss investigating a merger of the two organisations.

The main benefits of the proposed merger include:

- Fully integrated provision with opportunities for pre-school children to utilise all of the school's facilities.
- Closer working relationships between staff working across the age range.
- Further access to early support and interventions for those children with additional needs.
- Pre-School utilising the services of the School Business Manager, giving the Pre-School Manager more time to focus on teaching and learning.
- Greater job security for current members of staff at the Pre-School who would be employed by the school.



Will the proposed change result in any impact on current Busy Bees provision?

We cannot foresee any adverse effect on the existing provision as the Pre-School would carry on as normal and the day-to-day operations would continue to be run by the Pre-School Manager. The merger would build on the strengths and achievements of Busy Bees and the Pre-School children's experience will remain high quality with a more seamless link between the two settings.

What will the impact be for other providers locally?

We cannot foresee any impact on other providers locally as new places are not being created.

Will the proposed change result in additional traffic near the school at drop off and pick up times?

There will be no impact on peak time traffic at the school, as the provision is already on the school site.

What is the consultation process?

This is the first phase of a two phase statutory consultation process that the school is required to undertake regarding the proposed change. Phase 1 involves:

- Preliminary consultation: 5 weeks from Monday 7th October 2019 to Tuesday 12th November 2019.
- Governing Body and Busy Bees committee to consider the responses: Tuesday 19th November 2019.

The second statutory phase will be undertaken by Central Bedfordshire Council, if requested by the school's Governing Body, after their consideration of the responses received during the first phase.

Have your say

We will be holding drop-in sessions where you can come and find out more about this proposal on:

Thursday 31st October, 9.00am to 10.00am in the school hall, Flitwick Lower School; and

Monday 4th November, 5.30pm to 6.30pm in the school hall, Flitwick Lower School

If you are unable to attend these sessions but would like to comment on the proposal, please complete the attached form or write to the Chair of Governors, Mr David Blair at the school address (Flitwick Lower School, Temple Way, Flitwick, Bedfordshire, MK45 1LU). Alternatively, you can email flitwicklower@gmail.com

We need all responses by 3.30pm on Tuesday 12th November 2019.

Finally, if you would like any further information or have any questions on the proposal, please contact the school or Pre-School via any of the usual methods of communication.

Flitwick Lower School can be contacted on 01525 755444 or by email at flitwicklower@gmail.com.

Busy Bees Pre-School Flitwick can be contacted on 01525 719222 or by email at contact@busybeespre-schoolflitwick.co.uk



Joanna New
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Chair of Governors



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