



Cheshire West
and Chester

**Proposal to make a prescribed
alteration to
Willow Wood Community
Primary School.**

16 November – 13 December 2017

Cheshire West and Chester Council
Willow Wood Community Primary School Proposal
Children and Families Service
(Nicholas House, Floor 3)
4 Civic Way
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BE

Proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Willow Wood Community Primary School Bradbury Road, Wharton, Winsford, CW7 3HN

School and Local Authority Details

The proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Willow Wood Community Primary School, Bradbury Road, Wharton, Winsford, CW7 3HN from April 2018 is being published by Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas St, Chester, CH1 2NP. Contact Address: Senior Manager, Education Infrastructure. (Nicholas House, Floor 3), 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

Publication Date: 16 November 2017

The Proposal

It is proposed to permanently expand the age range of Willow Wood Community Primary School from 4-11years of age to 3-11years of age, to take effect from April 2018.

Consultation

The Governing Body of the school undertook an informal consultation of parents in Spring Term 2015 prior to seeking to extend the age range following the process set out in the prevailing Department for Education guidance. A further consultation with parents and local pre-school settings which included a public drop-in event was undertaken in Spring Term 2016. Having considered the responses to consultation the Governing Body resolved to increase the age range from September 2016. In response to revised Statutory Guidance published by the Department for Education in April 2016 the Governing Body has now requested Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council's Director of Education to formally consult on making this a permanent arrangement consistent with the requirements of the revised guidance. If approved a permanent increase in the age range to 3-11 would take effect from April 2018.

A period of formal consultation on the proposal will run from 16 November 2017 to 13 December 2017 to which any person may make objections or comments.

At the conclusion of consultation a report detailing all feedback and representations will be compiled and submitted to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to make a decision as to whether the proposal should be implemented. This report and details of all feedback received will be published on the Council website, as will the Cabinet Member's decision.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

It is proposed that the school extend its age range by making maintained provision for an increased age range of children who have not yet reached compulsory school age. The Governing Body have initiated this process following requests for this change by the parents of pupils attending Willow Wood Community Primary School, and believe that this increase in the age range of the school is necessary:

- To ensure that all local children are able to access their entitlement to Early Years education in a setting of their preference.

- To ensure continuity in children's Early Years education in order to ensure their readiness for school.

The Council's Early Years Commissioner believes that these places will be necessary to enable the Council to discharge its duty to ensure a sufficiency of early years provision in the area local to the school as hours of entitlement are increased in response to national policy.

The school has been found by Ofsted to be a 'Good' school.

The effect on other pre-school provision within the area

It is the view of the Early Years Commissioner that there will be sufficient demand for places to sustain this permanent increase in age range without jeopardising neighbouring provision. A neighbouring provider has expressed concerns that this increase in age range might compromise their sustainability. In response to this concern the school is not proposing to extend its provision to include two-year olds.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved;

Operational costs will be met from the school's revenue budget, supported through the Council's mechanisms for funding Early Years education.

The Governing Body has received an allocation of Department for Education capital funding that will enable the building work necessary to accommodate a permanent increase in the age range to be carried out. In the longer term extensive new housing is proposed in the catchment area of the school.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

If approved by the decision-maker (and subject to there being no appeal by Chester or Shrewsbury Dioceses to the Schools Adjudicator) the Governing Body wish to implement the proposal from April 2018.

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

A public notice will be published on the Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council website on Thursday 16 November 2017

A public notice announcing the start of a period of public representations will be published in the Northwich Guardian on 16 November 2017.

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal;

- By sending a response to the Senior Manager, Education Infrastructure, Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council, (Nicholas House Floor 3), 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE
- By email to schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

The final date for receipt of representations is 13 December 2017.

Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in Audio, Braille, Large Print or other formats. If you would like a copy in a different format, in another language or require a BSL interpreter, please email us at equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Pokud byste požadovali informace v jiném jazyce nebo formátu, kontaktujte nás

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

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如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

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