

Chandos Primary Academy

Proposal: To alter the age range of Chandos Primary to add 2 year old capacity to current nursery provision

Introduction

Chandos Primary, as part of The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust, wish to consult on the following changes to Chandos Primary nursery provision.

School Information

Type of school	Sponsored academy with The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust (TEFAT)		
Name	Chandos Primary	Dfe	330/2170
Address	Vaughton Street South, Highgate, Birmingham, B12 0YN		
Age Range	3-11	Capacity	420 Rec-Y6 65 FTE places - Nur (including rising 3 year olds)
Last Ofsted	Feb 2019	Rating	Good

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing:

- To lower the age limit from 3 years to 2 years making age range of school 2-11 years old;
- To enable the offer of 4 full time equivalent 2 year olds (4 children/part-time Mon-Wed, 4 children part-time Wed-Fri);
- This will be accommodated within our current nursery building
- This can be accommodated within our current PAN for Nursery

Why do we want to do this?

- Chandos, The Elliot Foundation and the local authority have a duty of care to ensure there is sufficient early education and child care provision within the local area
- Chandos has been recently collaborating with the LA Sufficiency Team/Early Years and Child Care to explore the feasibility of 2 year old provision.
- We have well attended nursery and reception classes. However there is an increasing level of need among our youngest learners. Children who attend our nursery make significantly better progress. Those with additional needs can be identified and assessed at an earlier stage, and their needs met much more efficiently in school in the longer term
- We have been approached by a number of local families enquiring about our 2 year old capacity
- Our development of rising three year old provision over the last year has proved very successful.

Evidence of demand:

The school is located in the Bordesley & Highgate Ward. An analysis by Birmingham LA of Early Education and Child Care Sufficiency (Spring 2019) shows an undersupply of 2 year old places in our local community.

Furthermore, there is only a 59% take up of 2 year old places offered within the local area, compared to an 88% take up for 3-4 year old places.

Of the 2 year old children resident in local area (Spring 2019) who take up offers only 32% take provision locally. We are keen to expand the offer of 2 year old provision within the local area to increase local take up. We are aware of families who are very keen to take up the potential offer of 2 year old provision at Chandos.

In July 2018 our reception children achieved a Good Level of Development of 68%. This follows a sustained upward trend over the last 4 years. Our school offers at least good provision for children who attend (Ofsted 2019). Chandos achieved higher GLD than Birmingham and local district/ward averages in July 2018. Slightly below national averages. Children make good progress from low starting points.

When will these changes happen?

If approved the provision could be offered by January 2020. Chandos has the skilled staff, staffing ratios, building capacity and pupil allocation to accommodate this at present.

Will there be any effect on other schools, academies or educational institutions within the area?

Chandos maintains positive and effective links with local childcare providers. We intend to continue in this manner.

Within the context of current under supply of 2 year old provision within our local area we do not for see a negative impact on provision offered by other providers in the area.

How will this affect pupils at school?

Children who attend our nursery and transfer to our reception make better progress than their other peers. The development of rising 3 year old provision over the last 12-18 months has had a similar positive impact. Needs of vulnerable children and those with educational needs can be identified early and effective support put in place accelerating early progress and setting a sound foundation for future learning opportunities in school.

Local families have also informed us that, with older siblings attending the school, on site 2 year old provision will enable them to access early education opportunities that previously they had not taken due to difficulties in travel between different sites/services.

Proposed arrangements will not affect current admission arrangements. Admission numbers for reception will remain at 60. Attendance at our nursery will not give pupils priority over

others to attend our reception classes. Allocation of places remains with the centrally managed local authority systems.

How will this affect staff?

We do not foresee any significant impact on staff. Chandos has skilled staff, appropriately trained, already in place. We have the capacity with our current Pupil Allocated Numbers (PAN): our numbers in nursery start lower in September (around 40), gradually growing term on term through the year as we take on rising 3 year olds (around 65 by June).

Staff are keen to benefit from potential professional development.

Any changes to existing terms and conditions would be fully consulted on with staff and trade unions if required.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There will be no required enlargement of the current nursery premises. The LA will advise on minor modifications to indoor and outdoor environment to accommodate 2 year old's.

Planned 2 year old offer can be accommodated with our current building and PAN.

What are the project costs for this proposal and how is it funded?

There are no significant costs involved. Adjustments to environment and resources will be covered within current school budget arrangements. This will be covered by the income generated by Early Education Entitlement (EEE) funding on a termly basis and based on eligible 2 year old children attending the nursery class.

Will this definitely happen?

Not necessarily - there is a statutory process that needs to be followed to consult on changes. An application for the changes to be made then needs to be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC)

Chandos is a good school (Ofsted 2019). We are able to set a balanced budget for 2019/20. Additional contingency arrangements are being considered by school leaders and governors to protect that position over the next 2-3 years. We should therefore be eligible to follow the fast track process for making the proposed change to our age range.

Changes which can be made via the fast track application to the RSC (i.e. do not require a full business case) are academies, rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' in their last inspection by Ofsted, are in good financial health, have the capacity to make the change and can provide evidence that the local authority and the trustees/governors of the school do not object to the proposed change.

This document is the full proposal for statutory public consultation. Any comments received will be anonymised and forwarded to the decision makers for consideration (RSC, governors, TEFAT trustees) for consideration.

It is only after the decision we can say with certainty whether the proposal will be implemented. Trustees/Local Governing Body and head teacher will be notified of the decision. This will be shared with families, staff and interested parties. It will be published on the school website.

What will happen if the decision is rejected?

Chandos would continue with current arrangements offering education provision for 3-11 year olds, including rising 3 year olds.

Alternative solutions to the current undersupply of 2 year old provision in the local area would have to be found.

How can I make my views known?

We invite all interested parties to give us their views and comments on this proposal. Any comments must be received between 2nd September and 30th September 2019.

You can submit your written comments via the following methods:

- By email to Mr James Allan, the Head Teacher, on j.allan@chandosprimary.org
- By letter, addressed to Mr James Allan, Head Teacher,
Chandos Primary,
Vaughton Street South,
Highgate, Birmingham, B12 0YN
- Using the attached form and returned to the above address by post or by hand

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirement for us to consult fully with the people potentially affected by the proposal.

Action	Date
Statutory Notice published	2nd September 2019
4 week consultation begins	2nd September 2019
4 week consultation ends	30th September 2019
Application submitted to Regional School Commissioner	By 4th October 2019
Final decision made no later than	2nd December 2019
Changes implemented	January 2020

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Consultation Response Form

Your name (optional) _____

Contact details (optional, if you would like a reply)

Are you in favour of the proposals?

YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

Your interest in the proposals (please indicate one below)

Parent	
School Governor	
School Staff	
Local resident	
Other (please specify)	

Your comments: