



22nd March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a formal consultation document regarding the proposal to lower the age range of St Chad's Catholic Primary School to 3-11 years from 1st September 2021.

The consultation period will begin on 22nd March 2021 to 23rd April 2021.

If you wish to express your views please email info@st-chads.dudley.sch.uk with the subject header 'NURSERY CONSULTATION' no later than 3.00pm on Friday 23rd April 2021.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Hinton
Executive Headteacher

Executive Headteacher: Mr M Hinton

St. Chad's Catholic Primary School, Catholic Lane, Sedgley, Dudley DY3 3UE

t 01384 889 423 **e** info@st-chads.dudley.sch.uk **w** www.st-chads.dudley.sch.uk



PART OF ST JOHN BOSCO MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

08608177 (registered in England and Wales). Registered office: Burton Road, Dudley DY1 3BY



Formal Consultation to lower the age range of St Chad's Catholic Primary School to 3-11 years From 1st September 2021

St Chad's Catholic Primary School is an Ofsted graded 'Good' school situated in Sedgley, West Midlands. There is currently capacity for 210 pupils at the school. The proposal to lower the age range of the school to include early years' provision will see the total capacity rise to 240 pupils.

Sedgley Kids Club is an Ofsted graded 'Good' nursery provision operating from the school site. Notice has been served to Sedgley Kids Club who will no longer operate from the St Chad's school site from 31 August 2021. St Chad's Catholic Primary School will open their own separate maintained nursery provision from September 2021.

This consultation is regarding the proposal to lower the age range of St Chad's Catholic Primary School to 3-11 years from 1st September 2021.

Why are we proposing to lower the age range?

The introduction of a nursery provision at St Chad's Catholic Primary School will further strengthen the quality of education provided at the school by achieving better outcomes for children who will have access to a qualified teacher in an EYFS setting from the age of 3 years. Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their potential. A child's experiences in the early years have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. Early childhood is the foundation on which children build the rest of their lives. There is clear evidence that high quality effective early years provision has a significant impact on children's social, emotional, and cognitive development. This is a key factor in improving outcomes for children and families. It also aims to narrow the gap between the highest and lowest performers and provide all children with a positive start to learning.

By providing a nursery provision, St Chad's will be able to offer the youngest children, quality and consistency, a secure foundation, partnership working and equality of opportunity. Early childhood is the foundation on which children build the rest of their lives. At St Chad's we greatly value the important role that the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) plays in laying secure foundations for future learning and development. The introduction of a nursery provision will enable the school to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to the youngest children which will enable each child to develop personally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, creatively and intellectually to his / her full potential. Nursery provision will supply children with the building blocks for future learning and prepare them to be emotionally ready for primary school.

The schools' aim is to operate the maintained nursery provision for extended hours to better meet the needs of working families. Demand will be gauged from parents for offering sessions in line with the school's new breakfast and after school club offering.

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Whilst there is no guarantee that children attending the nursery will gain a place at the school, those who apply and are successful in gaining a place in the reception class will have benefited from being pupils of the school from a much earlier age. The school would like the opportunity to have educated these children directly from the start of their early education entitlement meaning a smoother transition into the school should the decision be made by parents to apply.

In July 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) announced a capital bidding round of £30 million to create new high-quality school-based nursery places for 2, 3- and 4-year olds to deliver the government's commitment to build more school-based nurseries, and to boost social mobility. The Department stated that 'the first few years of a child's life are critical to shaping their future development, and our ambition is to provide equality of opportunity for every child, regardless of background or where they live, because we know that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility.' This announcement was in line with the Government's commitment to increase the number of early years' places delivered within primary schools following previous Ofsted recommendations.

Ofsted have previously reported that 'It is widely accepted that progress in early years for children from low income backgrounds depends on attendance in the highest quality settings. The only early education provision that is at least as strong, or even stronger, in deprived areas compared with wealthier areas is nursery schools.' Furthermore, a direct recommendation of the report was that 'the Government should promote the expansion of nursery schools into those local areas where they are not currently present – in particular disadvantaged areas - to raise quality and improve outcomes both through direct provision of places, and system leadership of the local early years' sector.' It was also a recommendation that where a nursery school was established then 'It should be a priority to make the best possible use of the maintained nursery schools to deliver 3-year-old places, in preference to lower quality settings.'

It is widely acknowledged that a primary school, which also has a nursery provision achieves better outcomes for children.

What are the reasons for the proposed change?

There are many reasons why we are proposing to lower the age at St Chad's Catholic Primary School.

The main ones are summarised below:

1. The proposals are in response to recommendations made by Ofsted, Department for Education and Save the Children to encourage more primary schools to establish their own maintained nursery classes to include 3- and 4-year olds, allowing more children to access high quality provision with a qualified teacher, improving their outcomes throughout life.
2. St Chad's Catholic Primary School has a long-term vision to offer sessions more in line with full day care provision with consideration for all year-round sessions if there is sufficient demand.
3. Some nursery children will become pupils of the school, allowing access to Early Years Provision with an 'Good' Ofsted rating and whilst there is no guarantee of a place within the school from Reception, those children who are successful in applying for a school place will be used to the school environment, teacher staff and ethos. Education will be provided by a qualified teacher improving individual pupils' early learning and development opportunities.
4. Staff appointed to work within the maintained nursery class will have access to training alongside colleagues across the whole of Key Stage 1. There may be opportunities to work within all year groups sharing experience benefiting children throughout the school.
5. Children and families in the nursery will have access to support services at the school.

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How will the proposed change benefit pupils of St Chad's Catholic Primary School?

If the proposal is approved, the change could bring many benefits for pupils. The main ones are summarised below:

1. St Chad's Catholic Primary School will be able to build upon the high-quality education provided for their current pupils between the ages of 4-11 years. Children will have access to a carefully planned curriculum which will meet the needs of the children and the community. There will be a continuation of the school's strong whole school curriculum intent in the nursery and throughout the school.
2. The classroom and outdoor provision will be developed to have a focus on physical development and communication and language development and will therefore support all children as they progress through each key stage.
3. There will be opportunities for continuity for pupils who choose to enrol for primary provision at St Chad's Catholic Primary School, to remain in an environment with which they are familiar - from early years through to year 6. Existing networks will be in place and they will be taught by teachers and school leaders who know them well and have developed relationships with them and their families from a young age.
4. Pupils who attend St Chad's Catholic Primary School and Nursery will not be disadvantaged when deciding on their transition to primary education. They will have the same choice as those in other early years provision; to apply to stay on at St Chad's Catholic Primary School or to apply for another institution if they feel it more suited to individual needs.
5. There will be greater consistency between pre-school provision and learning and school age compulsory education for those children who go on to attend St Chad's as their school – a good example of this being continuity of phonics programme from age three onwards.

Submission of feedback to the consultation It is important that all stakeholders and other interested parties are given the opportunity to express their views in order for the St John Bosco Catholic Academy to consider these before making a final decision.

The consultation period will begin on 22 March 2021 to 23 April 2021.

The purpose of this document is to provide you with information and to give you the opportunity to express your views.

Feedback can be given by email to info@st-chads.dudley.sch.uk with the subject header 'NURSERY CONSULTATION' by no later than 3.00pm on Friday 23 April 2021.

All responses to the consultation will be reported to and considered by the St John Bosco Catholic Academy in April 2021.

We welcome your feedback.

What are the next steps?

- 22 March 2021 Consultation period starts
- 23 April 2021 Consultation closes
- April 2021 Consultation analysis report circulated If decision is made to go ahead with the proposal: 1 September 2021 the school's age range is lowered and early years aged children being accessing maintained nursery provision.

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