



18th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer and Community

Formal Consultation to lower the age range at Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy

Due to a need for pre-school places in the area, the governors of Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy and Innovate Multi Academy Trust are moving forward together with a proposal to lower the age range of the school from 3-11 years to 2-11 years, to introduce two-year-olds to our established Early Years setting.

Consultation report

Under the governance of the school, parents and the wider community would have the assurance that statutory duties are carried out and the preschool will be run in a safe and compliant manner through the leadership at the school.

We have carried out a 4 week consultation in order to seek the views of everyone within the school and communities during a school month period starting on Monday 18th November 2024 running through to Monday 16th December 2024. All stakeholders and other interested parties were given the opportunity to express their views in order for Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy to consider these before sending our application to the DfE.

The consultation has been a positive experience with much engagement with stakeholders. We received positive responses both verbally and in writing, and no opposition. As part of the consultation process, a public meeting was held on Monday 9th December, which was attended by a representative from the Parish council.

The key questions raised during this meeting were:

- 1. Will there be a separate room for two year olds?**
 - We have a spare room in our early years block. But while they have their own space, there will be the opportunity for free flow between nursery classes where this would be beneficial. At the moment, for example, nursery and reception are coming together for a Christmas performance.
- 2. Will this change impact other childcare providers in the village?**
 - The school spoke to the private nursery and local childminders before the consultation began. We have been told by parents that all provisions in the village are currently full, with waiting lists. While some nurseries in surrounding villages have space, not all parents are able to access these due to transport restrictions. The childminders offered their support verbally.
- 3. Do you have two-year-old settings in the trust?**
 - Yes, Kilsby CE Primary School has a nursery for two-years-olds and there is a strong transition here between nursery and reception. We can share training and support.
- 4. Will this affect traffic and parking?**
 - The nursery has its own entrance and exit which is linked to the large school car park. Parents will not be using the high street entrance. We also expect that a lot of children will

already have siblings in the school and we encourage walking to school. We remind parents about parking in the newsletter termly.

Consultation List:

- Pupils and parents on roll at Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy
- Staff at Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy
- West Northants Local Authority
- Diocese of Peterborough
- Northamptonshire MPs
- Local Councillors
- Woodford cum Membris Parish Council
- Local community groups who might be affected by the proposal
- Any other interested party

Positive responses have been received verbally and in written form to the proposal.

No objections were raised.

The Diocese of Peterborough was consulted regarding the change of age range and is supportive of the proposal.

This consultation report will be published on the School Website

www.woodfordhalseacademy.net

What are the next steps?

- Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy and Innovate Multi Academy trust will continue efforts to apply for a formal change of age range at Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy, to lower the age range of children who attend the preschool. This will mean that, subject to DfE approval, the age range of Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy will be changed to 2 - 11 years.

Yours faithfully,

Alison Crockford - Head of Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy

Terry Lifford - Chair of Governors at Woodford Halse CE Primary Academy

Lindsey Evans – CEO of Innovate Multi Academy Trust