

Newport City Council

Consultation report

Proposal to extend the age-range at Langstone Primary School from 4-11 years to 3-11 years in order to establish a nursery class at the school with effect from September 2017.

Formal Consultation period:
22nd March 2016 to 4th May 2016

Purpose

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, July 2013.

This consultation report includes the following sections:

- The Proposal
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People
- Consultation Responses
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS)
- Learner Voice
- Frequently Asked Questions

The Proposal

To establish extend the age-range at Langstone Primary School from 4-11 years to 3-11 years in order to establish a nursery class at the school with effect from September 2017.

Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to the following stakeholders, with a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website sent by e-mail, or hard copies being made available through the schools.

- Teachers, staff and the governing body of Langstone Primary School;
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Langstone Primary School;
- Pupils at Langstone Primary School;
- Monmouthshire County Council as the neighbouring local authority with school catchment areas that border Newport;
- The Church in Wales, Diocese of Monmouth;
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese;
- The Headteacher and Governing Body of Llanmartin Primary School, Ringland Primary School, Milton Infant School, Milton Junior School, St Gabriel's RC Primary School, Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary School and Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School;
- All Newport City Council elected members;
- The Welsh Ministers;
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals;
- Estyn;
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and staff at Langstone Primary School;
- The South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- Local Authority Transport departments;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- Community Councils for Langstone, Penhow and Llanvaches;
- The local Communities First partnership (or equivalent);
- The five independent childcare providers in Langstone and surrounding areas;
- Newport Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

The following consultation events were arranged. These were publicised via a letter to stakeholders, on the Council website and through the consultation document.

Venue	Date and Time	Event type
Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR	12 th April 2016 2.00pm – 4.00pm	Drop-in event
Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR	15 th April 2016 9.30am – 11.30am	Drop-in event

Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People

An Everyday Summary Version of the main consultation document was published and this is also targeted at children and young people.

In addition a children's questionnaire was created and shared with the school. An officer from the Council also attended a meeting of the School Council to discuss the proposal and listen to the Learner Voice. A summary of the questions raised during the meeting is outlined in the section entitled Learner Voice.

Consultation Responses

17 consultation responses were received, providing the following responses:

- 15 respondents support the proposal (88%)
- 2 respondents do not support the proposal (12%).

The negative responses included additional questions raised in respect of the proposal, and these have been addressed via Frequently Asked Questions.

South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS)

The positive responses included one from the South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS):

“Having read the consultation, the EAS is in support of the proposal for the following reasons:

- The school has very strong leadership at all levels and excellent capacity to manage and lead the change process in accommodating the buildings works (and associated risks) and to carry out the planning required to ensure that the nursery is an effective and safe place of learning.
- There is a need to provide continuity for children between their nursery experience and the commencement of statutory school education. Having a nursery on the Langstone school site would enable this continuity to be planned for and delivered by the school.
- Providing children with a stimulating and engaging environment is a strength of the school and new classrooms which would be provided to replace the old demountables would enhance this provision.”

Learner Voice

An officer from the Council met with eleven members of the School Council at Langstone Primary School to discuss the proposal. A questionnaire was also derived to assist in obtaining the views of the children.

Question 1

Do you think that having a new nursery is a good idea?

- Yes (11)
- No (0)
- Don't know (0)

Question 2

What do you think will be good about having a nursery class at your school?

- It will put the school on the map;
- Langstone will be a better green school;
- There will be more space for learning;
- Small children will have more space;
- Children will be used to coming to school earlier;
- Easier for parents;
- Brothers and sisters can go to the same school.

Question 3

Are there any reasons why you think we shouldn't open a nursery at the school?

- It will be hard for parents if the start and end time of the nursery are different to those in the rest of the school;
- The nursery children could make a lot of noise which will cause problems for children in the nearby classrooms.

Question 4

Do you think that replacing the demountable buildings is a good idea?

- Yes (8)
- No (1)
- Don't know (2)

Question 5

What do you think will be good or bad about having a new classroom block?

- Better access to toilets and children won't have to get cold and wet in the winter when going into the main school;
- Proper fire exits;
- The demountables are cold in winter and hot in summer;
- The heaters are smelly and there are leaves growing in the classrooms;
- The demountables do not look very nice from the outside;
- The new block will look like the rest of the school;
- Older and ex-pupils will lose their memories of the school;
- Lots of money has been spent of resources for the demountable classrooms.

Question 6

The new classrooms will be built on part of your playground but we will be providing a new ball play area. What do you think about this?

- Wow;
- Amazing.

Question 7

Do you have anything else you would like to tell us?

- It would be better if the nursery was created near the Reception classes so that the younger children could all be together.

Other questions raised:

- Will the nursery be in a separate building to the rest of the school?
No, it will be in one of the classrooms in a new four classroom block.
- Will the nursery children make a lot of noise and disrupt older children when they are doing tests?
Mrs Cole will make sure that pupils already in the school are not affected by the new nursery pupils.
- What times will the nursery be open?
This will be something for Mrs Cole and the Governors to decide, but the nursery will be open for between 2 and 2.5 hours each morning and afternoon.
- Will nursery pupils be able to go to Breakfast Club?
Probably not, but this will be for Mrs Cole to decide.
- Will there be toilets in the new classroom block?
Yes, with separate toilets for the nursery children within the nursery area.
- Will the nursery children have to go home for lunch?
The nursery children will only come to school for a half day, either the morning or the afternoon session.
- How many children will be in the nursery class?
The nursery class will be able to take 20 children in the morning and another 20 children in the afternoon.
- Will the nursery children go to assembly?
This will be for Mrs Cole to decide, but probably not when the first start.
- Can older children be reading buddies for the nursery children?
Mrs Cole will decide this once the nursery opens.
- Will some of the trees have to be cut down?
Yes, this is likely but hopefully will be replaced with other trees elsewhere on the site.

- Will the nursery children wear school uniform?
This will be for Mrs Cole to decide.
- Will the nursery children have PE?
Yes, the children will have PE lessons during the school week.
- Will there be enough yard space for the nursery children?
The nursery children will have their own outside play area.
- Will the nursery children take part in non-uniform days?
Yes probably, but this will be for Mrs Cole to decide.
- How old will be nursery children be?
They will be aged between 3 and 4.
- Can they start any earlier than this if there are spaces?
No, children cannot start at a nursery class until the start of the next term after they turn 3.
- What will happen when the weather is bad?
Nursery children are encouraged to access outdoor play wherever possible but there will also be plenty of indoor play opportunities.
- Will older children be break buddies?
It is likely that the nursery will have different play times to the rest of the school, but this will be something for Mrs Cole to decide on.
- Will the children come to school for a look around before they start?
Yes probably, but this will be for Mrs Cole to decide.
- What will the nursery children do during the day?
There will be a varied number of activities that the children will take part in over the course of the week.
- Will there be less space in the car park?
Following the work being carried out, there will be slightly more car parking spaces available than there are at the moment.
- Will be buses still be able to come into school?
Yes, this area of the school will be unaffected.
- Can the nursery children go to After School Club?
Probably not, but this will be for Mrs Cole to decide.

Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions received about the proposal have been published on the Council web site and are included for information below:

Proposal under Formal Consultation to extend the age range of Langstone Primary School - Frequently Asked Questions

Given that there is already a non-maintained setting in Langstone, can the area sustain two nurseries?

Creating a maintained nursery class at Langstone Primary School will improve learner transition through effective curriculum continuity. It will also increase the number of high quality early years places in the area, supporting parental choice through a mixed economy of provision. We remain fully committed to supporting all early years providers in the area and will continue to work closely with colleagues from the Early Years Integration team to ensure sustainability of childcare and early years places across the City.

Why are additional primary school places needed when there is current and surplus predicted capacity in other local schools?

This current proposal does not recommend increasing the number of school places across the Reception to Year 6 groups as the Council is satisfied that sufficient provision already exists in the locality.

Car parking is already a problem at the school. What provision will be made for the additional traffic accessing the site at the start and end of the school day?

Under the proposal, a small number of additional car parking spaces must be provided on the school site to comply with requirements from the Council's Planning Department. The Headteacher and Governing Body will determine the start and end times of the nursery day, and it is possible that these will be arranged to ensure that any congestion is minimised.

The plans outline that a significant amount of play space will be lost. What is being done to compensate for this?

It is unfortunate that part of the existing playground will be used in establishing the new classroom block. However to compensate, the plans include the creation of a new multi-use ball game area.

Why is the new nursery being created in an area primarily used by the older children at the school?

A full site analysis has been undertaken by colleagues in Newport Norse who have confirmed the preferred position of the new block. This has been completed in full consultation with the school. Whilst it is unfortunate that the new nursery will be at the opposite end of the school to the other Foundation Phase classes, this new block will provide easy access for nursery parents and will minimise disruption to other pupils during the school day.

If a child attending the nursery subsequently changes their mind and elects to move to a non-maintained setting, can the funding be transferred?

There is nothing to prevent parents transferring children to alternative settings provided that spaces are available. Where appropriate funding adjustments can be facilitated from the start of the following term.

Why is the proposal to replace the demountable buildings linked to the provision of the nursery class?

The current proposal is to extend the age range of the school by creating a nursery class. Alongside this, a separate project was already planned to replace the demountable buildings. Due to time and cost constraints however, it was felt appropriate that both sets of work be carried out at the same time. Demountable replacement works will be carried out even if the proposal to extend the age range is not approved.

Will the existing school facilities be able to cope with the increased pupil number?

The additional 20 full-time equivalent pupils will be accommodated in a single additional classroom with dedicated toilets and access to a specific outdoor play area. These facilities will not be available to any other children at the school. As the children are only eligible for a part-time place, either mornings or afternoons, there will not be a need to accommodate school meals. Whilst the children will be integrated into whole school activities, such as assemblies etc, this will be gradual over the course of the academic year.

How will the new nursery impact on the Breakfast Club?

Whilst not prohibited, it is not common for Breakfast Club facilities to be extended to children in nursery classes. This will therefore be a decision for the Headteacher and Governing Body.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2013) this report is published electronically on Newport City Council's website at www.newport.gov.uk

To request a hard (paper) copy of this document please contact Newport City Council's Education Service Development Manager on 01633 656656 or email school.reorg@newport.gov.uk