

**Consultation proposal document to lower the age range at  
Woodfall Primary School  
From 4-11 to 2-11 by September 2016.**

**Current Provision**

Woodfall Primary School currently provides education for children 4 – 11 years of age. We are a fully inclusive outstanding school valuing and respecting everyone equally.

The purpose of this document is to propose changes to the age range at the school. The school propose to lower the age range by 2 years, this being to accommodate children aged 2 – 4 years in an appropriate nursery provision in existing facilities at the school. The governing body of the school needs to consult on the proposed changes in line with DfE guidance, and wishes to receive the views and comments of all stakeholders involved with our school. The consultation period will run for 4 weeks from:

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016.**

The governing body will consider all comments received during the consultation period.

**School and LA details.**

	Current:	Proposed:
Age Range	4 – 11	Range 2 – 11
Provider Type	Primary School	Primary and Nursery School
Local Authority	Cheshire West and Chester	Cheshire West and Chester

## **Why is the consultation taking place?**

Currently the youngest children that the school can admit are in the Reception class. In order to admit younger children a process must be followed to ensure that the school are compliant with all of DfE requirements. The first step in this process is that the local community and stakeholders must be asked for their views.

### **From the Department of Education Publication:**

#### **Early Education and Childcare: Key priorities**

- ✓ All 3 year olds are able to access their entitlement to 15 hours of universal funded early year's education in a high quality setting. Evidence shows that children receiving quality early year's education significantly improves developmental outcomes and educational attainment.
- ✓ 2 year old children who meet the prescribed criteria are also able to access high quality early years education. Evidence shows that early year's education has lasting benefits for all children.

## **Why is the school making this change?**

The proposed change is to allow for the provision for 2-4 year olds as part of the whole school structure from September 2016. An outside provider, using facilities owned by the School, has provided the current provision for 2-4 year olds. The Governing Body now believes that it is in the best interests of the school and local community if the provision is provided by the school in the future. The current provision provided by the outside provider will finish on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 and it is proposed that the provision for 2-4 year olds will from 1<sup>st</sup> September be managed by the school. Accountability for the provision for 2-4 year olds will be overseen by the governors and senior leadership team of the school, who have extensive experience of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision.

Age appropriate experiential play and EYFS education will be accessible for all children. Dependant on need some children may also require that the EYFS curriculum offers differentiation to support specific needs. All staff in the provision will be knowledgeable about age appropriate development and characteristics of effective learning for 2 year olds and also have a clear understanding of expectations and tracking processes of attainment for the 3 and 4 year old children.

The school owns the facilities used by the current provider and will run the 2-4 age group provision from the same facility, though the ability to use the whole of the school facilities will enhance the provision to the age group. There will be no change to the level of provision available, which is a maximum of 28 places in the morning and 28 places in the afternoon provision. Given that there will be no change in the level of provision and the current provision is nearly full, there will be no impact on other current local schools and pre-school provision.

We believe that providing care and education at the earliest opportunity is fundamental to our Community and the holistic ethos of our school. It is recognised that the earliest years of a

child's life have the most significant impact on his or her long-term development, better outcomes and lifestyle choices. These are formative years physiologically, cognitively, socially and emotionally.

All 2, 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a level of free Early Years Foundation Stage education from the beginning of the school term following their second birthday until compulsory school age. We wish to provide the opportunity to take up the free entitlement with the option for additional paid hours in a maintained school and nursery setting.

Applications for a Reception school place need to be made in the usual way; there is no guarantee of securing a school place as a result of your child attending the Nursery provision at our school.

### **The Department for Education said:**

*“The evidence shows that starting younger, with high quality teacher led provision, can have a real and lasting impact on children’s development and life chances.”*

### **The benefits in brief:**

- ✓ The remodel allows us to provide individualised support for all the children’s social, emotional and academic development within a caring nurturing setting led by experienced staff.
- ✓ The children would benefit from experiencing earlier educational activities to support their learning and development as part of a wider school curriculum led by the senior leadership team of the school.
- ✓ Research has shown that where school provide early years education, children make rapid progress as they move between the early stages of learning. School staff will be able to share their expertise between early years and key stage 1 and this is critical to consistent progress and greater educational gains.
- ✓ Where children go on to attend the school the transition will be a smooth and effective process allowing the children to settle more quickly, it would provide continuity of education and provision through a single leadership team and governing body.
- ✓ A wider range of resources and expertise will be shared across the age range of the school, this flexibility can be particularly useful with special needs or vulnerabilities.
- ✓ Our experienced Special Needs Co-ordinator will be involved from the beginning to identify concerns and support educational developments from the outset.
- ✓ The same can be said for our more vulnerable families. Early intervention involves identifying children and families that may be at risk of running into difficulties and providing timely and effective support.

### **What would the Early Years provision look like?**

The provision will be very similar to what is currently provided; there will be high quality Early Years Foundation Stage play based provision - including role play, sand, water, construction, early literacy, early mathematics, mark making and outside play. There will be free flow

between areas including the outside, offering children a choice of activities and allowing them to engage in learning which is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development. The difference will be that this provision will be managed by the senior leadership team of the school, leading to better continuity of provision

**Will the proposed change result in any educational impact on the existing primary school provision?**

We have conducted a thorough assessment of the resources needed and effects on the existing primary school provision and we do not see that there will be any adverse impact on any existing level of provision. The school will be able to successfully manage this change allowing for 2-4 year old provision.

This is a very positive opportunity for Woodfall Primary School to extend the quality provision already provided so that the Early Years Provision within the school is as outstanding as the rest of the school's provision.

**Consultation Process timescale.**

Process	Date
Publication of consultation	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Consultation Process	8 <sup>th</sup> June – 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Analysis of responses	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Decision communicated	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Meeting for parents	July 2016
Final implementation of proposals	September 2016

**How can you ask questions, get more information and comment on the proposal?**

If you have any questions or comments regarding the consultation please email [admin@woodfall.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woodfall.cheshire.sch.uk) or write to the school. We will be allowing four weeks for receiving responses. All responses must be received by the end of the working day on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in order for them to be considered by the governing body when making its decision.

### Procedure for responses:

You have 4 weeks from the date of this letter to let us know your views on the proposal. You can do this by:

- ✓ Sending an email to [admin@woodfall.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woodfall.cheshire.sch.uk)
- ✓ Completing and returning this form

Please either return the form to the school office or alternatively send to:

Mr Duncan Haworth, Chair of Governors,  
Woodfall Primary School,  
Woodfall Lane  
Little Neston  
Neston, Cheshire CH64 4BT

-----  
Nursery Consultation- Return Slip

1	Name and address	
	Name:	
	Address:	
	Postcode:	
2	About You (please tick the most relevant box only)	
	I am a: <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Governor <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff <input type="checkbox"/> Staff at other pre-school providers <input type="checkbox"/> Other e.g. local resident or grandparent (please state below)	
3	Please let us know your views on the proposal	
	<b>Proposal to lower the age range of Woodfall Primary School from 4 – 11 to 2 – 11 by September 2016.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
4	Please write any other comments in the box below	