

ASH CROFT PRIMARY ACADEMY

Proposal to change the age range of the school from 5-11 to 3-11 to facilitate the introduction of a 26 full time equivalent place nursery.

The Board of Trustees at Ash Croft Primary Academy are consulting on a proposal to change the age range of the school from 5 – 11 to 3 – 11 from 1.4.21. This will enable the academy to open a 26 place full time equivalent nursery from 1 April 2021, admitting children from 19.4.21. The school already offers provision for reception age children in the foundation stage class, and the nursery provision would be situated alongside this provision. The age range of the school would therefore need to be extended to include places for three and four year olds.

The reasoning behind this proposal is:

- to provide a further choice of funded early education entitlement free (FEEE) in the local for three and four year olds.
- to have quality and continuity in the education provision for pupils of the school from age 3 to 11 years.
- to support parents/carers who work and need to access local facilities that are logistically viable for them, including families in the 130 new homes being built in the Ash Croft catchment area.
- to have high quality early years provision that can help children to learn, play, make new friends, experience new activities and get ready for school.

Having discussed the proposal with Derby City Council, it is considered appropriate for the school to offer three-year old

and four-year places for the reasons stated. The additional places will contribute towards meeting current and future demand for three year and four year old places; as a substantial housing development of over 130 dwellings has just been completed within the schools' current catchment area. These have mainly been occupied by young families. This proposal, if successful, would increase the options for parents/carers regarding their preferred choice of setting and provide greater flexibility to access wrap around care for their three-year old within the locality.

This paper sets out the background to this proposal and explains how you can share your views as part of the consultation process.

How many younger children will we be able to accommodate and what sessions will be available?

The Board of Trustees from the Harmony Trust, on behalf of Ash Croft Primary Academy is proposing to lower the age range of the school, to three years of age from 1 April 2021. This will enable the school to take funded 3 and 4-year olds into the nursery from the term after their 3rd birthday. If the proposal is implemented, the school's age range will change to 3-11 years rather than the current 5-11 years.

The proposal is for the school to accommodate up to 26 full time equivalent places for three and four-year olds in our foundation stage unit. The session times will include a variety of 15- and 30-hour extended entitlement FEEE places that can be accessed between Monday and Friday 8.45 a.m. to 3.20 p.m., with a view to offering wrap around care, working alongside other local early years providers, so that parental needs can be met.

What impact will this have on the children currently in the school?

Children attending the three-year old provision will be taught by highly qualified staff, who will ensure that they are ready for the next stage in their education. The longer-term impact on the children who will be attending the provision from the age of three, are the known positive outcomes on attainment by the end of key stage 2 when pupils have accessed high quality early years education.

It is not anticipated that there will be any impact on pupils currently on roll in the school. On a day-to-day basis there will be no change in routine at the school. In terms of accommodating the additional children, the school has carefully considered the availability of space to accommodate this increase in numbers, and can do so within the perimeter of the current building, including access to outdoor learning space due to the extensive grounds.

Please note that, as with any nursery, children on roll at the nursery at Ash Croft Primary Academy will not automatically transfer from the nursery to reception class at the school when they reach school age. Parents and guardians will need to complete an application for a school place for their child in the usual way.

What will it mean for the staff?

Again, very little on a day-to-day basis. It may be necessary to recruit additional foundation stage staff to provide places for three and four-year olds at the school. As part of this consultation, a meetings for staff has been arranged for 7.1.21 at 3.30 by Teams.

What impact will this have on the local community?

There is potentially an increased need for high quality early years provision to be provided more locally for the families of a new housing development being built (130 dwellings) which is within the school's catchment area. The local shops will also see an increase in trade due to the increased footfall of people walking past on their way to school. Partnerships with other early years providers will be developed, to ensure that the needs of all families are being met.

What impact will this have on traffic within the local area?

The school does not envisage any significant increase in traffic, as there are currently no concerns related to the academy. The academy has a staggered start, meaning that pupils are able to arrive within a 10-minute window at the beginning of the day. The children who attend the academy mainly walk to school. It is expected that most of the additional children attending, will be from the newly built housing estate, which is within a 5-10 minute walk also.

What impact will this have on other local early years providers?

There should be minimal impact on other early years providers, as it is envisaged that the new families attending the school nursery will be from the newly built housing estate or from within the school's catchment area.

The school will not be offering funded 2 year old FEEE places so appreciate those starting with other local early years providers may well then continue to take their 3 and 4 year old FEEE in the same provision.

The school nursery with modelling allowing both 15-hour and 30-hour extended places to be accessed will mean the roll of

children will be significantly lower than the possible 52 places the nursery could accommodate.

Other local early years providers deliver FEEE over the whole of the year whilst the school nursery will be term time only. This will mean other local early years providers should see the benefit to of increased occupancy from families from the new estate who need whole year FEEE provision and childcare for babies and younger children. We understand that many of houses purchased are families with young children.

What happens now?

The consultation begins on 4.1.21 and finishes on 2.2.21 at 10.00 a.m. and local stakeholders are asked to share their views by email or letter, see below. If the proposal is approved, the school will have an age range of 3 – 11 years, from 1.4.21.

You are invited to a stakeholders meeting as detailed below to ask any further questions not answered in this document. A summary of questions raised and our responses will be placed on our website within 48 hours of the meeting.

All written comments on the proposal will be considered by the Board of Trustees from the Harmony Trust, on behalf of Ash Croft Primary Academy, when the consultation period has closed. If a decision is taken to proceed with the change in age range, we will communicate this to parents, staff and Derby City Council.

If the proposal is agreed, the change in age range will be implemented from 1 April 2021 and nursery provision will become available at the school from 19.4.21.

Your views are very important. Please do let us know what your views are regarding this proposal. We are offering a

stakeholders meeting using ZOOM on 14.1.21 at 5.00 p.m. See below for details

Topic: Ash Croft Nursery Consultation

Time: Jan 14, 2021 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95193304750?pwd=TzFQY3p3MmMwaThhMGNibGZDS1dPdZ09>

Meeting ID: 951 9330 4750

Passcode: 140121

There is no cost to participate in this meeting. Simply download the Zoom app. onto your device and enter the details shown above.

Please send your views by post to Ash Croft Primary Academy, Deep Dale Lane, Sinfin, Derby, DE24 3HF or by email to **info@ashcroft.theharmonytrust.org 10.00a.m. on 2nd February 2021.**

If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Trail on **01332 764160** or email **info@ashcroft.theharmonytrust.org**

Proposal to change the age range of the school to include 26 full time equivalent places for 3-year-olds from 1st April 2021.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We would like your views on the proposal to change the age range of Ash Croft Primary Academy from 5 – 11 years to 3 – 11 years. Please complete this short form to give your views and comments.

Please tell us if you do or do not support the Board of Trustees proposal to change the age range of Ash Croft Primary Academy to include 3 year old places as shown in the consultation document? Please select one response.

Yes - I support the proposal ☐

No - I do not support the proposal ☐

I am undecided about the proposal ☐

Please use the space below (continue on back page if necessary) to give your comments on the proposal:

Date.....

Status.....

(For example, parent, governor, member of school staff, local stakeholder)

Please return your completed form to:

**Ash Croft Primary Academy, Deep Dale Lane, Sinfin, Derby,
DE24 3HF or email info@ashcroft.theharmonytrust.org**

Please return this form by 10.00a.m. 2nd February 2021



All information provided will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We will only use this information to help in the decisions made on the proposal to change the age range of Ashcroft Primary Academy