



Telephone: 01296 688799
www.overstone.eschools.co.uk
Email: admin@overstone-wing.org
Headteacher: Mrs Kirsty Eales

4th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation on a proposal to change the school's age of admission.

We are writing to you to inform you of a proposal by the governing board of Overstone Combined School to change the school's admission age to four from its present three, thus enabling the school to operate a Governor Run Nursery provision on site. This will not change the admission age to nursery, children are still able to attend from the term after they turn 3. The proposed date for this to be effective is April 2021. This letter is formal 6 weeks' notice of the consultation period for this proposal. The consultation will run from Thursday 5th November to Thursday 17th December.

What would be the benefit of the proposal?

This will give the provision more flexibility to provide personalised care for families with different child care needs plus meeting the needs of the individual children. This proposed move will also give maximum flexibility to choose the best staffing model appropriate to the children attending the Nursery and will ensure that a high-quality Early Years provision is provided to the children in the Nursery.

What will this mean?

A governor led Early Years Nursery provision established by schools under the Department of Education Section 27 powers will allow the provision to operate with a ratio of 1:8 where at least one member of staff holds the appropriate practitioner qualification. Section 27 of the Education Act 2002 enables the governing body of a maintained school to have the power to provide any facilities or services whose provision furthers any charitable purpose for the benefit of a) the pupils of the school or their families or b) people who live and work in the area in which the school is situated. This is the power under which the school governor-run community provision is proposed to be set up.

This will apply to the community provision and give the flexibility to use the most effective and appropriate staffing model for the children. The governors will ensure that the provision is of a very high quality properly supervised and run by qualified nursery practitioner. The Early Years Foundation Framework sets out requirements that all Early Years providers, including schools, must follow. General guidance on staffing states that the staff must be available to work directly with the children. We will continue to provide an excellent provision for the children, this will not change. The Nursery will continue to share the facilities in the school including the extensive outdoor areas.

Do staff and Governors support this proposal?

Yes, the governing body, the school leadership and the Early Years team at Overstone Combined School positively support the proposal as they believe that it would benefit current and future pupils and the local community.



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Will the proposal disrupt the education of the pupils currently at the school?

No, as the provision will be housed in the existing nursery.

Why are we consulting now?

We are keen to understand the views of our local community on this proposal and so, as per best practice recommended by the Department of Education we have incorporated a period of consultation into the decision-making process. The consultation will run from 5th November to 17th December.

Will there be extra traffic and how will the impact be reduced?

There will be no increase in traffic.

Will the proposal have any impact on admission to the school's reception class?

No, current admissions to the School remain unchanged and will not be affected by the proposal. Please see Buckinghamshire Council's website for the specific criteria for school admission.

What are the next stages in the process?

Responses will be received throughout the consultation process which ends at 5pm on 17th December 2020. These will be analysed and the School will publish the outcomes on its website. If the governing body decide to proceed with the proposal the next stage would be the publication of a Statutory Notice in a local newspaper, followed by a four-week representation period, for people to comment on, support or object to the proposal.

The final decisions on the proposal will be made within 8 weeks of the end of the representation period, by the Buckinghamshire Council, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

How can I respond to this consultation?

If you have any questions please email the school. Please complete the attached consultation response form and return it to the school for the attention of Mrs K Eales, Headteacher. Alternatively email the school at: admin@overstone-wing.org

We would really welcome your views on our proposal and look forward to receiving your completed response from. Should you have any additional queries please contact us at the address above.

Thank you for your interest

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Eales
Headteacher

Mr S Fuller
Joint Chair of Governors



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To the Governing Body of Overstone Combined School

Name _____ (please print)

I am – please tick all that apply

- ✓ A parent or guardian of a child at Overstone Combined School
- ✓ A parent of guardian of a child at Overstone Combined School
- ✓ A close neighbour to the school / nursery
- ✓ Staff member or an Overstone Combined School Governor
- ✓ Other – please specify

I am in favour of Overstone Combined School and Nursery of changing its age admission from April 2021 to 4 year of age, and that the Nursery provision is run by a governor committee.

Yes / No (please delete as appropriate)

If No, please can you give your comments on your decision.

If you would like further information, please provide you e mail address to enable us to contact you:

Thank you for responding