

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO STONEGATE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MAKING THE PROPOSAL

East Sussex County Council
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes
BN7 1UE

NAME, ADDRESS AND CATEGORY OF SCHOOL

Stonegate CE Primary School
Stonegate
Wadhurst
East Sussex
TN5 7EN

Stonegate CE Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERATION

It is proposed to lower the age range at Stonegate CE Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL

The governing board of Stonegate CE Primary School wishes to lower the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to provide nursery provision on the school site. The aim of the proposal is to integrate, fully, nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage within the school. The governing board wishes to ensure that the school supports the local area by offering high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage. The aim is to build on the work already done by the school to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.

EVIDENCE OF DEMAND

The proposal is about changing the admission arrangements for the school to include two, three and four year olds to support its long term sustainability and promote excellence across the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school will provide a twelve place nursery within the school, fulfilling the needs of families in the area who have identified a need for early years and extended school provision. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.

PROJECT COSTS

The school has secured external funding to remodel some of the existing accommodation to provide a nursery space. No capital investment is required by the Council to implement the proposal.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ANY PROPOSED STAGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1 September 2020. It is not intended to implement the proposal in stages.

CONSULTATION

The governing board consulted between 7 June and 5 July 2019 on a proposal to lower the school's age range in order to provide an on-site nursery. The governing board consulted with staff, families of children at the school, the local community and other interested parties.

Six positive responses were received supporting the proposal to lower the school age range at Stonegate CE Primary School to 2-11. As part of the consultation the school also conducted a needs survey. A further 16 people responded to the needs survey, indicating a requirement for early years and wraparound childcare provision at the school. The governing board has set out how, through remodelling spare and under-utilised spaces on the site the nursery can be accommodated. The governing board has undertaken thorough financial modelling to ensure the proposal is cost neutral and will not impact on the school budget.

The proposal to lower the school age range from 4-11 to 2-11 at Stonegate CE Primary School is supported by the Diocese of Chichester.

IMPACT ON OTHER SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

The Council does not believe the proposal will impact on other early years' provision, schools or academies in the local area. The proposal to lower the age range at Stonegate CE Primary School will help to ensure a fully integrated Early Years Foundation Stage will secure good outcomes for all children in the future. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.

MAKING COMMENTS OR OBJECTIONS

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to, or comment on the proposal, by sending their representations to: Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services (FAO: Jane Spice, Early Years Funding Manager), East Sussex County Council, Floor G, East Block, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE, or by emailing: school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk