

Statutory proposal for lowering the age range at Midsomer Norton Primary School, High Street, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, BA3 2DR, in order for the onsite nursery provision delivered by the school to offer places to younger children.

Name, address and category of school proposed for change of age range

Midsomer Norton Primary School, High Street, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, BA3 2DR
Category: Community School

Name and contact details of Council publishing the proposals

Bath and North East Somerset Council, Early Years Planning and Performance Team, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Email address: EYE@bathnes.gov.uk

Telephone number 01225 395394

Description of the proposal

Bath and North East Somerset Council is proposing to reduce the lower age of Midsomer Norton Primary School from 3 to 2 in order for the school to deliver the Early Years Entitlement (EYE) offer and childcare in the premises already built on the school site. Before this change can be made the Council is required to publish a statutory notice detailing this proposal.

The school's governors and senior leadership team believe that there are compelling benefits to extending the age range of the school. These include:

1. Children that require early intervention support can be identified at a younger age; thereby increasing their chances of meeting age related learning expectations and accessing specialist help and support.
2. Having children from 2 years old means that they are part of the school earlier enabling us to work closely with parents to ensure smooth transitions into the school as a whole.
3. Children from low income families are eligible for 15 hours nursery provision from the age of two. We believe we have an obligation to local families to ensure these children have access to quality 2-3 year old provision.
4. Once the increase in early years entitlement to funding for 3-4 year olds begins in September 2017 there is likely to be an impact on the number of Nursery places available generally due to an increase in the uptake of hours. Expanding our provision means that we can be more flexible to meet the potential increase in demand by accommodating 3 year old children in the 2 year old provision if necessary.

Evidence of demand

The Childcare Act (2006) requires Bath and North East Somerset Council to monitor levels of Childcare Sufficiency across the Council area and publish the

results on the Council's website. The reports can be found at <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/childcare-early-years-play/childcare-sufficiency-assessm>

2 year old provision was previously offered in the Children's Centre on the same site until 31st March 2017. This proposal ensures there is a continuation of 2 year old provision for local families.

The new nursery unit will be open during term time only from 8:30am – 3:30pm. There will be 16 places available in each session. Admissions will be handled by the main school office.

In addition from September 2017 the EYE offer for working families will increase from up to 570 hours a year to 1140 or a maximum of 30 hours a week. This will only increase demand for provision which this proposal will help to support the school as they structure their provision.

Objectives of the proposal

To enable a seamless transition for two year old children into the existing school nursery.

The school nursery provision is planned and led by a qualified teacher. The school is currently rated as Good by Ofsted.

Please note - there is no automatic transfer into any school from a nursery as outlined in school admissions regulation.

The impact on other nursery provision in the area

This proposal will replace provision previously run in the building on site as a satellite of nursery provision in Radstock so this proposal is not expected to impact on other providers in the area.

The impact on the other schools in the area

Other schools in the area either have their own provision or a provider onsite running provision so this proposal is not expected to impact on other schools in the area.

Costs of the proposal

The school will be eligible to receive the Early Years Entitlement (EYE) funding to deliver places for 2, 3 and 4 year old children. In addition and on top of the entitlement the school is able to charge for the provision of additional childcare hours above the 15 hours (30 hours for some children from September 2017) that the entitlement provides for. This income should fund the provision as it does under the school's current business model.

Implementation

The date for implementation is 1st September 2017.

Procedure for response

Anyone can comment on or object to the proposal. If you would like to respond to this proposal you can do so by sending an email or a letter to Bath and North East Somerset Council as detailed below.

In order to ensure that every response counts please could you ensure that you give your name, your postcode, state the school's name and your relationship to the school e.g. parent/carer, member of staff etc. All responses must be submitted in writing.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 your personal details will not be used for any other purpose, will not be made public or shared with any other organisation.

Email address: EYE@bathnes.gov.uk

Postal address: Bath and North East Somerset Council, Early Years Planning and Performance Team, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Date notice period ends

The notice period ends on 9th June 2017. The deadline for responses to be received by Bath and North East Somerset Council is **midnight on Friday 9th June 2017**. We regret that we will be unable to enter into any correspondence regarding responses submitted.