

The Topsham School, Exeter Consultation on Change of Age Range

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schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk

Proposal

Devon County Council is consulting on a proposal to change the age range of The Topsham School from 3-11 to 4-11 years of age with effect from September 2024.

Background

The Topsham School currently has a Nursery Class, Little Acorns, for children aged 3 and 4 years of age, run as a Foundation Stage Unit (Nursery and Reception Class integrated).

Devon County Council is consulting on the Nursery Class provision changing to a Governor run Pre-School for 3 and 4 year olds. Transition to a Governor run Pre-School would be smooth and would ensure that the provision for 3 and 4 year olds is monitored and supported by school staff. Its current location, timetable and daily systems for the children would not be affected by the change proposed.

Parents and Carers will continue to still need to make a separate application to Devon County Council for a place in the Reception Class.

Topsham is a Community school maintained by the Local Authority. Changes to the age range of a Community School requires a statutory process to take place. This is a four stage process of consultation, representation, decision by the Local Authority and implementation.

Objectives of the proposal

The Governing Body of Topsham School sees the need to change the status of the Nursery provision to a Governor run pre-school to allow for savings to be made through

the restructuring of staff. The financial savings which are necessary will be made through employing Early Years practitioners to run the pre-school provision on a daily basis, rather than employing a Qualified Teacher to lead the Nursery provision.

Being Governor run the provision will still be supported by the school. The teachers within the school who currently support the Nursery will continue their support of the pre-school provision. The school and the federation will monitor standards and ensure that the quality of provision provided by the pre-school maintains that previously provided through the Nursery.

Capital and Planning

It is confirmed that no capital is required to implement this proposal. Changing the age range will not affect the school's net capacity or published admission number for school aged children and will not put pressure on existing classroom space.

How to Respond

We welcome responses on this proposal by the closing date of 21 May 2024 by either:

Emailing: schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk or by:

Post, to: School Place Planning, Room 120, Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QG.

All responses to the consultation will be considered by Devon County Council and will be shared with the school and federation's senior leadership team and governing body, unless you request otherwise. Please see Devon County Council's Privacy Notice for further information:

www.devon.gov.uk/privacy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-representations-to-school-organisation-statutory-consultations/

The process

This consultation will run from 23 April to 21 May 2024. If it is agreed to proceed with the proposal following this consultation, then a formal 4 week formal consultation - representation period will be held inviting further comment or objection.

Devon County Council will consider all responses to the consultation and the formal representation period when making their decision.

The indicative timescale is likely be (assuming agreement to each stage):

Consultation: 23 April – 21 May 2024

Formal representation period: 4 June – 2 July 2024

Proposed implementation: September 2024

The County Council will keep you informed throughout the process at:

www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/categories/education-and-schools

Please note that all responses will be properly considered by Devon County Council and the Governing Body, but we will not send individual responses to any specific points raised.