



Steeple Claydon School and Nursery

Meadoway, Steeple Claydon, Bucks. MK18 2PA
Email: office@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk
Website: www.steepleclaydonschool.com
Tel: 01296 738132
Headteacher: Mrs Christine Richards

Dear Parents & Carers

Consultation from 25 June 2021 to 17 September 2021 on a proposal to change the school's age of admission.

I am writing to you to inform you of a proposal by the governing board of Steeple Claydon Primary School to change the school's admission age to two from its present four, thus enabling the school to operate Pre-school provision as a full part of our school. The proposal is to change from a Section 27 Nursery run by the governors to a Pre-School run as a full part of our main school. We will continue to offer flexible hours for children from the age of 2 years. The number of pre-school children in the setting at any one time would continue to be restricted to 24.

The proposed date for this to be effective is September 2021. This letter is 6 school weeks' formal notice of the consultation period for this proposal. The consultation will run from 25th June to Friday 17th September.

Current admissions to the school remain unchanged and will not be affected by the proposal. Parents will still apply for a Reception place through Bucks Council website. Please see Buckinghamshire Council's website for the specific criteria for school admission. Children who are admitted to the Pre-school provision will not necessarily be guaranteed a place in the school.

What will this mean?

In keeping with the statutory requirements when a pre-school is a full part of a maintained school's provision, a qualified teacher will be added to our already excellent Early Years team who will work alongside the Reception teacher, the existing HLTA and other support staff to ensure our Early Years provision is fully in keeping with the school's aims and vision and personalised to the needs, talents and abilities – truly 'giving every child the chance to shine.' We will continue to provide an excellent provision for the children; this will not change. The Pre-school children will continue to use the same classroom and outside area and share an additional inside space with the Reception pupils. While admission arrangements and administrative systems will not appear to change 'on the outside,' systems within the school will be more streamlined and effective.

What would be the benefit of the proposal?

This will enable the Pre-school to be an even more integral part of the school with the addition of a qualified teacher in the setting accessing training and contributing to the overall school development alongside all the other teaching staff. Pre-school and Reception class staff will also work even more closely together to ensure effective transition between the two Early Years areas. It will also give the school the opportunity to improve and streamline the administration of the current Early Years provision.



Do staff and Governors support this proposal?

Yes, the governing board, and staff at Steeple Claydon School positively support the proposal as they believe that it would benefit current and future pupils and the local community.

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

No, the make up of the pupil population and staffing will not change.

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 for Education we have incorporated a period of consultation into the decision-making process. The consultation will run from 25th June to Friday 17th September.

Will there be extra traffic?

There will be no increase in the total numbers of pupils arriving at and leaving the school site and so no impact will be seen on the volume of traffic locally. The school will continue to promote walking to school through Walk Once a Week (WOW) initiative.

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

Children who are admitted to the Pre-school provision will not necessarily be guaranteed a place in the school. Current admissions to the School remain unchanged and will not be affected by the proposal. Parents will still apply for a Reception place through Bucks Council website. Please see Buckinghamshire Council's website for the specific criteria for school admission. Please see our website for our criteria for Pre-school admission.

What are the next stages in the process?

Responses will be received throughout the consultation process which ends at 12pm on 17 September. These will be analysed and the school will publish the outcomes on its website. If the governing board decide to proceed with the proposal, the school will publish a statutory notice followed by a 4 week representation period for people to comment on, support or object to the proposal. In line with Department for Education guidance the Local Authority has to make a final decision on the proposal within 8 weeks of the end of the representation period. . If the proposal goes ahead, we would look to implement the administrative changes by the end of the Autumn Term but we have already appointed an additional teacher from September 2021.

How can I respond to this consultation?

Please complete the attached consultation response form and return it to the school for the attention of Mrs C Richards, Headteacher. Alternatively email the school at: office@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk

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



Christine Richards (Headteacher) and Rachael Johns (Chair of Governors)

To the Governing Body of Steeple Claydon Primary School.

Name _____ (please print)

I am – please tick all that apply

- A parent or guardian of a child at Steeple Claydon Primary School
- A parent or guardian of a child below school age
- A close neighbour to the school
- Staff member or a Steeple Claydon School Governor
- Other – please specify

I am in favour of Steeple Claydon Primary School changing its age of admission from October 2021 to 2 years of age, and that the Pre-school provision is run as a full part of the school.

Yes

No

Please can you give your comments on your decision.

If you would like further information, please provide your email address to enable us to contact you.

Thank you for responding

