



Statutory Proposal for a Prescribed Alteration at Fairfield Primary School

Proposal

It is proposed to lower the age range at Fairfield Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11 with effect from September 2023.

School and Local Authority details

Name of Local Authority making the proposal: Bury Council

Address of Local Authority: Department for Children & Young People,
3 Knowsley Place, Duke Street, Bury BL9 0EJ

Name of school: Fairfield Primary School

Address of school: Rochdale Old Road, Bury, BL9 7SD

URN: 105287 DfE number: 351/2006

Category of school: Community

Description of proposed alteration

It is proposed to lower the age range of Fairfield Primary School from 3-11 year olds to 2-11 year olds, thus creating a 2 year old nursery provision with effect from September 2023.

Evidence of demand

Within the local community there is little provision for 2 year old care. The provider at Fairfield hospital (Fairfield Day Nursery run by Creche-N-Co) is the nearest provider for 2 year old provision. Hoyle nursery which is the next closest provider is over subscribed. There is sufficiency of need in the community and a number of local early years provisions have recently closed or reduced their intake.

The school already has a very successful 3-4 year old nursery provision that was oversubscribed last year.

A high number of families in the area would be entitled to 2 year old funding but are not necessarily taking up the provision. As a community primary school, Fairfield has important links with families and the community and wishes to fulfil the needs of families in the area who have identified a requirement for early years provision

The new nursery would provide 8 places per session for 2 year olds. There will be one session in the morning and one session in the afternoon, Monday to Friday, term-time only.

The proposal is in line with the local authority's Early Years strategy.

Objectives of the proposal

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.

Fairfield Community Primary is a good school with high standards. By extending the provision offered, the school will provide strong standards, early identification of needs of pupils and allow for strong transition into school (either at Fairfield or another school) from the youngest ages.

The Educational Endowment Foundation state that:

"Beginning early years education at a younger age appears to have a high positive impact on learning outcomes. It is estimated that children who start to attend an early years setting before turning three make approximately six additional months' progress compared to those who start a year later. Positive effects have been detected for early reading outcomes in the first year of primary school and moderate to high effects have been detected for early language and number skills. There are some indications that the impact of high-quality early years provision is particularly positive for children from low-income families."

The school wishes to work with families to help set routines and help children to meet their age related expectations. This aim will include working with families too and encouraging their engagement with school from the very start. Family engagement is strongly promoted at Fairfield. The school offers family learning sessions covering reading, numeracy, mental health and wellbeing, first aid. These have all had a healthy uptake of numbers.

On-site nursery provision would enable robust assessments for the children moving up to the main school as they would be moderated by the Early Years staff from the school. This would also enable, where required, the provision of early intervention such as Speech and Language and Paediatric referrals because the children would be seen by the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) at a much earlier stage.

The school has recently been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark and are proud of the support for all pupils and want to extend the impact they have to a wider range of children within the community.

The school will work closely with Bury Early Years and Childcare services to promote and implement activities and training around school readiness. This will further support good outcomes for children in the main school, which is Ofsted rated as Good in February 2018. Standards, planning and delivery of the curriculum will be overseen by a designated member of the school's senior leadership team creating strong links with the school's improvement plans.

The effect on other educational settings in the area

The local authority does not believe the proposal would have a negative impact on other early years' provision, schools or academies in the local area. Establishment of 2 year old provision on the school site would help to fulfil the needs of families in the area who have identified a requirement for early years provision.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved

The provision will be located in the existing 'Rainbow Room' and therefore will require minimal capital investment for minor adaptations. Costs will be met by the school and the local authority's approved capital programme.

The school would need to employ members of staff with the necessary qualifications to manage and run the nursery adhering carefully to statutory ratios.

The nursery teacher would plan and oversee the provision within the 2 year old setting.

Recent case studies show that the impact of having children from disadvantaged backgrounds in school can be significant. The desire is to serve the present community where needed and based on the expected demand, it is anticipated that this provision at Fairfield would provide much needed early education opportunities locally.

Implementation

If approved, it is anticipated that the nursery provision will open on 5 September 2023.

It is proposed to make the following offer:

Places for children from 2 to 3 years of age. (3-4 year old nursery care is already offered).

Nursery provision to be offered term time only.

The school would accept:	Early Education Funding from 2 years of 15 hours Tax free childcare vouchers
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Consultation

The proposal to alter the age range to establish 2 year old nursery provision will be subject to a full statutory consultation process.

Following the publication of a Statutory Notice on 28 February 2023, the statutory four week Representation Phase will run from 28 February 2023 to 28 March 2023. All representations will be analysed and considered prior to a report being presented to the Council's Cabinet on 19 April 2023.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, 28 February 2023, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Rachael Stirk, Bury Council, Department for Children & Young People, Education Services, 3 Knowsley Place, Duke Street, Bury BL9 0EJ. Tel: 0161 253 5685, Email: schoolorganisation@bury.gov.uk

Comments and objections should be sent by no later than 28 March 2023.